

17.588f13 Week 6 “The State and State Formation”

Questions for Class Discussion

What is the state?

Contrast the first two sentences of Hume with the first four sections of Chapter 13 in Hobbes. What arguments do Hume and Hobbes make about state formation? On what issues do they seem to agree? To the extent that they disagree, who is right?

How does war contribute to the formation or strengthening of the state? Did it work that way in Iraq? Why might civil war fail to stimulate state-formation, even if interstate war does?

What other causes of state formation might there be besides war?

What might be different about the creation of the state in Europe versus other parts of the world?

How can state “strength” be measured?

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