

Why States Exist, Are Important, and Will Be Long-Lasting

Inherent in this short essay is the belief that the individual is an end and the state is means to that end, not on the belief of the reverse.

Also inherent is the belief that the fundamental purpose of the state is to achieve the common good, although the definition of that good is dependent on the rough and tumble of policy development. Even when a clearly defined, accepted by most, goal arises, it will not be legitimate to all and may prove to be a poor guide to action. Usually there are many competing goals, all deserving consideration, some requiring close scrutiny. How a state defines its goals depends on its political system, which determines who participates, what is considered, and how decisions are made. This is a political, therefore very subjective, process.

There is apparent disconnect between the two beliefs – the first stresses the individual and the second the common or perhaps the community good. There is a distinction between the common good as the general goal of the state and the specific goals of particular state policies. The participants in the policy process, individuals and groups, should have the legal right to evaluate the policy of the government in terms of their view of what is the common good, including what is in their self-interest. Additionally, the standard for the government is to evaluate its policies in terms of the public interest – the common good.

The above leads us to a conclusion that states should be based on the principles of constitutional democracy and cannot be authoritarian or significantly political corrupt. Yet all states are inadequately based on those principles and many are closer to being authoritarian or significantly corrupt than not.

Yet every society, except the most primitive, has had or has a government that is the operational institution of the state. Why?

The argument above is that only the state can achieved the common good. There is not other institution capable of trying to reach that goal.

States are the only political institutions that have the ability to carry out many of the functions necessary for their people: — national defense, public safety, the provision of public goods such as education, health services, and environmental policies, the advancement of national economic and social well-being, the legal framework for order and a judicial system to administer it, and fundamental infrastructure such as transportation and communications facilities. At the minimum, it prevents private coercion.

Most political scientists and philosophers,,with the exception of Anarchists, recognize the need of state for human development and social progress. The primary purpose of the state is to establish and maintain peace, order and security. It is in and through the state that an individual

can achieve the highest ends of his existence.

The state can be view as the basis of the national community in which the people are united by a common political culture. This can be the basis for mobilization of energy and resources so that the community can act effectively in its common good. For this reason, nations that have no state, such a the Kurds and the Québécoise, seek to have their own state. Additionally,

Moreover, international relations are fundamentally the relations between sovereign states. Intra-government organizations function within the limits set by treaties and agreements agreed by sovereign states and have few operational capabilities not controlled by those states.

There are no institutions in the world that can do the above. Although many states fail to meet the basic standards. Additionally, all states are not equal in international affairs, even if equal in their sovereign rights, and some states are so far removed from being able to meet their basic obligations that they are failing or failed states.