

## **Framework for Understanding Social Change**

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#### **Elements**

1. Social action – social actors, collective & individual, undertake both conditioned and purposive behaviors; these behaviors involve both conscious and unconscious dimensions and are intersubjective, i.e., oriented toward others  
Mostly concerned with purposive behavior, that with conscious orientation (though may become conditioned)  
Conscious orientation involves meaning – interpretation of social world and action for purpose (reason)
2. Institutional focus – social action that involves similar actions & goals, is repetitive (borders on taken-for-granted)
3. Historically grounded approach to contemporary social structure
4. Spatially located – importance of place, territoriality

#### **Model of Ethno-Nationalist Mobilization**

1. Objective features: language, religion, culture, tradition, race, territory
2. Subjective features: common beliefs & values, re-political national interests
3. Political entrepreneurs: intellectuals, elites
4. Framing processes: Stories, myths, symbols, traditions; naming, defining; affinity & exclusion, membership relations; emotions (fear, hatred)
5. Collective identity
6. Political Opportunity Structure  
Institutionalization of ethnicity – territorial structures  
Decentralized institutions  
Party systems, electoral realignments  
Government policies  
Support networks – clubs, associations, publications & mass media; cultural, religious, and education organizations
7. Nationalist Movement – self-determination, defense of community

#### **Three Long-Term Dynamics of Social Change**

1. Centuries-long development of international system of states – the consolidation of coercive power in form of territorial organization & crystallization of system of interstate actors
2. Growth of modern industrial economy, based upon commodity production and world market exchange – movement from agrarian to interdependent economies; trade central role but organization of production key engine

3. Movement from sacred (religious) to secular authority, with corresponding ideologies of politics; justification of authority by appeal to human reason & popular intervention

These processes realized through different institutional forms in both historical and spatial dimensions: they develop over time and they penetrate spatial areas where not previously exist

*State* – set of centralized organizations that control population in given territory; coordinated division of labor and coercive autonomy over other organizations in territory

1. State building intimately tied to conflict and war – defeat of rivals; extraction of resources from population
2. State conflict in Europe required more rational apparatus for collecting taxes (bureaucracy) and wealthier economy for providing resources
3. Eventually mass warfare requires conscription – creation of mass education, nationalist ideology (identity, loyalty) – leading to popular sovereignty

*Economic modernization & development of capitalism*

1. Transition from feudal relations of loyalty to money economy facilitated new state formation
2. Economic development enhanced by technological development – often tied to military success
3. Development of finance capital allowed loans and other resources for war making
4. Strength of great powers led to colonial opportunities for economic development and capitalist expansion

*Enlightenment ideas*

1. Skepticism toward religious authority
2. Belief in science – observation, experimental method; use of reason
3. Development of science enhanced development of technology
4. Application of rational calculation to economic activity – development of capitalism
5. Demand for political representation and popular basis of sovereignty – democratic ideals, nationalism