Chapter 1: Purposes of Government

Lecture Notes

What is Government?

* The formal structures and institutions through which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Most have 3 components:

Features of a state

* A state (meaning country) is a political unit with the power to make laws over a group of people living in that defined territory
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Must have land, established boundaries
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - State has supreme and absolute authority within its territorial boundaries
    - Make laws and determine own actions
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Institution that keeps social order, provides services, and enforces decisions

Functions of Government

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Internally via police and the legal system
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Through politics and the legal system
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Ranging from edu to transportation and usually paid for by tax dollars
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Attempt to balance public good with needs of smaller groups of pop

Mommy, where do states come from?

Theories of Rule

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + State evolved from the family
  + Head of family was the authority that served as govt
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Early civilizations needed cooperation and came under the rule of the strongest person
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + God choose certain people to rule!
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Govt arose out of voluntary action!
  + Society is governed by a general will
  + Grew out of Enlightenment
    - Ex: Hobbes, Locke