
1. What does Kapferer mean by oligarchic control, and how does this modify theories of state power?
2. How does Kapferer’s description of globalization differ from Trouillot’s?
3. Is “globalization” opposed to “the state”?
4. Why does Kapferer criticize the ideology of anthropologists who have written on globalization?
5. What does oligarchy mean? What is a corporation? What is ironic about corporate oligarchy?
6. While Kapferer argues that oligarchies have had a persistent presence in post-monarchical politics, there is something new, a discontinuity, in the present? What is the change that has occurred where oligarchic power is concerned?
7. How does Kapferer’s discussion of charitable foundations compare with Trouillot’s discussion of the role of NGOs?
8. What are the distinctive features of the contemporary “corporate state”?

“Militarization,” by Catherine Lutz (Ch. 20 in the *Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*).

1. In a critical comment, Randolph Bourne, a US anti-war writer, said that war was “the health of the state”. What appears in this article to support that view?
2. What is the difference between “militarization” and “militarism”?
3. In the contemporary global context, what justification is there for singling out the United States’ militarization?
4. Where might one see an overlap between past colonialism within the US and the US’ global military expansionism?
5. What is “humanitarian war” and how does it relate to what we have already learned about the state in this course?
6. How does war enhance the power of the Executive?


1. Gough said that anthropology was the child of Western imperialism. What is the major historical and political-economic phenomenon about which anthropology has generally been silent?
2. How have anthropologists taken on the role of “protectors,” and what have you
learned thus far that would contextualize and explain this role?

3. What are the ideological “blind spots” present within US academic studies?

4. According to Gough, what percentage of the world’s total population at the time (late 1960s) was under some form of either direct or indirect US dominance?