



World Society and the Nation-State

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If this island was just discovered...





What form would the following take

Government:

Economy:

Social Issues:

Culture-Institutions:

World Models define local agendas which shape the policies and strategies of the nation-state.



business

education

family

religion

politics

science

medicine

World models allow “structural isomorphism” between nation-states inspite of enormous differences in ritual, customs and history.






Island Society development according to authors:

Government: Modern state agencies and ministeries, official recognition by other states, admission to the UN

Economy: Analyzed with standard models, data collected and policies organized for domestic and international transactions under state regulation

A faint, light gray world map is visible in the background of the slide, centered behind the text.

Social Issues: Inhabitants are citizens, special protection for children, poor and elderly.

Culture and Institutions: Population counted and classified according to census. Modern education, conception of medicine, science and family law institutions. Museums, standard history, tourism. Passing of their traditional society marked with nostalgia.

Quicker and more thoroughly than ever before



What happened historically but wouldn't today...

- *No* debate whether “pre-discovery” population was morally human.
- *No* suggestion that population should not have some “unalienable” rights.
- *No* imperial rush to colonize.
- *Not* taken as a dependent territory of another state.
- *Not* allowed to be kept prisoners of their old society

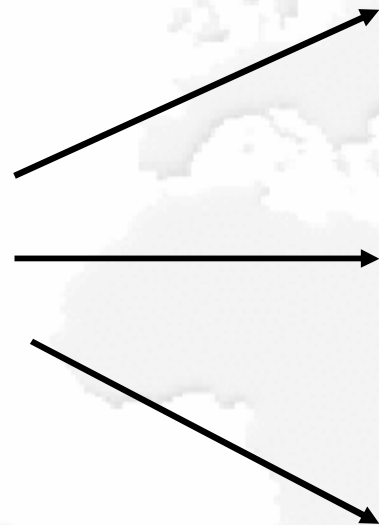
The world as enactment of culture

Rationalized World
Institutional Culture Order

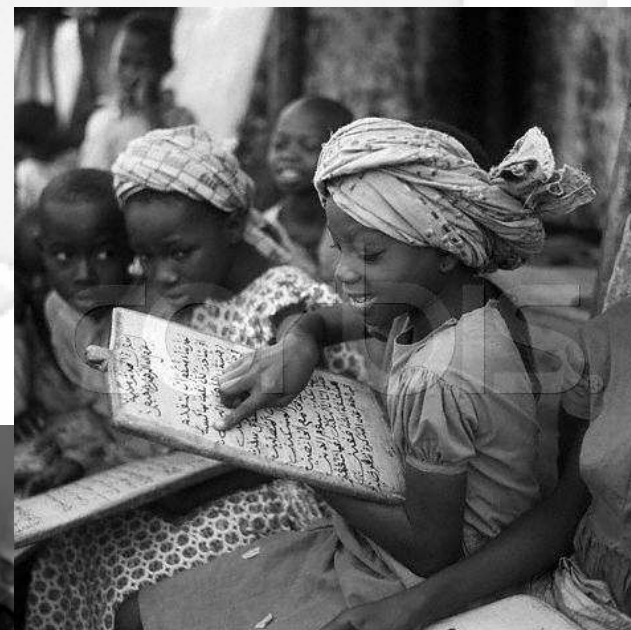
Nation-State System

Individual Citizens
and Human Identity

Organizations and Associations



Worldwide increase in Women's Education.



How it all happens:

world system → nation-state → individual

Nation-state

- construction of identity
- maintenance of identity
- legitimization of individual and group interests

Construction of National Identity and Purpose:

- ❑ Sovereign nation-state model
- ❑ Recognized by the UN
- ❑ 130 new states since 1945
- ❑ New states conform older states adapt
- ❑ Dependent states that become sovereign don't revert
- ❑ Decisions look autonomous but are scripted

Maintenance:

States unable to put “proper” policies in place receive external “support” **not imposition.**

If states resist: actors rely on myth of legitimacy

DEMOCRACY

FREEDOM

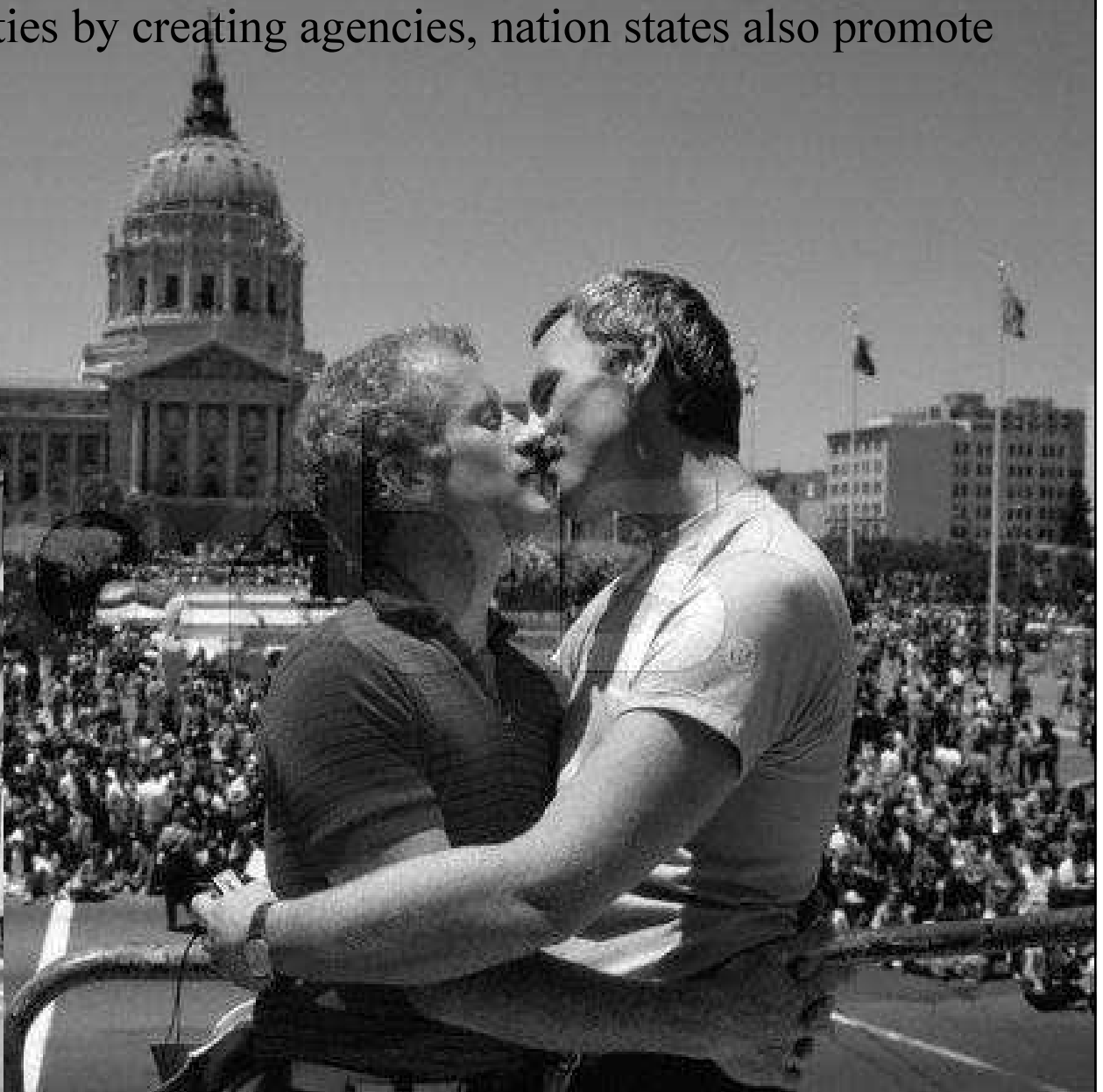
EQUALITY

And can expect external help



Legitimation:

Pursuing external identities by creating agencies, nation states also promote domestic actors.



In Conclusion:

World-society models shape nation-state identities, structures and behavior via worldwide cultural and associational processes.

World culture celebrates, expands and standardizes strong national actors

The result is states that are more isomorphic and change more uniformly than normally recognized