

PS 221
Spring 1997
Prof. Stein

New Releases for the Well-Read Theorist:

The State and the Evolution of Sovereignty

This class focuses on recently published books of note (which also happen to be available in paper). It provides examples of recent works by established scholars as well as revised dissertations that became first books. It includes works from a variety of methodological and theoretical camps. The point is to evaluate these specific works but also to assess where the field is going. The discussion will cover all aspects of criticism, including issues of conceptualization, operationalization, specification, empirical analysis, and generalization.

As it happens, scholars from a variety of perspectives have recently focused on the origins, nature, and evolution of sovereignty. For constructivists, the social construction of international politics equates directly with the social construction of sovereignty and the self-definition of states. For liberals, the growth of economic interdependence and the rise of international institutions implies changes in the nature of sovereignty and the prospect for new forms of political organization. For scholars of all persuasions, the relationship between sovereignty and nationalism is crucial.

The readings discuss changing ideas of sovereignty, changes in the nature of sovereignty, and current prospects.

Assignments. First and foremost, come to class having done the reading and prepared to talk. Joining this seminar involves entering into a social contract with the other members. Second, you will write a paper which can be analytic or empirical. You can play perspectives off against each other analytically (subsume one into another, integrate them, demonstrate their inconsistency, etc.). Alternatively, you can see how well some of them do in explaining one or more specific historical case(s). I will also provide more specific suggestions related to ongoing research projects.

Readings:

Spruyt, Hendrik. 1994. *The sovereign state and its competitors: an analysis of systems change*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.

Bartelson, Jens. 1995. *A genealogy of sovereignty*. Cambridge. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Goldstein, Judith, and Robert O. Keohane, eds. 1993. *Ideas and foreign policy: beliefs, institutions, and political change*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Watson, Adam. 1992. *The evolution of international society: a comparative historical analysis*. New York: Routledge.

Katzenstein, Peter J., ed. 1996. *The culture of national security: norms and identity in world politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Greenfield, Liah. 1992. *Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Kahler, Miles. 1995. *International institutions and the political economy of integration*. Washington, D.C: Brookings Institution.

Mayall, James, ed. 1996. *The New Interventionism, 1991-1994: United Nations experience in Cambodia, former Yugoslavia and Somalia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.