

# Review of: "State crisis theory: A systematization of institutional, socio-ecological, demographic-structural, world-systems, and revolutions research"

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The article presents a very interesting comparative approach based on the analysis of the "state crisis" contrasting five approaches closely linked to historical sociology, in general terms. The analysis of the state crisis can be constituted in a transversal-historical axis, which reaches up to the present, which can contribute to identify mechanisms to understand the differentiated trajectories of the states and their elements of crisis that can support the creation of a research program that transcends the European limits of the discussion. The following observations are oriented towards thinking about this possible field of research on the state crisis from a transnational perspective.

The path dependency vision (Mahoney, James (2006). "Analyzing Path Dependence: Lessons from the Social Sciences".

In: Wimmer, A., Kössler, R. (eds) Understanding Change. Palgrave Macmillan, London. [https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230524644\\_9](https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230524644_9)) makes it very clear that obtaining an output implies one result among other possible

ones. That is why it is important to include the relationship between contexts: regional, national, international,

transnational, transnationalist, global, world, as a possible factor of state crisis. (Viales Hurtado, Ronny J. "América

Central y sus (inter)contextos. Entre la Historia mundial, la Historia global y el giro espacial". En: Díaz Arias, David y

Viales Hurtado, Ronny J. (Edits.) Historia global y circulación de saberes en Iberoamérica. Siglos XVI-XXI, San José:

Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de América Central, 2018, pp. 47-74.

<https://repositorios.cihac.fcs.ucr.ac.cr/repositorio/items/73c6b966-1837-4381-accd-e9bd314a76df>) Likewise, the

circulation of ideas and knowledge, between contexts, must include the notion of transnational critical junctures and

globalization, as a "dialectical process of de- and re-territorialization" (Matthias Middell & Katja Naumann (2010), "Global

history and the spatial turn: from the impact of area studies to the study of critical junctures of globalization", in: Journal of

Global History (2010) 5, pp. 149–170. doi:10.1017/S1740022809990362), so territoriality can also be a factor of state

crisis.

To contribute to the discussion, it is important to return to the concept of the fiscal-military state (Brewer, John (1989). The

Sinews of Power: War, Money and the English State, 1688-1783, London: Unwin) because it would allow one to be

approximated of the elements that generate or do not generate state viability and that, at the same time, can help to

understand how the monopoly on "legitimate violence" is socially constructed and exercised: the tax problem.

From Neo-institutionalism, a fundamental contribution is to provide the possibility of action to institutions, formal and

informal, and this relationship allows analytical links with the historical trajectory of political culture. On the one hand, the

relationship between contexts would make visible the scope and limits of the rule of law (Costa, Pietro & Zolo, Danilo

(Eds.) (2007) *The Rule of Law History, Theory, and Criticism*, The Netherlands: Springer.) which it implies one of the most important obstacles to state consolidation beyond Europe, which exported its ideal model of politics: liberalism, democracy, the state, capitalist economy, and the doctrine of human rights. (Geuss, Raymond (2011). *Illusion in Politics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), hence ideologies can also contribute to generating state crises.

Beyond Europe, a fundamental concern about the state crisis has to do with the problem of historical inequalities, so the study of the "political culture of trust/distrust" in Latin America, where political constitutions and law have constituted fundamental mechanisms for the construction of a political culture, suggests that the approach of values, rights, institutions, all highly dependent on changing contexts, which, at the same time, are naturalized with the result of a certain type of "social cohesion", which is posed as immanent, not as a possibility among others, by the dominant social actors, may imply the emergence of elements of state crisis or of authoritarian, hybrid or populist democracies, such as political regimes, which the complexity and diversity of state crisis factors increase, and complement the vision of the scarcity/sufficiency dichotomy. (Viales Hurtado, Ronny J. (2019) *La historia de la confianza/desconfianza (trust/distrust) como fundamento para la construcción una nueva historia de la cultura política desde América Latina*. San José: Cuadernos del Bicentenario, No. 8, CIHAC, 2019. <https://repositorios.cihac.fcs.ucr.ac.cr/repositorio/items/72786ae4-8dd8-4ee0-9755-be82d9689d4f>)

To broaden the debate initiated by the article, it would be interesting to take these elements into consideration to internalize the extent to which they are taken up in the 5 approaches analyzed by the author.