What is the state? Democracy?
Indicators of state capacity

1. Public order / coercion
   - Army
   - Police
   - Secret police
   - Criminal justice

2. Economic regulation
   - Currency
   - Revenue collection
   - Property rights (physical capital, enforcement of contracts, IP)

3. Public services
   - Infrastructure
   - Health
   - Education

4. Legitimation
   - “Official” religion
   - Propaganda
How might we measure state strength?
Some measures using a “spider graph”

Soldiers / EAP
Russia

Costa Rica

Tax / GDP

Netherlands

Km paved road / square km

Use of the materials should be cited as follows: Chappell Lawson, MIT OpenCourseWare (http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html) course materials for 17.50 (Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2006), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, downloaded on [Insert Date].
What is Democracy?
The democratic chain

Selection of leaders → Formulation of policy → Implementation of policy

Formation of citizen preferences