



HW #1: Government and the State

Chapter 1 Section 1

Government and the State

Directions: *Label your paper with the title on the previous slide. Using Cornell format, write the questions from the next slide on the left side of your paper. Then, read through the rest of the slides and answer the five questions completely.*

Due at the beginning of the next class.

Government and the State

1. How is government defined?
2. What are the basic powers that every government holds?
3. What are the four defining characteristics of the state?
4. How have we attempted to explain the origin of the state?
5. What is the purpose of government in the United States and other countries?

What Is Government?

- **Government** is the institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies.
- **Public Policies** are all the things government decided to do.
- Taxation, defense, education, and health care are all examples of public policies

Government and The State



Government needs power to function – power is the ability to command or prevent action.

Government has three basic forms of power:

- **Legislative Power**
- **Executive Power**
- **Judicial Power**

Government Powers



Legislative Power is the power to make laws

Executive Power is the power to execute, enforce and administer the laws

Judicial Power is the power to interpret laws, determine their meaning, and settle disputes.

The State

The state can be defined as having these four characteristics:

Population

A state must have people, the number of which does not directly relate to its existence.

Territory

A state must be comprised of land territory with known and recognized boundaries.

Sovereignty

Every state is **sovereign**. It has supreme and absolute power within its own territory and decides its own foreign and domestic policies.

Government

Every state has a government that is, it is politically organized.

Origins of the State

The Force Theory

- The force theory states that one person or a small group took control of an area and forced all within it to submit to that person's or group's rule.

The Evolutionary Theory

- The evolutionary theory argues that the state evolved naturally out of the early family.

The Divine Right Theory

- The theory of divine right holds that God created the state and that God gives those of royal birth a “divine right” to rule.

The Social Contract Theory

- The social contract theory argues that the state arose out of a voluntary act of free people.

The Purpose of Government

The main purposes of government are described in the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States:

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The Purpose of Government

The Preamble introduces six key points about the purpose and goals of the American government:

1. **Form a more Perfect Union:** To make sure the states stay unified and together
2. **Establish Justice:** The laws of the U.S. must be reasonable, fair, and impartial
3. **Insure Domestic Tranquility:** Make sure that law and order are followed in our society
4. **Provide for the Common Defence:** To defend the nation against foreign enemies
5. **Promote the General Welfare:** The government acts as a servant to the people
6. **Secure the Blessings of Liberty:** America was founded on the idea that everyone possesses individual freedoms

Section 1 Review

1. A government is

- (a) the institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies.
- (b) a collection of people.
- (c) always democratic.
- (d) the organization representing farms and industries.

2. A state has the following four characteristics:

- (a) population, territory, sovereignty, and government.
- (b) sovereignty, a perfect union, welfare, and territory.
- (c) people, places, force, and divine right.
- (d) justice, defense, liberty, and domestic tranquility.