

Alexander Wendt, Social Theory of International Politics, Chpt5

- the state should be conceptualized as an organizational actor that is internally related to the society it governs by a structure of political authority, p201
- skeletal properties of statehood:
 - a. institutional-legal order: state structure, institutionalized in law to stabilize expectations about each other's behavior, that distributes ownership and control over the means of production, destruction, and reproduction, to state and societal actors, p202
 - b. monopoly on legitimized, organized violence: control over the means of destruction, both for the maintenance of internal order and external defense, p203
 - c. de jure sovereignty: 1) internal- state as supreme locus of political authority in society, 2) external - absence of any external authority higher than the state
 - d. society: polity / entity that a state has political authority over
 - e. territory: boundaries within which a state has control
- state as a collective "self": individuals share the idea of the state as a corporate "group self", where individuals accept, and take for granted, the obligation to act on behalf of collective decisions (intersubjective beliefs), p218-221
- identities and interests depend largely on these shared ideas in which they are embedded; the ontology is *culture-generated beliefs / ideas*
 - a. identity: property of intentional actors that generates motivational and behavioral disposition (both subjective and inter-subjective), p224
 - 1) personal / corporate identity: self-organizing, homeostatic structures that make actors distinct identities that allow differentiation between Self and Others
 - 2) type identity: social category based on some characteristic, e.g. language, attitudes, values, skills
 - 3) role identity: intrinsic properties that exist in relation to Others, e.g. student vs teacher
 - 4) collective identification: cognitive process in which Self-Other distinction is transcended; for individuals to identify with Idea of the state, there must be a collective identity among individuals
 - b. interests: what actors want; designate motivations that explain behavior, p231
 - 1) objective: needs or functional imperatives for an identity to be reproduced
 - 2) subjective: beliefs about *how* to meet their identity (objective) needs
 - observing behavior tells us subjective, not objective, interests
- national interest: reproduction requirements or security of state-society complexes (objective interests) that exist intrinsic to states as a function of being corporate entities (not relative to the int'l system), p233
 - includes a) physical survival of the state-society complex, b) autonomy, c) economic well-being, and d) collective self-esteem, or a group's need for de jure recognition to gain respect or status
- on realist conceptions of self-interest, p238
 - self-interest is a belief about how to meet one's needs, i.e. an instrumental attitude towards Others
 - this does not preclude helping others, since self-interest is about motivation, not behavior; if a state develops a collective identity with another state, e.g. concerning security, then a threat to the Other may be conceived as a threat to the Self, regardless of material affects on the Self- norms of sovereignty become binding
 - many states see themselves as being a part of a "society of states", whose norms they adhere to because they have internalized and identify with them, not because of calculated self-interest; while states may be more self-interested (in the Realism sense) within their boundaries, concerning co-existence states have achieved a substantial level of collective interest