

Political Science 171: State Politics

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- Legal equality between the states: Bigger states can't boss around smaller states. Thus, each state has relative influence
- The Constitution legitimates these interactions: Full faith and credit clause (reciprocity); interstate rendition clause; privileges and immunities clause; Interstate compact clause

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- Cooperate to create/maintain interstate compacts: formal agreement/contract between multiple states. May cover criminal justice, education, natural resources (Keystone Pipeline might be an example), transportation
- Compacts often lower the costs of a project/program to each individual state

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- Cooperation of Administrative Agreements: Do not require legislative action, thus enacted more quickly, but sometimes less durable

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- Competition for Economic Development: Tax burden, training programs, wage rates, regulatory environment, venture capital possibilities, quality of life, union membership
- Do indicators of economic development have any effect on firm locational decisions? Perhaps individually, but trend data do not support this.

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- Example: Washington State and Texas, tax increase ballot initiative
- Lawmakers more likely to propose tax increases when neighboring states do the same

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- Any doubt regarding local gov't power is resolved in favor of state
- State legislatures do not necessarily constrain local gov't power, but they can

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- Over time, states have tended to centralize power (Ross Stephens index). States most centralized: AK, DE, HI, VT; least centralized: CA, FL, IL, NV. Why?