

WS 2018-19

Kautilya 'meets' Max-Weber – Political-Bureaucratic Interaction in India

Thursdays 16-18h in R 317

The class will address public administration as a key component of state capacity. That was recognized by the pre-modern political theorizing of Kautilya in West Asia as well as Max Weber in 20th century Europe. Not incidentally, Weber valued highly Kautilya's understanding of political-bureaucratic interaction. Scholarly attention with respect to governance in India has focused on the political executive, party politics, economic actors and civil society, while the role of the state bureaucracy and its interaction with politics have remained under-researched. The course will address the following themes:

- Introductory Session
- Max Weber's theory of the ideal-type state bureaucracy
- Kautilya's ideal-type pre-modern state bureaucracy
- Mughal and Colonial-British state bureaucracy
- Public Administration in Independent India I: IAS and IFS ('Generalists' and Diplomats)
- Public Administration in Independent India: IPS (Police and Intelligence Services)
- Case Study: Political-Bureaucratic Interaction: The economic Reforms 1991
- Case Study: Political-Bureaucratic Interaction: The Punjab Insurgency
- Case Study: Political-Bureaucratic Interaction: The Naxal Insurgency in Andhra Pradesh
- Theorizing Political-Bureaucratic Interaction: Bureaucratic 'Puzzlement' and 'Powering'
- Discussion of term papers

Four course sessions will be conducted by Prof. Dr. Rahul Mukherji.

About a quarter of the text of Kautilya's *Arthashastra* is devoted to public administration and his exposition of has a scholarly quality that was not reached in Europe before the 18th century. The Kautilyan concept of public administration has significantly influenced administrative structures and behavioral modes during the Mughal era, Colonial-British periods as well as in post-independence India.

Max Weber has a broad and unbiased view of state bureaucracy which clearly differs from the negative connotation the term has acquired in recent neo-liberal contextualizations. (Weber, *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft*, 1968, pp. 1042-1062) Weber gives due attention to the normative framing of the state bureaucracy: rationality, professionalism, discipline or dedication to the (perceived) common good. Evidently, the habitus prevailing in the state bureaucracy, or certain sections thereof, can significantly influence the internal and external policy conduct of a state.

The state bureaucracy is a key component of state capacity, which we understand, initially, following a Weberian orientation, as the aggregate of the state's personal and material resources necessary to implement the political leadership's decisions. In a broader sense,

state capacity can be defined as the necessary condition for the state to sustain its very existence. The paucity or hemorrhage of state capacity leads to the 'state failure'.

Calendar

Oct 18	Introductory Session Mukherji/Liebig
Oct. 25	Max Weber's theory of the ideal-type state bureaucracy I
Nov. 1	Allerheiligen Holiday
Nov 8	Max Weber's theory of the ideal-type state bureaucracy II
Nov 15	Kautilya's ideal-type pre-modern state bureaucracy I
Nov. 22	Kautilya's ideal-type pre-modern state bureaucracy II
Nov. 29	Mughal and Colonial-British state bureaucracy
Dec. 6	Public Administration in Independent India I: IAS and IFS ('Generalists' and Diplomats) Mukherji
Dec 13	Public Administration in Independent India: IPS (Police and Intelligence Services)
Dec. 20	Case Study: Political-Bureaucratic Interaction: The economic reforms 1991 Mukherji
Jan. 10	Case Study: Political-Bureaucratic Interaction: The Punjab Insurgency
Jan. 17	Case Study: Political-Bureaucratic Interaction: The Naxal Insurgency in Andhra Pradesh
Jan. 24	Theorizing Political-Bureaucratic Interaction: 'Puzzling', 'Powering' & Tipping Point Mukherji
Jan. 31	Summary: Bureaucracy and State Capacity Mukherji/Liebig
Feb. 7	Discussion of Term Papers

Literature:

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Legal Authority with a Bureaucratic Staff, Vol. I, pp. 217-226

The Essence, Conditions and Evolution of Bureaucracy ['Bureaucracy'], Vol. II, pp. 956 -1005