

Sociology 924 Theories of the State
Agenda #2
Vivek Chibber's *Locked in Place*
September 19, 2005

1. **Chibber vs Evans: what are the pivotal differences in their arguments? (Lena, Shawn)**
2. **State autonomy**
 - What really is “autonomy” in Chibber’s analysis? How should it be defined? (Adam)
 - Relationship between “autonomy” and “capacity”? (Dan)
 - Do the three processes that generate state autonomy hold today (p227)? (Sarah)
3. **Labor, mobilization of labor, relation to the state (Amy, Peter, Joe, Oriol)**
 - How does the state-labor relation figure in the analysis? (Amy, Oriol)
 - How does labor empowerment contribute to state autonomy (Peter)
 - Could the state have controlled an empowered working class in India to discipline capital? (Joe)
 - Given that contingency is so important in Korea (Japan, US markets), why would mobilization of labor have effectively enabled the Indian state to pursue a better development path? (Joe)
4. **Multinational corporations, global context**
 - How does global capital affect the problem of autonomy and bargaining of states and capitalist classes? (Sarah, Oriol)
 - How, precisely, did Japanese capital facilitate the Korea developmental state project? Could the US and UK capital have done the same thing for India? (Shawn)
 - Is the cohesion of the Indian capitalist class the cause of low autonomy or is this due to MNCs? (Joe)
 - How does Chibber’s analysis relate to World System’s Theory (Richard)
5. **Class fractions**
 - How would conflict among fractions of capital complicate the analysis? (Amy)
 - Is it always large capitalists that are the pivotal class actors? (Jae-Youl)
6. **contingency, luck**
 - What precisely is the argument about the importance of “luck” in Korea? Does this equally apply to Japan (Sarah, Brett)
7. **Democracy**
 - Could the switch to ELI occur under democratic conditions? Can a democracy institute a capital-disciplining state? (Brent, Richard)
8. **Generality of Chibber’s analysis:**
 - do the mechanisms Chibber identifies have explanatory power for countries like the U.S. as well as countries like India and Korea? (Amy)
 - Is Chibber’s argument a non-Western-centric, non-“catch-up” view of the capitalist state and capitalist development? (Amy)
9. **Agriculture**
 - How important was agricultural policy – land reform, cheap food, peasant repression – for the ELI program? (Jason)
10. **Caste**
 - No discussion of caste in India. Does this affect capitalist cohesion? (Joe)