

SYLLABUS

The Evolution of the Nation-State in the 21st Century

Liberal Studies Program
School of Continuing Studies
Georgetown University
Fall Semester, 2008

LSHV-368-01

Class Meetings: Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., September 3rd through December 3rd, 2008,
in Room_____.

Instructor: William A. Douglas.

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Dr. Douglas has over forty-five years of combined practical experience and academic teaching/writing in the areas of international ethics, democratic development, and international labor affairs. He has been teaching courses on ethics and foreign policy in the Liberal Studies program since 1979. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from SAIS of Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University.

Course Purpose:

Will the nation-state continue to be the dominant form of government as our small planet progresses through the 21st century? The course will focus on a set of issues that directly bear upon the above question: for example, the disparity of location between state boundaries and ethnic, tribal and religious groups, as in much of Sub-Saharan Africa, the Balkans and the Caucasus; the existence of planet-wide environmental threats demanding multi-nation management, such as excessive population growth rates, global warming, ocean and air pollution, deforestation, and loss of bio-diversity; and with the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the danger that sovereign nation-states may be a recipe for Armageddon.

Also, the capacity of nation-states to control their own economies is diminished in a world of regional trading blocs, multinational corporations, and daily international capital flows which dwarf the reserves of even the G-7 nations.

The content of the course is prospective and open-ended, focusing on a series of dangers to world order which challenge the viability of the nation-state itself.

Course Organization and Procedures:

Most classes will begin with a short introductory lecture by the instructor and then proceed to group discussion of questions on the topic and the readings. Students will receive the questions in advance.

Assignments and Grading:

Readings on the course topics will total about 80 pages per week. Students should read the discussion questions for the topic before doing the readings.

Students will write three short papers (6-to-10 pages) during the course on subjects chosen from a list of topics provided by the instructor. **Points from the readings that are pertinent to the topic should be cited in the papers, to demonstrate that the students have read the assigned material and absorbed it.**

Grading will be mainly on the quality of the three papers, with some weight also given to the student's participation in the class discussions.

Disabilities Statement:

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Required texts:

Thomas L. Friedman, The Lexus and the Olive Tree, Anchor Books, 2000 (paperback)

Richard L. Hough, The Nation-State: Concert or Chaos, University Press of America, 2003.

Sohail Hashmi, State Sovereignty, Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997.

Course Topics:

Sept. 3rd - Introduction: Present Features of the Nation-State System

Sept. 10th - The Political Evolution of the Nation-State System

Sept. 17th - Economic and Social Change and the Development of the Nation-State

Sept. 24th - The Various Faces of Nationalism

Oct. 1st - Can the State Serve as a National Symbol in Multi-Ethnic Societies?
(First Paper Due)

Oct. 8th - Dealing With Collapsing Nation-States

Oct. 15th - Democratization and the Nation-State

Oct. 22nd - The Erosion of the Nation-State's Authority in Economic Policy

Oct. 29th - The Inability of the Nation-State to Solve Global Economic Problems
(Second Paper Due)

Nov. 5th - Global Environmental Threats and the Nation-State

Nov. 12th - Can Nuclear-Armed Nation-States Avoid Armageddon?

Nov. 19th - The NGOs: Competition and Collaboration With the Nation-State

Nov. 26th - NO CLASS (Thanksgiving holiday)

Dec. 3rd - The Nation-State in the 21st Century: Modification or Replacement?
(Third Paper Due)

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Reading Assignments:

Introduction: Present Features of the Nation-State System

- Benjamin Barber, "Introduction", in Jihad vs. McWorld.
The Economist, "The State of the Nation-State", December 22, 1990.
Glenn Frankel, "The Nation-State - An Idea Under Siege", Washington Post,
November 11, 1990.
Daniel Drezner, "Globalizers of the World Unite", Current, February, 1998.
Amitai Etzioni, "The Old System Is Overloaded", Ch. 9 in From Empire To Community, 2004.
Hashmi text, "Foreward", and "Introduction".
Hough text, "Preface".
Robert Cooper, "The New Liberal Imperialism", Observer Worldview, April 7, 2002.

The Political Evolution of the Nation-State System

- Hough text: Chapt. I, "The Evolution of the Nation-State".
Hashmi text, Daniel Philpott, "Ideas and the Evolution of Sovereignty".
Georg Schwarzenberger, Ch. 3, "The National State", in Power Politics, Praeger, 1964.
Martin Wight, "Power Politics", in Frederick H. Hartmann, World In Crisis, The Macmillan Co.,
New York, 1962.

Economic and Social Change and the Development of the Nation-State

- Paul Kennedy, The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers, pp.70-77.
Hough text: Chapt I: "The Evolution of the Nation-State", pp. 8-15.
Benjamin Barber, Jihad vs. McWorld, pp.23-33, and pp. 158-168.
Mathew Horseman & Andrew Marshall, After the Nation-State, pp.3-22.
Martin Van Creveld, The Rise and Decline of the State, Cambridge University Press, 1999,
pp. 104-125.

The Contrasting Faces of Nationalism

- William Pfaff, The Wrath of Nations, pp. 13-21.
Hough text, Ch. 3: "Nationalism - Nation-Building or Nation-Splitting?".
Gustavo de las Casas, "Is Nationalism Good For You?", Foreign Policy, Mar./April, 2008.
John R. Bowen, "The Myth of Global Ethnic Conflict", Journal of Democracy, October, 1996.
Benjamin Barber, Jihad vs. McWorld, pp. 158-168.
Ernest Gellner, Nationalism, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1997, Chapters 3, 4, and 16.

Can the State Serve as a National Symbol in Multi-Ethnic Societies?

- Gidon Gottlieb, "Nations Without States", Foreign Affairs, May-June, 1994.
Amitai Etzioni, "The Evils of Self Determination," Foreign Policy, Winter, 1992-1993.
Graham Fuller, "Re-Drawing the World's Borders," World Policy Journal, Spring, 1997.
Michael Lind, "A Defense of Liberal Nationalism," Foreign Affairs, May-June, 1994.
Peter Grier, "Nationalist Trend Threatens World Borders", The Christian Science Monitor,
May 11, 1994.
Amy Chua, "Globalization and Ethnic Hatred", World On Fire, Anchor Books, 2004.
Kamal S. Shehadi, "Clash of Principles", Ch. 5 in the Hashmi text.

Dealing With Collapsing Nation States

- Hashmi text, James Gow, "Shared Sovereignty, Enhanced Security".
Center For Global Development, "Executive Summary", in On the Brink: Weak States and U.S. National Security, 2004.
- Chester Crocker, "Engaging Failed States", Foreign Affairs, Sept./Oct., 2003.
- I. William Zartman, Collapsed States, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, 1995, Chapt.1, "Posing the Problem of State Collapse", and Chapt.17, "Putting Things Back Together".
- The Fund For Peace, "The Failed States Index", Foreign Policy, July/Aug., 2007.
- Stuart Eizenstat, John Porter, and Jeremy Weinstein, "Rebuilding Failed States", Foreign Affairs, January/February, 2005.
- Stewart Patrick and Susan Rice, Introduction and Summary, "Index of State Weakness In the Developing World", The Brookings Institution, 2008

Democratization and the Nation State

- Hough text, Chapt. 4: "The Nation-State and Democracy".
Friedman text, Chapt. 9: "Globalution".
Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," Foreign Affairs, Nov/Dec., 1997.
Benjamin Barber, "Jihad Within McWorld: Transitional Democracies," pp.195-202; in Jihad vs. McWorld.
Adrian Karatnycky, "Still the Bedrock of a Better World", Washington Post, Dec. 29, 1997.
Bernard Lewis, "Freedom and Justice In the Modern Middle East", Foreign Affairs, March/April, 2005.

The Erosion of the Authority of the Nation-State in Economic Policy

- Foreign Policy, "The Globalization Index", Nov/Dec., 2007.
Friedman text: Chapters 2 through 5.
Martin Wolff, "Will the Nation-State Survive Globalization?", Foreign Affairs, January/February, 2001.
Michael Mandel, "Can Anyone Steer This Economy?", Business Week, Nov. 20, 2006.
Gus Tyler, "The Nation-State vs. the Global Economy", Challenge, March/April, 1993.

The Inability of the Nation-State to Solve Global Economic Problems

- Hough text, Chapt. 2: "The Functions of the Nation-State and Globalization".
Friedman text, Chapter 11: "Buy Taiwan, Hold Italy, Sell France".
George Soros, "Toward a Global Open Society", The Atlantic Monthly, Jan., 1998.
Peter Drucker, "The Global Economy and the Nation-State", Foreign Affairs, Sept-Oct.1997.
Kenneth Rogoff, "Let It Ride!", Foreign Policy, March/April, 2005.

Global Environmental Threats and the Nation State.

- Hough text, Chapt. 5: "The Nation-State and the Environment".
Friedman text, Chapt. 13: "Demolition Man".
Hashmi text, Miranda Schreurs, "Conservation, Development, and State Sovereignty".
Maureen Upton, "Global Public Health Trumps the Nation-State", World Policy Journal, Fall, 2004.

Can Nuclear-Armed Nation States Avoid Armageddon?

- In the Hashmi text: Beatrice Heuser, "Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Security".

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, "The Meaning of Anarchy", in Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, International Politics, Little, Brown, and Co., 1973.
Kenneth Waltz, "International Conflict and International Anarchy, in Art and Jervis.
Hedley Bull, "Society and Anarchy in International Relations", in Art and Jervis.
Thomas Friedman, "The Dell Theory of Conflict Prevention", Ch. 12 in The World Is Flat, Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, New York, 2005..
Niall Ferguson, "Sinking Globalization", Foreign Affairs, January/February, 2005.

The NGOs: Competition and Collaboration with the Nation State

Hough text: Chapt. 6: "The Nation-State and Non-State Actors".
Friedman text, Chapt. 10: "Shapers, Adapters, and Other New Ways of Thinking About Power".
Jessica Mathews, "Power Shift", Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb., 1997.
David Held, "Political Globalization", in Held, Global Covenant, Polity Press, 2004.
Sebastian Mallaby, "NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor", Foreign Policy, September/October, 2004.
Shamima Ahmed and David Potter, "NGO Relations With States", Ch. 4 in NGOs in International Politics, Kumarian Press, 2006.
Moises Naim, "What Is a GONGO?", Foreign Policy, May/June, 2007.
Lester Salamon, S. Wojciech Sokolowski, and Regina. List, Global Civil Society: An Overview, Center For Civil Society Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 2003.

The Nation State in the 21st Century: Modification or Replacement?

Friedman text: Chapt. 20: "There Is a Way Forward".
Hough text, Chapt. 6 "The Nation States: Concert or Chaos".
Amitai Etzioni, "New Global Authorities", Ch. 11 in Etzioni, From Empire To Community, 2004.
Richard N. Haass, "Sovereignty", Foreign Policy, September/October, 2005.
Harold Meyerson, "Global Safeguards For a Global Economy", Washington Post, July 5, 2007, p. 17.
Steven Pearlstein, "World Puts the Brakes on the Rush To Globalization", Washington Post, July 5, 2006, p. D-1.

(Optional additional reading on this topic:

Stephen Krasner and Kimberly Weir, "Will State Sovereignty Survive Globalism?", Issue 2 in John Rourke, ed., Taking Sides: Clashing Views On Controversial Issues in World Politics, 11th edition, McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2005.)