

Week 12 Lesson Plan

Introduction

Paper prompts posted; due May 8 at 5pm to the dropbox on the website.

Hont: 447-49; 493-528.

Framing question: Do high levels of international economic integration reduce the role of the state? What, if anything, is left for the state to do? Are nationalist concerns eliminated in eras of globalization, or will reason of state always triumph over commercial interdependence?

I. The First Era of Globalization (Frieden, Angell, Barker)

When was the first era of globalization? In what ways was there a truly global economy? How did the political incentives of the elites in many countries allow for such interdependence to come about? What role did technological advances play?

Writing immediately before the collapse of this period of globalization, what did Angell think was novel about the economic conditions of his time? Was scarcity a problem? What were the consequences of specialization and division of labor?

Was war an option in this highly interdependent world, according to Angell? Why not?

How important are states in Angell's account? How much control do states have over the well-being of their domestic populations? What should states focus on instead of military preparedness?

Writing at roughly the same time, is Barker as sanguine about dispensing with the concept of the state? Could the concept of the state be dispensed with, even if we wanted to do so?

Why, in Frieden's view, did the first era of globalization come to an end?

Did Angell believe such a collapse was possible? Was he worried about German aggression? Why was he so wrong?

II. The Second Era of Globalization (Frieden)

Why did it prove so hard to return to economic integration immediately after World War I? How did the emergence of more fully democratic states hinder the ability of governments to participate in international economic arrangements?

What other priorities do states have, beginning in the interwar period, that conflict with full participation in the global economy?

What was the Bretton Woods system and how did it reflect these conflicting priorities?

Why did the Bretton Woods system collapse, and how have we subsequently returned to a period of globalization rivaling or exceeding that of the early twentieth century?

What are Americans' attitudes toward globalization today? What reasons does Frieden give for why so many Americans oppose it?

Frieden delivered the lecture we read in 2006. Do you think global capitalism did fall again?

More broadly, what is the key driver in Frieden's story about the vicissitudes of globalization in the twentieth century?

How does Frieden's account of the twentieth century compare with Streeck's?

III. Globalization and the State (Frieden, Hont)

A. Winners and Losers

Is globalization uniformly positive? Who loses as a result of globalization, according to Frieden? Whose job is it to compensate for those who are worse off?

Is "don't just do something, stand there" the right course of action for states to follow in an integrated world economy?

To what degree does it matter if states are democratic? Would autocratic states feel as much pressure to insulate domestic workers from the consequences of globalization?

B. Nationalism

Emerging during the French Revolution and running parallel to increasing commercial integration was a virulent strain of nationalism. How did the French Revolution (somewhat accidentally, in Hont's view) bring about this form of nationalism, and how might it undermine moves toward globalization?

Are patriotism and international cooperation compatible? Does globalization necessarily threaten one's sense of national identity?

Are you persuaded by Frieden's argument that, during the Cold War, American national security interests dovetailed with increased economic integration?

C. Sovereignty

(How did Hobbes and Rousseau differ on the issue of popular sovereignty? How do Sieyes and Robespierre draw on these differences?)

(For Sieyes, should the modern state tolerate multiple sites of sovereignty?)

Barker wrote in 1914 that "a certain tendency to discredit the state is now abroad" (249). Is that true today as well? Is the contemporary nation-state in crisis, according to Hont? What are some ways in which it is under pressure?

Do economic and social groups matter more in times of globalization than political groups, as Angell thought?

Can state sovereignty be maintained in the face of globalization? In what ways does Barker think our understanding of sovereignty might need to change, given globalization?

Would role should international organizations play in the regulation of international economic arrangements? Do these organizations pose a threat to state sovereignty?

IV. Private Politics (Baron)

What is private politics?

What tools do activists groups have at their disposal in getting a firm to change its behavior?

Which companies find themselves subject to private politics?

Do you think private politics will be more or less pervasive in a period of globalization?

What would Barker make of the idea of private politics? Is private politics a manifestation of the “tendency to discredit the state”?

What role does the existence of the state in the background play in the practice of private politics?