

**The State and the Ruling Class**  
**Dr. David M. Hart**  
[dmhart@mac.com](mailto:dmhart@mac.com)  
<http://homepage.mac.com/dmhart/>

**Questions to keep in mind:**

- What is the State and how does it function?
- Who benefits and who loses from the activities of the state? (The Ruling Class and the Ruled)
- What have classical liberals (libertarians) thought of this over the past 200 years or so?

**The Main Features of the State:**

- It enjoys a Monopoly of Violence in a given Geographical Area
- It often enjoys a Monopoly of other Strategic Services and Institutions
- A different Standard of Moral and Legal Judgement is Applied to the State
- The State needs Obedient and Compliant Taxpayers, Citizens, and Soldiers who will “Obey and Pay”
- The Origin of the State lies in War and Conquest
- The State has had an Historical Tendency to Expand its Powers
- The State is Inherently Unstable

**The Main Features of the Ruling Class:**

- The State divides Society into two Rival Groups or Classes
- The Ruling Class is Historically Specific and is Constantly Changing over Time
- The Sovereign Power makes Constantly Shifting Alliances with Vested Interests
- Legislation socializes Costs and Privatizes Benefits for Favoured Groups

## Bibliography

A more detailed bibliography on this topic can be found at my website  
<<http://homepage.mac.com/dmhart/Teaching/2010/IHS.html>> .

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