

Violence

In the past, it was perfectly normal for all sorts of different groups, starting with family clans, to make use of physical violence. Today, in contrast, we would have to say that the state is the *only* human community that (successfully) claims a *monopoly on physical violence* for itself, within a certain geographical territory (this territorial aspect is a defining feature.)

**Max Weber, "The Politician's Work"
in *Charisma and Disenchantment*,
translated by Damion Searls**