

The Contemporary Transformation of the International System

Professor John Wilton

Lecture 4

**The transformation of the
states-system: underdeveloped
and developing states**

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Key question = relationship between the State (its internal organisation and external relationship(s) and position in international system) AND processes and opportunities for development

- this relationship is shaped through the degrees of Sovereignty and Autonomy a State possesses or commands

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State Sovereignty:

“a state’s claim to authority: its claim to a right to rule rooted in recognition of that right by the state’s own citizens and by other states”

State Autonomy:

“the states ability to rule: its ability to make independent decisions such as policy choices around an economic development strategy”

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- the *Autonomy* of a state requires *Sovereignty*
 - (it must have the recognised right to exercise its authority)
- **BUT**, *Sovereignty* alone is not a sufficient condition for *Autonomy* (autonomous action)
 - many states have *Sovereignty*, but not necessarily *Autonomy*

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A State's *Autonomy* has to include 2 things:

- 1) *Autonomy* of the national state from external pressure;
- 2) *Autonomy* in respect of the State's relation to its own citizens (authority and legitimacy)

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‘Developmental State’ (*Chalmers Johnson*)

- see, Wilton, J. *Transformation, stabilisation and growth in the Czech Republic: New Institutionalism and interactive economic, social and political lessons from the East Asian miracle*, in Masaryk University, Faculty of Economics and Administration, **Transformation, Stabilisation and Growth**, Brno, 2000, pp.481-493.

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Chalmers Johnson's '*Developmental State*'

- 1) an ideological commitment to economic growth and development;
- 2) the capacity of the State to promote that ideological commitment, and implement policies to do so.

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The political 'arena' in which external (exogenous) intervention in African states has occurred has been through:

- a) foreign aid;
- b) unfair, exploitative terms of trade with Western companies

e.g. Tanzania

- reached aid agreement with IMF 1986
- lost autonomy over most policy decisions 1986-1995
- regained some autonomy/control after 1996

UNDERDEVELOPMENT MODEL

