

# TECHNOLOGY POLITICS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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# Overarching Questions

- Can the state could play a valuable role in fostering technology development?
- If so, why aren't developing countries implementing such policies?
- Why is there so much differentiation between policies over space and time?
- What can be done to improve the situation?
- Key variables: state authority, capacity, and autonomy

# Kohli's typology of state authority

- What explains how much the state intervenes and the quality of the intervention (short or long-term, coherent or incoherent, particular or public)?
  - ▣ Colonial origins
  - ▣ State- interest group relations
- Neopatrimonial (Nigeria)
- Cohesive capitalist/developmentalist state (SK)
- Fragmented multiclass states (India)
  
- Only big events can change the nature of these states?

# Evans' Embedded Autonomy

- Need for restructuring
- Need for stable state-firm relations (firms do work)
- Challenges of transformation (avoiding capture)
- Embedded autonomy as solution
  - ▣ Corp coherence (bur'y) + dense ties → embedded autonomy
- Once transformation is complete, state no longer needed by business (eg Korea).
- Should labour be included? Is a corporatist system more or less conducive to state autonomy?

# Maloney- Missed Oppties

- Underdevt is from insuff “natl learning capacity”
- Resource curse- untrue- US, Ca, Aust
- HK, ability to adopt, develop techy
- “finite (temporal) window” (117)
- Entrepreneurship not lacking (120) (vs. Harrison culture arg)
- LA factors: in=y; negative intellectual bias incl edu system, eg mining vs Aust
- Not IP, but openness (134-6) (vs. ISI)
  - Eg Aust, Chilean fruits
  
- Qs How do you develop learning capacity?
- Do you agree resource dependency has neutral/+ fx?
- Do you agree that openness is essential for growth?

# Exercises

- Consider Kohli's conceptualization? Do these categories really make sense to you? Are they inclusive? Are they measurable? How would you change from 1 form to another?
- What does Evans really have in mind in terms of embedded autonomy? What kinds of concrete projects would you devise to move from a corrupt and ineffective state to an effective one? Or is it more realistic to move towards a market-oriented model?