Buzan and Little: Chapters 8 & 9
Discussion

- What changes in units characterize the shift from the pre-international world to the ancient/classical world?
Ancient and Classical Units

- Inside/Outside structure
- Empires, City-states, and Barbarians
- Political units coexist and are interrelated
City-States

- Changes in control of land
- Concentrations of wealth = more conflict
- City-states politically multifaceted
  - Autonomous
  - Empires
  - City-Leagues
Empires

- Four Keys of stable empires
  - Ideology
  - Bureaucracy
  - Administrative techniques
  - Merchant class

- Empires are flexible
Empires

- Think about the bands of control in an empire as shifting balances between the different aspects of interaction capacity
  - As social and physical technology improves, the constraint of geography diminishes
  - Space of possible direct control expands. BUT…
  - Nature of political relations NOT dictated by IC
Civilizations

- Changes in world society
  - Thicker
  - More extensive than in the past
  - Long-lived

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Nomads

- Nomadic tribes and empires
  - More ephemeral, less stable
  - Depended on changes in physical (as opposed to social) technology
  - At the same time, more capable
What changes in interaction capacity marked the transition to the ancient/classical period?
Ancient and Classical Interaction Capacity

- Physical technologies
  - Wheel
  - Domestication of animals
  - Roads and canals
  - Ships

- Social technologies
  - Writing
  - Religion
  - Legal systems
  - Money
  - Lingua franca
  - Diplomacy
  - Trade diasporas
Questions for thought

- What distinguishes City-states and Empires from previous forms of political organization?
- What are the four keys to a stable empire?
- What do the authors mean when they refer to ‘multiple international systems’?
- How do modern theoretical approaches depend on the social technologies developed by ancient and classical empires?
- What were the physical and social technologies that contributed to the rise and perpetuation of empires? Which (physical or social) played a more significant role?
- What effect did writing have on the evolution of social units (think beyond the text!)?
- What is the relationship between the various social technologies? How might the development of one influence the development of others (remember, we are talking about social systems here; these things rarely occur independently)?
- How was interaction capacity geography dependent?