

The Perils of Geography

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YSS4274

Territory and Prosperity

How does territory influence the *prosperity* of states?

How does territory influence the *policies* of states?

When are large territories a curse?

When are large territories a curse? A blessing?

Seminar Objectives

- Discuss competing theories about the relationship between territorial size and prosperity (**Herbst; World Bank**)

Outline of Seminar

- 1 Announcements
- 2 States and Power in Africa
- 3 World Bank: Taking Stock of Small States
- 4 Next Seminar: To Dos

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Reading Presentations

Reading presentation assignments and syllabus are on Canvas.

Office Hours!

- Students must attend at least one office hours session before mid-semester break (mid-semester break)
- Monday and Thursday, 13:00 - 15:00, Elm RC2-02-01B,
- Sign up on Calendly

Map Quiz

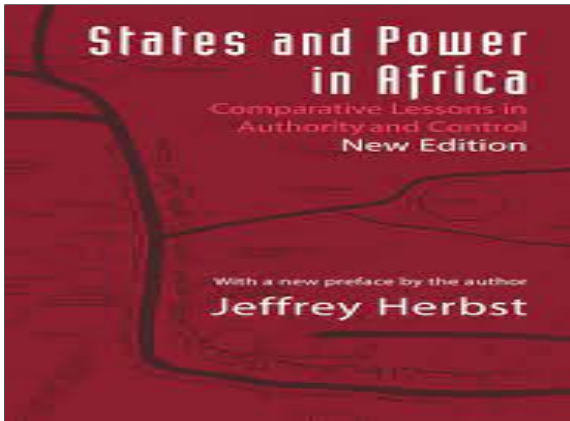
- Map quiz: Jan 29
- Maps and keys are on canvas (Files, Map Quiz)
- Google will randomly choose five countries from each of the three maps (total of 15 countries).

Updated Syllabus

- Mazzuca reading (pg. 1 - 47)

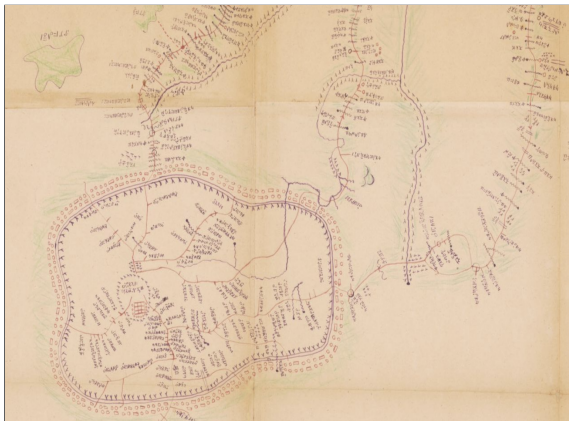
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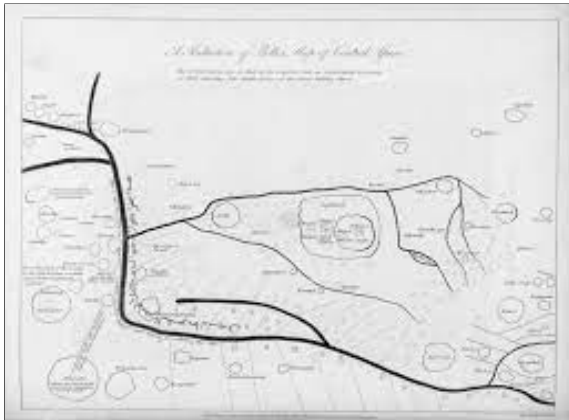
Herbst, 2001

Map of the Kingdom of Bamum (Cameroon), Sultan Njoya commissioned, 1912



Source: US Library of Congress

Bello's Map of Central Africa, 1826



Source: New York Public Library

According to Herbst,
what do these maps tell
us about how African
leaders in the 19th and
20th century viewed
territory?

How did these perceptions differ from how European leaders in the 19th and 20th century viewed territory?

Million Dollar Question

According to Herbst, how did contrasting perceptions of territory in Europe and Africa contribute to diverging socio-political outcomes (ie consolidation of power over boundaries) ?

Map of Europe in Africa



Source: Hobo Traveller

Recap: Challenges of Governing Large Territories with Few People (Herbst)

- Challenges:

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- Challenges:
 - ▶ Costly

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 - ▶ Porous Borders

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 - ▶ Threat of Exit

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- Challenges:
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 - ▶ Center vs. Periphery Inequalities

Tip:

See Figure 2.1 on pg. 57

AI Check In

What is Jeffrey Herbst's argument in *States and Power in Africa*?

Small States?

“Finally, I exclude island Africa (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome, and Seychelles) because an understanding of the role of land boundaries in the consolidation of states is critical to the study.” - (Herbst, pg. 5).

Self-Reflection (5 minutes)

Based on Herbst' argument, what political outcomes would we expect see in Africa's small island states?



Source: Pinterest

How Mauritius became the richest country in Africa

Staff Writer 15 July 2018



Source: Business Tech



Source: World Atlas

What do you think of Herbst's argument?

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World Bank Group Engagement with Small States: Taking Stock

Operations Policy and Country Services
September 8, 2016

Warm Up

How does the World Bank *define* small states?

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How does the World Bank *define* small states? What kind of *typology* do they use?

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 - ▶ Threat of exit (Brain drain)

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- Challenges:
 - ▶ Lack of human capital
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 - ▶ Economic and environmental vulnerability

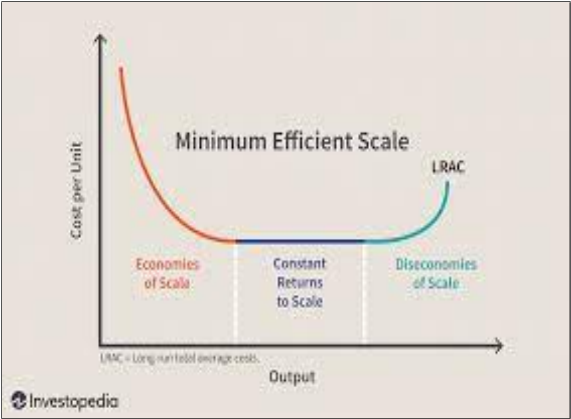
Recap: Challenges of Governing Small Territories with Few People (World Bank)

- Challenges:
 - ▶ Lack of human capital
 - ▶ Small domestic market
 - ▶ Threat of exit (Brain drain)
 - ▶ Economic and environmental vulnerability
 - ▶ Few economies of scale

Recap: Challenges of Governing Small Territories with Few People (World Bank)

- Challenges:
 - ▶ Lack of human capital
 - ▶ Small domestic market
 - ▶ Threat of exit (Brain drain)
 - ▶ Economic and environmental vulnerability
 - ▶ **Few economies of scale**

Economies of Scale



Source: Investopedia

Why might small state economies not benefit from economies of scale?

How do you reconcile the Herbst and the World Bank readings?

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Next Seminar: To Dos

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- To Read: Is Smaller Better for Economic Development?

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- To Read: Is Smaller Better for Economic Development?
 - ▶ Herbst (Chapter 5)
 - ▶ Easterly and Kraay
 - ▶ Latin America: Latecomer State Formation (Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2)

Next Seminar: To Think About

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- How are the readings measuring size?

Next Seminar: To Think About

- How are the readings measuring size?
Economic development?
- Are you convinced by their arguments?
- How do you reconcile positive vs. negative assessments of the impact of size?

Have a great week!