

The State and the Ruling Class
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Questions to keep in mind:

- What is the State and whose interests does it serve?
- why has the State grown so much over the last 100 years?
- Who benefits and who loses from the activities of the state? (The Ruling Class and the Ruled)
- What powers should the State have and how can it remain limited to just those powers?

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 State has had an Historical Tendency to Expand its Powers

The Main Features of the Ruling Class:

- The State divides Society into two Rival Groups or Classes - the “net tax payers” (the ruled) and the “net tax receivers” (the ruling class)
- the State creates a “dependent class” which is reliant upon continued State benefits & which votes to maintain this
- The Ruling Class has access to and control over State power which it uses to benefit its own members and those of the dependent class
- The Sovereign Power makes Constantly Shifting Alliances with Vested Interests who are political “rent-seekers”
- 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/StateClass/IHS2010-StateClass-Bibliography.pdf>> .

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