



Buzan and Little: Chapters 8 & 9



Discussion

- What changes in units characterize the shift from the pre-international world to the ancient/classical world?

Ancient and Classical Units

- Inside/Outside structure
- Empires, City-states, and Barbarians
- Political units coexist and are interrelated

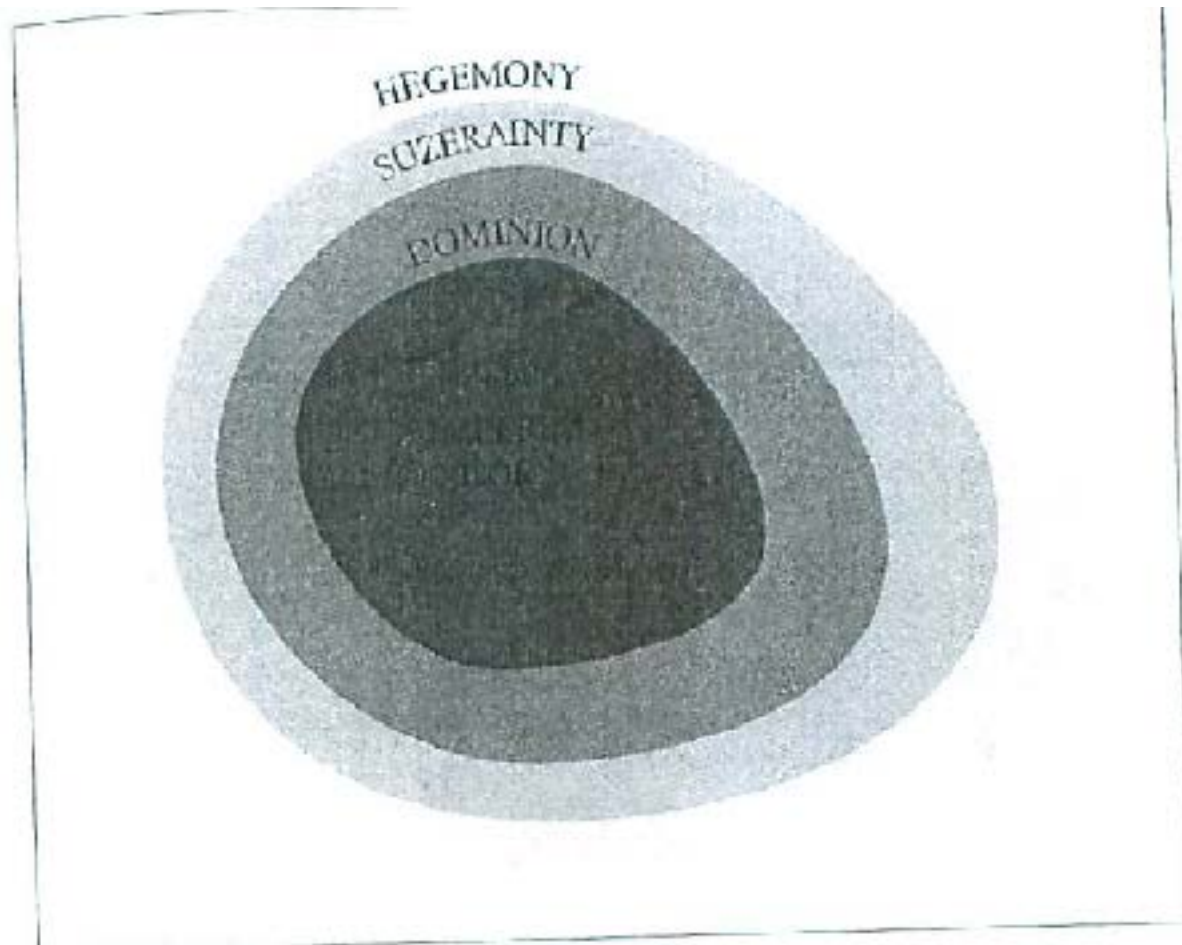
City-States

- Changes in control of land
- Concentrations of wealth = more conflict
- City-states politically multifaceted
 - Autonomous
 - Empires
 - City-Leagues

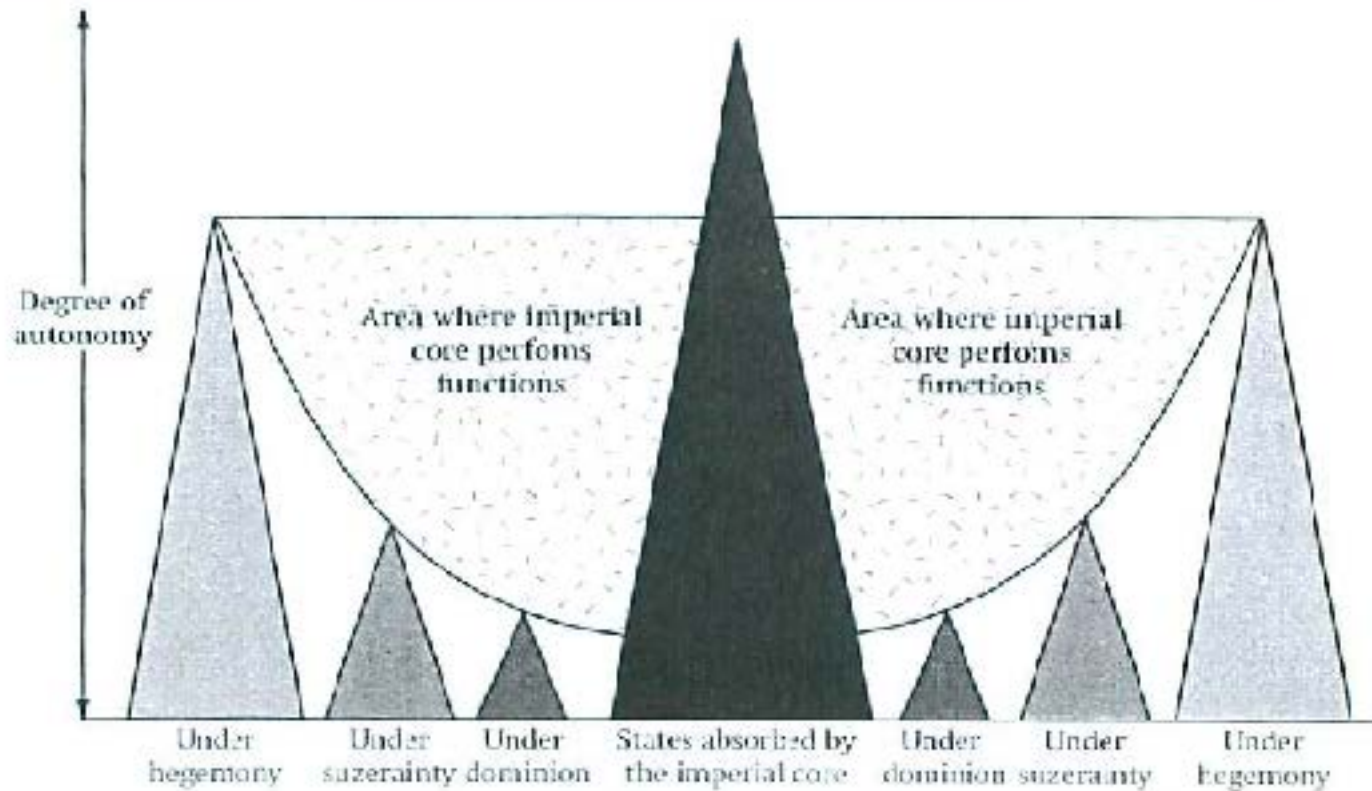
Empires

- Four Keys of stable empires
 - Ideology
 - Bureaucracy
 - Administrative techniques
 - Merchant class
- Empires are flexible

Empires



Empires



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Empires

- Think about the bands of control in an empire as shifting balances between the different aspects of interaction capacity
 - As social and physical technology improves, the constraint of geography diminishes
 - Space of possible direct control expands. BUT...
 - Nature of political relations NOT dictated by IC

Civilizations

- Changes in world society
 - Thicker
 - More extensive than in the past
 - Long-lived



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Nomads

- Nomadic tribes and empires
 - More ephemeral, less stable
 - Depended on changes in physical (as opposed to social) technology
 - At the same time, more capable

Discussion

- What changes in interaction capacity marked the transition to the ancient/classical period?

Ancient and Classical Interaction Capacity

- Physical technologies
 - Wheel
 - Domestication of animals
 - Roads and canals
 - Ships
- Social technologies
 - Writing
 - Religion
 - Legal systems
 - Money
 - Lingua franca
 - Diplomacy
 - Trade diasporas

Questions for thought

- What distinguishes City-states and Empires from previous forms of political organization?
- What are the four keys to a stable empire?
- What do the authors mean when they refer to ‘multiple international systems?’
- How do modern theoretical approaches depend on the social technologies developed by ancient and classical empires?
- What were the physical and social technologies that contributed to the rise and perpetuation of empires? Which (physical or social) played a more significant role?
- What effect did writing have on the evolution of social units (think beyond the text!)?
- What is the relationship between the various social technologies? How might the development of one influence the development of others (remember, we are talking about social systems here; these things rarely occur independently)?
- How was interaction capacity geography dependent?

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