

Chapter 1: **Seeking New Lands, Seeing with New Eyes**

Leaders in Power

- Barack Obama, United States
- Enrique Nieto, Mexico
- Francois Hollande, France
- Goodluck Jonathan, Nigeria
- Vladimir Putin, Russia
- Hu Jintao, China
- David Cameron, UK
- Mahmoud Ahmadenejad, Iran

What is comparative politics?

- Content – focus on contentious issues
- All the news that fits we print – we need more sources than journalists
- Method – comparing alike and unlike things
- Science
 - Find general explanations (theory)
 - Deductive work to falsify hypotheses

The State: One Focus Among Many

- What is the State? Institutions and individuals who exercise power
 - Government – a particular set of institutions and people authorized by formal documents such as a constitution to pass laws, issue regulations, control police and so on
 - State – a broader concept that includes all the institutions and individuals that exercise power
 - Regime – the institutions and the practices that typically endure from government to government or administration to administration
 - Nation – a psychological rather than an institutional concept. It refers to the cultural, linguistic and other identities that can tie people together

The State: One Focus Among Many

- Types of States
 - Industrialized democracies
 - Current and former Communist regimes
 - Less developed countries

TABLE 1.1 Basic Data

COUNTRY	POPULATION IN MILLIONS	POPULATION GROWTH RATE (%)	GNP PER CAPITA PPP \$US	GNP GROWTH (2003–4)	ADULT LITERACY RATE	LIFE EXPECTANCY
Canada	32	0.9	30,600	2.0	99+	75
China	1,297	0.7	5,530	8.8	91	80
France	60	0.2	29,320	1.9	99+	79
Germany	83	0.1	30,130	1.5	99+	80
India	1,080	1.3	3,100	4.8	61	65
Iran	69	1.3	3,550	3.7	78	99+
Japan	128	0.2	30,040	1.2	81	99+
Mexico	104	1.4	9,300	2.8	90	73
Nigeria	140	2.4	930	1.1	45	67
Russia	143	-0.3	9,820	2.7	99+	65
South Africa	46	0.9	10,900	4.1	86	47
United Kingdom	59	0.2	31,400	3.0	99+	78
United States	295	1.0	39,710	3.4	99+	77
Low income countries	2,328	1.2	2,700	4.4	64	58
High income countries	1,001	0.7	30,970	2.8	99+	78

Source: World Bank, *World Development Report 2006*. Washington: The World Bank 2006.

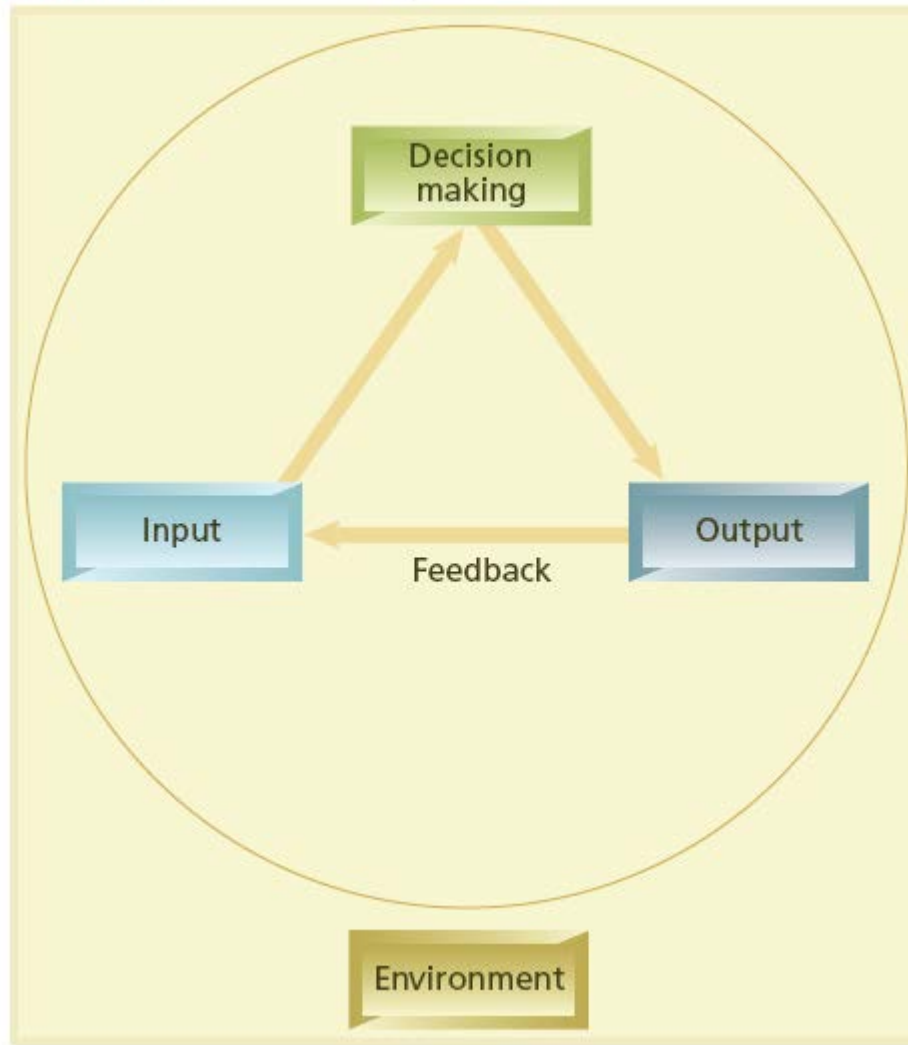
The State: One Focus Among Many

- Strong and Weak States
- Other core concepts: system, democracy, capitalism, political culture, identity, political participation, public policy, imperialism, totalitarianism, cold war, globalization

Three Templates

- The Political System
 - Systems Theory: inputs, decision making, outputs, feedback, environment
 - Political Culture

FIGURE 1.1 The Political System



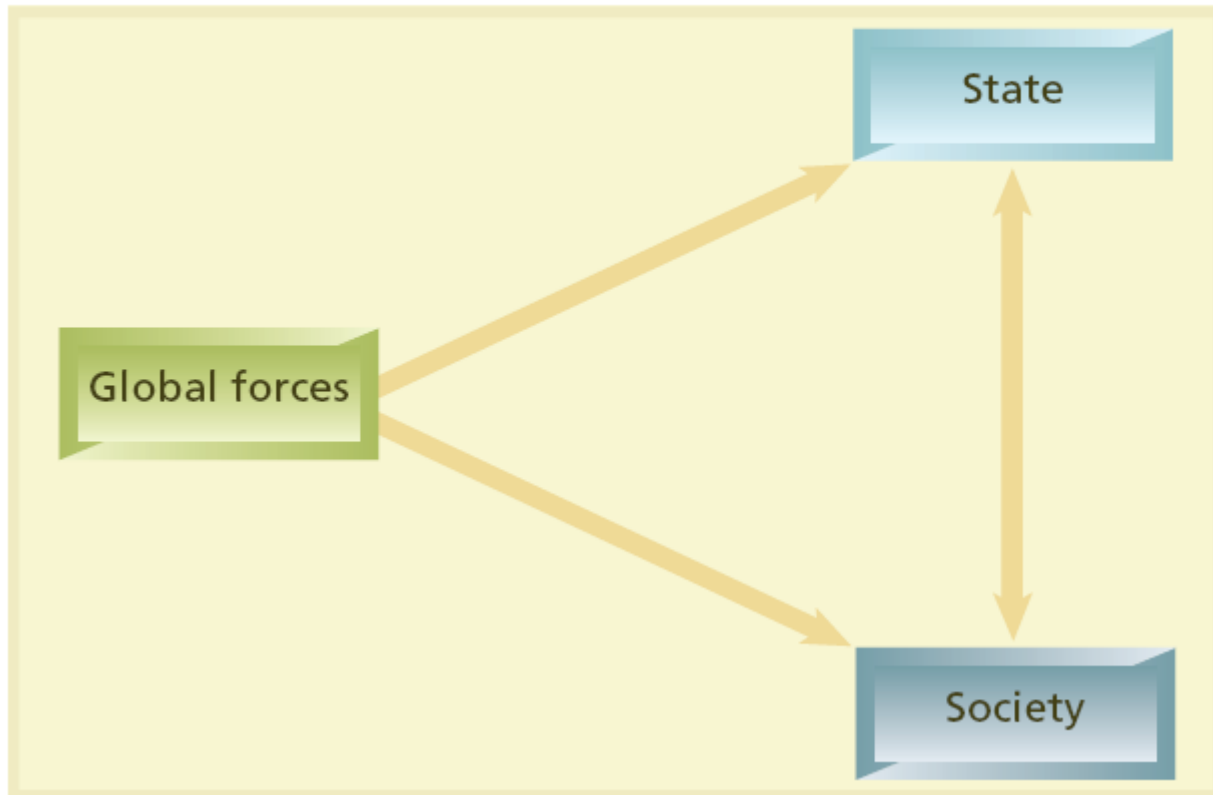
Three Templates

- Historical and Contemporary Factors
 - State building
 - Imperialism
 - The Cold War
 - The international political economy
- State, Society, and Globalization
 - A world in Crisis?

TABLE 1.2 Factors Affecting the Development of States

	INTERNATIONAL	DOMESTIC
Historical	Imperialism	State and nation building
Contemporary	Globalization and the end of the cold war	Pressures from below

FIGURE 1.2 The Impact of Global and Domestic Forces on the State



Using the book

- Each country chapter follows a format
 - An introductory anecdote to raise questions about the peculiarities of the nation
 - A profile of the nation and society
 - A section on the stakes of politics (what is to be gained and lost)
 - A description of the state
 - A summary of public policy issues
 - A summary of historical background
 - A description and analysis of political culture
 - An analysis of political participation
 - A conclusion with some speculation about the future

Learning Objectives

After mastering the concepts presented in this chapter, you will be able to:

- Describe and define state, nation, regime, and government.
- Understand the definition of a nation-state.
- Gain introductory knowledge of the process of comparative political analysis.
- Comprehend the difference between globalization and imperialism.
- Recognize the essence of political system and system theory and be able to apply this theory in comparative analysis.
- Describe the ‘input-output’ process of political system operation.
- Identify roles and positions of states and nation-states in international politics.
- Explain the applicability of the international political economy.
- Understand the three-way classification of states and regimes.
- Define the fundamentals of the public policy and the process of its analysis.