BUZAN AND LITTLE CHAPTER 6 & 7

Pre-International Systems

- Pre-International systems continue to exist today
  - San (Bushmen) in Southern Africa
  - Spinifex people, or Pila Nguru of Australia
  - Uncontacted tribes in Amazon.
  - Sentinelese: Andamanese indigenous peoples of the Andaman Island
  - Pre-International systems represent the most (geographically) successful human systems.
  - Far more successful than states at adapting to and dealing with all the varieties on earth.

Pre-International Systems

Discuss:

- ▣ What are the units of the pre-international systems?
- ▣ How does <u>interaction capacity</u> emerge in the Pre-International System
- ▣ What are Pre-International System <u>processes</u>?
- ▣ Is there a Pre-International Systemic <u>structure</u>?
- ▣ Does the Buzan and Little toolkit apply well to Pre-International System? Do any other existing theories?

Pre-international units

- Internal structure: authority rather than power
- Mobile, egalitarian HGB
- NOT isolated!
- Weak territoriality

Pre-international interaction capacity

- Directly related to population density (why?)
- Survival requires cooperation (a process), but cooperation requires interaction capacity. How to do this?
  - Physical technology = fixed
  - Geography = fixed
  - Social technology = winner!

Pre-international interaction capacity

▫ Language

▫ Maximize number of neighbors

Pre-international Processes

- Three main processes
  - Marriage
  - Gatherings
  - Exchange of goods
  - Maybe a little fighting on the side

Pre-international Structure

- Largely unstructured in the mechanical sense
  - Low interaction capacity means no sectors other than social and limited economic, not enough depth to really support structure
- There are some social structures though
  - Totems
  - Primordial world society

Peer Instruction

- What marks the transition from Pre-International systems to international systems?

Transition: pre-international to international system

- Began and ended at different times in different places
  - That said, for most part began 20,000-10,000 BC
- Two fundamental transition
  - 1:

This image is in the public domain. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

  - 2.

→

Image courtesy of Sean Dreilinger on flickr. License CC BY-NC-SA.

Transition Units

- Egalitarian villages (small)
- Hierarchical chiefdoms

Transition Interaction capacity

- Large increase in languages (what does this mean for interaction capacity?)
- Decreasing distances as population density increases
- Rise of elite languages
- Weakening of interunit social networks

Transition Process

- ▣ Egalitarian tribes
  - ■ Political/military: raiding, conflict becomes a constant of life
  - ■ Economic: Food storage and trade, prestige goods
  - ■ Societal: maintaining trade links
- ▣ Chiefdoms
  - ■ Political/military: warfare becomes significant, mixed bag for leaders
  - ■ Economic: consolidation of hierarchy most effectively accounted for by economic processes, agriculture
  - ■ Societal: Hierarchy attached to individuals, external relations elevated top chief

Transition Process

- Social and economic structures deeply intertwined
- Some movement toward structure in the Neorealist, military-political sense
- Rough state of anarchy, but the system is not structured. Indeed, raises questions about Neorealist story…

17.41 Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2018