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### **Resources on the SON 2: Informal arrangements**

- Many clubs, community, or religious groups, unions, societies etc. often provide social goods effectively
  - rule and structures which fall short of state because they are voluntary
- Civil society: rotary clubs, church groups, universities
- Soviet union: the state tried to substitute for all of these; did a bad job
- PD situations ameliorated by extending communications links, social interaction
- Social pressure

### **Resources of state of nature 3: formal arrangements**

- Ways of deferring to experts or coordinating behavior among large groups
- Still voluntary, despite being formal
  - international sports bodies

### **Objection 1**

Either these formal arrangements are:

- Too informal so they collapse
- Or too coercive—acting similarly to the state

### **Objection 2**

Voluntary structures just cannot deal with certain problems

- Army
- Taxes
- Money supply
- Healthcare

### **Example 1: The Police**

- 1627: Paris civic functionaries under Louis XIV
  - not just a police force—did urban planning, supervising prices, public health, law and order
- 1800: London river police
- 1829: London Metropolitan Police
- 1930s: FBI
  - enforcing criminal law

### **But do we really need them?**

Legalizing activities will reduce crimes

- Many crimes are merely personal
- Many crimes are defined to protect state monopolies
- Many crimes are defined mainly to protect certain groups (licenses)

Instead of police, let's do security and insurance

### **Example 2: Schools**

- MA 1852: compulsory attendance
  - all states by 1918
- But most children went to school already anyway
- Major factor: to protestantize immigrants

-esp. catholic immigrants

- How good of a job to these schools really do?

### Verdict

- Does the state of nature really contain sufficient resource to avoid a Hobbesian state?
- Hard to tell
- Very few examples of anarchist societies

### Anarchists' positive objections to the state

The cure is worse than the disease!

- Whatever the problems of the state of nature, institutional force—laws, police, courts, jails, etc

The state violates our natural rights

### Harm caused by the states: "aegrescit medendo" **Cure Is worse than the disease**

#### 1 States prevent the removal of harm

- States entrench inequities, domination, and exploitation
- They protect wealth, property, and privilege, redistribute and often concentrate it

#### 2 States become corrupted and so agents of harm

- Only a gov. has a sufficient infrastructure for huge corruption
  - The larger they are, the bigger the gains
- US much less corrupt than other countries
- But even here there are some legal kinds of corruption
  - Pork and earmark in a bill—appeases a local interest—add-ons to a bill
  - A lot of money washing around the system
  - Regulatory capture—regulators in the pockets of those that they are supposed to be regulating
  - Gerrymandering—redrawing electoral districts to condense favorable votes
    - Ensures 90% incumbency
    - MA (2006): only 54/200 competitive races (2 major party candidates)

#### 3 States are a constant oppressive presence and Imposition In everyday life

- There are regulations governing every aspect of our lives
- This capacity for intrusion and regulation only increases with technology

#### 4 states exert heavy pressure toward uniformity

- Often in the name of national unity
- For minorities, states advocate assimilation, adoption of common national values, otherwise life is made difficult
- These pressures are conspicuous in sporting and religious events and pervasive and secondary education
  - Pledge of allegiance, anthems, etc.
- Flag-waving and patriotic fervor can degenerate into stifling of dissent or bullying of foreigners

#### 5 States are major sources of harm

- Power could not be concentrated enough to bring about the incredible harms brought by states (war)

### **Other harms caused by states**

Minor harm: traffic regulations

- Removing traffic signals, lines, etc. sometimes brings accident rates down

Minor harm: war on drugs

- Not clearly diminished drug use
  - Individual drug users:
  - Prison, expense, impure drugs
  - 500k prisoners in US whose main offense is a drug offense
  - Society:
  - Demand is inelastic, war pushes up prices, drives drug users to crime
  - Increased violence, corruption of politics
  - Exacerbates social divisions
  - Spreads disease
  - Undermine basic values

### **States are very expensive**

- the rich world, states spend 30-50% of GDP

Separation of powers—somewhat of an anarchist solution to the problems of the state

Anarchists just want to take it further—logical extremes