

State Capacity

Political Science

The ability of a state to do what it decides to do.

Dimensions and indicators.

Dimensions

Extractive — raising revenue

Coercive — enforcing rules territorially

Administrative — delivering services

Regulatory — supervising markets

Indicators

Tax as a share of GDP

Reach of the state outside the capital

Reliability of civil registration

Merit-based recruitment of officials

Educational reference. Reforms designed for high-capacity states routinely fail when transplanted without the capacity behind them.