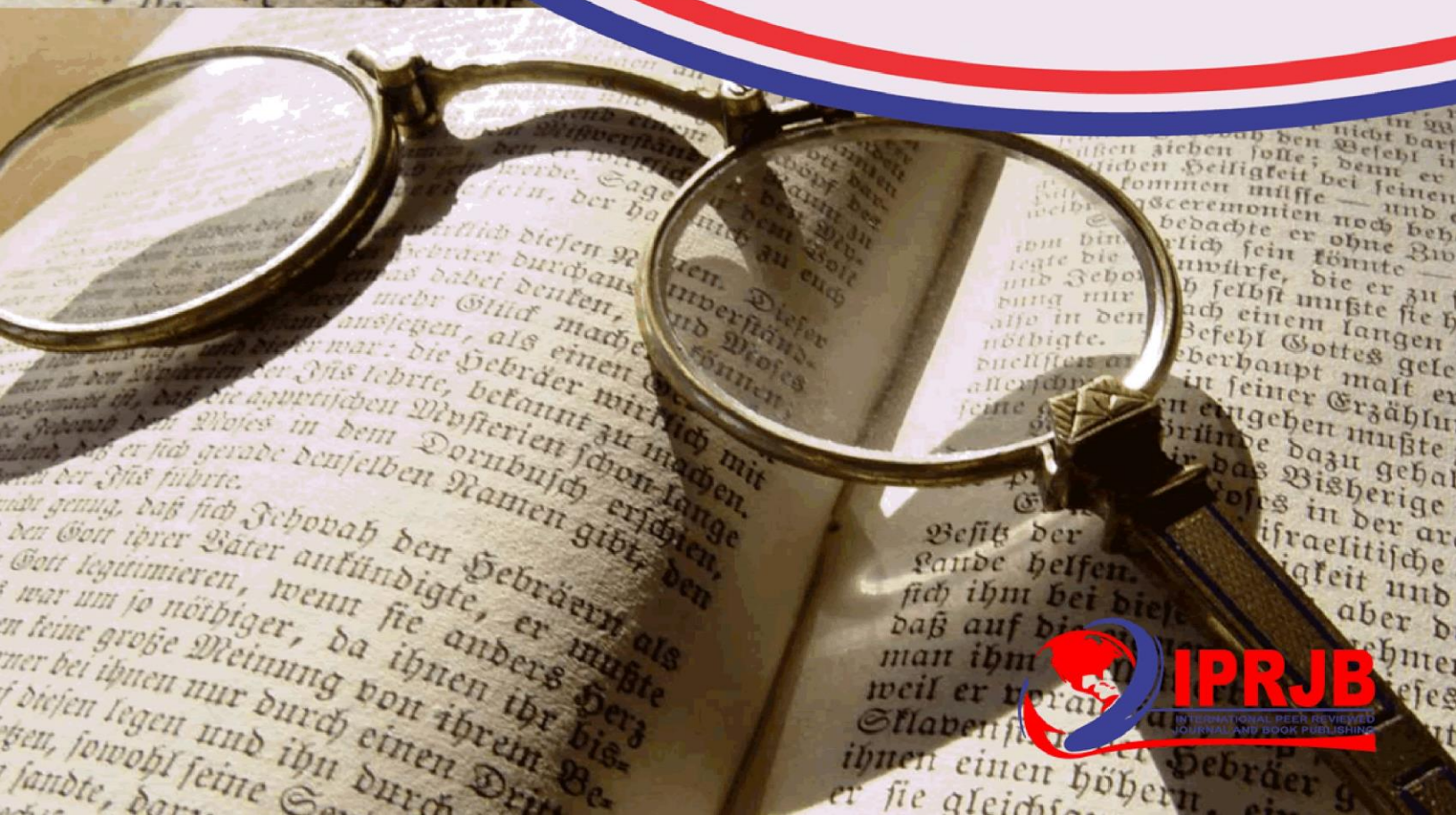


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The Influence of Political Ideologies on State Formation in 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century Asia

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## The Influence of Political Ideologies on State Formation in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Asia



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### Abstract

**Purpose:** To aim of the study was to analyze the influence of political ideologies on state formation in 19<sup>th</sup> century Asia.

**Methodology:** This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

**Findings:** Nationalism emerged as a powerful force, advocating for self-determination and sovereignty against colonial powers. Imperialism, driven by European nations, reshaped geopolitical boundaries and governance structures, leading to the formation of colonial states in many Asian regions. Additionally, modernization efforts, influenced by socialist and capitalist ideologies, prompted reforms in governance, infrastructure, and education, facilitating state-building processes across Asia. These ideological dynamics played pivotal roles in shaping the political landscapes and state formations that continue to influence Asia's development and geopolitics today.

**Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy:** Modernization theory, dependency theory & postcolonial theory may be used to anchor future studies on the influence of political ideologies on state formation in 19<sup>th</sup> century Asia. Advocate for governance models that reflect the diverse cultural and ethnic identities within Asian states. Develop policies that acknowledge and address historical injustices and legacies of imperialism, as demonstrated by the case of Korea.

**Keywords:** *Influence, Political Ideologies, State Formation*

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## INTRODUCTION

The formation and consolidation of states in Asia represent a complex interplay of historical, cultural, political, and economic factors spanning millennia. Across the continent, states have emerged through various processes, often influenced by indigenous governance structures, imperial conquests, nationalist movements, and contemporary geopolitical dynamics. In developed economies like the USA and Japan, state formation has historically been characterized by a consolidation of power and governance structures. For instance, in the United States, the process of state formation involved the establishment of a federal system after independence, consolidating authority across states while preserving some autonomy. According to Smith (2017), this consolidation has been crucial in maintaining national cohesion and stability amidst regional diversity. Similarly, Japan's state formation during the Meiji Restoration focused on centralizing power and modernizing governance to enhance national unity and economic growth (Brown, 2018). These examples highlight how developed economies have managed to strengthen state institutions to support economic development and social cohesion.

In the United Kingdom (UK), state formation evolved through historical processes such as the Acts of Union, which unified England, Scotland, Wales, and later Northern Ireland into a single political entity. This consolidation aimed to strengthen governance and promote economic integration across the British Isles (Boyd, 2019). Similarly, Germany's state formation after unification in 1871 focused on centralizing power and fostering industrial development to establish a cohesive nation-state (Kaelble, 2017). These examples underscore how developed economies in Europe have navigated historical and geopolitical challenges to build robust state structures conducive to economic growth and political stability.

In France, state formation has been influenced by historical processes such as centralization efforts under Louis XIV and the French Revolution, which aimed to consolidate power and establish a unified nation-state (Collins, 2018). This evolution included reforms in administration and governance to strengthen state institutions and foster economic development. Similarly, Australia's state formation involved federating its colonies into a single Commonwealth in 1901, balancing centralized authority with regional autonomy to accommodate diverse interests and identities (Rubinstein, 2017). These examples illustrate how developed economies manage state consolidation through historical evolution and institutional reforms. In Canada, state formation involved the gradual evolution from British colonial governance to a federal system that accommodates diverse linguistic and cultural identities. The British North America Act of 1867 established the framework for federation, balancing centralized authority with provincial autonomy to manage regional differences (McRoberts, 2017). This process enabled Canada to foster national unity while respecting regional diversity, crucial for its economic and social development.

In contrast, developing economies such as Brazil and India have faced challenges in state formation due to historical colonial legacies and diverse ethnic, linguistic, and regional identities. For instance, Brazil's state consolidation efforts have been marked by periods of military rule and democratization, aiming to unify a vast and culturally diverse nation (Silva, 2016). India, on the other hand, has navigated state formation through federalism, accommodating diverse linguistic and cultural identities within a democratic framework (Mitra, 2019). These examples illustrate

how developing economies grapple with balancing unity and diversity in their state-building efforts, crucial for sustainable development and governance.

In Latin America, Mexico's state formation involved overcoming colonial legacies and regional disparities to establish a federal republic. The Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920 marked a significant period of state consolidation, leading to land reforms and political centralization (Gilly, 2018). Likewise, Indonesia's state formation post-independence centered on integrating diverse ethnic groups and islands into a unified nation-state, balancing centralized governance with regional autonomy (Hill, 2016). These cases highlight how developing economies in diverse regions manage complex identities and historical challenges in building cohesive state institutions. In Nigeria, state formation has been influenced by colonial legacies and post-independence challenges of ethnic diversity and political centralization. The amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria by the British in 1914 laid the foundation for a unified administration but also exacerbated ethnic tensions and governance disparities (Suberu, 2016). Since independence, Nigeria has navigated federalism to accommodate diverse ethnic groups within a unified state, aiming to balance national cohesion with regional autonomy for sustainable development.

In Egypt, state formation has been shaped by ancient civilizations and modern geopolitical challenges. The consolidation of modern Egypt under the Muhammad Ali dynasty in the 19th century marked a period of centralization and modernization efforts (Keddie, 2016). The country continues to navigate challenges of governance and identity amidst socio-political changes. In Thailand, state formation evolved through historical monarchies and periods of modernization in the 20th century, balancing tradition with reforms to establish a stable and unified nation-state (Nishizaki, 2020). These cases highlight how developing economies in diverse regions navigate historical legacies and contemporary challenges in building effective state institutions.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, state formation has been influenced by post-colonial challenges, including ethnic tensions, weak institutions, and economic disparities. Countries like Kenya and Nigeria have struggled with consolidating state authority amidst ethnic diversity and post-colonial governance challenges. Kenya's state formation has been shaped by efforts to decentralize power while fostering national unity through devolution (Oyugi, 2020). Similarly, Nigeria has faced challenges in integrating diverse ethnic groups into a cohesive national identity, impacting governance and development outcomes (Ojo, 2018). These examples underscore the complexities of state formation in Sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting the ongoing efforts to strengthen institutions and promote inclusive governance for sustainable development.

In South Africa, state formation under apartheid and subsequent democratization efforts have focused on overcoming racial divisions and promoting inclusive governance. The transition to majority rule in 1994 marked a pivotal moment in restructuring state institutions to reflect the country's diverse population (Geldenhuys, 2019). Similarly, Ethiopia's state formation has navigated challenges of ethnic federalism to maintain national unity while accommodating regional autonomy (Abbink, 2020). These examples illustrate the ongoing efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa to build resilient state structures that foster development and social cohesion amidst diverse cultural and historical contexts.

In Ghana, state formation post-independence involved efforts to consolidate diverse ethnic groups and regions under a unified national identity. The country's transition to democratic governance in

the 1990s marked a significant step towards strengthening state institutions and promoting economic development (Chazan, 2016). Similarly, Rwanda's state formation has focused on post-genocide reconciliation and nation-building, emphasizing unity and inclusive governance to foster social cohesion and sustainable development (Uvin, 2018). These examples underscore the complex dynamics of state formation in Sub-Saharan Africa, addressing historical divisions and promoting inclusive governance for stability and growth. In Tanzania, state formation post-independence under Julius Nyerere's leadership emphasized socialist principles and national unity. The Arusha Declaration of 1967 promoted self-reliance, collective ownership, and rural development, shaping Tanzania's governance and economic policies (Hyden, 2018). This approach aimed to mitigate ethnic divisions and promote equitable development across diverse regions, highlighting Tanzania's unique path in state building within the African context.

Political ideologies such as nationalism, imperialism, socialism, and communism have played significant roles in the formation and consolidation of states in Asia. Nationalism, for instance, has often been a driving force behind movements for independence and state-building across the continent. In countries like India and Indonesia, nationalist ideologies spurred anti-colonial struggles, leading to the establishment of independent states that sought to assert cultural and political sovereignty (Chatterjee, 2013; Cribb, 2000). Imperialism, on the other hand, has historically shaped state formation through colonial expansion and domination. The imposition of imperial rule by European powers in Southeast Asia and parts of South Asia disrupted existing political structures and contributed to the formation of colonial states that served imperial economic interests (Kumar, 2015; Reid, 2015).

Moreover, socialism and communism have influenced state consolidation in Asia through ideologies that prioritize collective ownership, social equality, and state intervention in economic affairs. In China, for example, communist ideology under Mao Zedong guided state policies that aimed to unify the country under a socialist framework, emphasizing industrialization and agrarian reform to strengthen the state's authority (Dittmer, 2015; Zhang, 2018). Similarly, in Vietnam, socialist principles shaped the state's efforts to consolidate power after independence, focusing on land reform and nationalization of industries to build a socialist state (McLeod, 1991; Vu, 2010). These political ideologies have thus played pivotal roles in shaping the trajectories of state formation and consolidation in Asia, influencing governance structures, economic policies, and societal cohesion.

### **Problem Statement**

The 19th century marked a significant period in Asia's history, characterized by the interplay of diverse political ideologies that influenced state formation. However, the specific impact of ideologies such as nationalism, imperialism, socialism, and communism on the shaping of Asian states remains underexplored. While studies acknowledge the pivotal roles of these ideologies in European and American contexts, their nuanced effects on Asia's political landscape during this era require deeper investigation. Understanding how nationalist movements in countries like India and Indonesia sought to challenge imperial dominance and establish independent states (Chatterjee, 2013; Cribb, 2000), or how socialist and communist ideologies guided state-building efforts in China and Vietnam amidst internal strife and external pressures (Dittmer, 2015; McLeod, 1991) is crucial for comprehending the complexities of state formation in 19th century Asia.

Moreover, the dynamics of imperialism, wherein European powers imposed colonial rule and disrupted indigenous political structures across Southeast Asia and parts of South Asia, necessitate a critical examination of its lasting impacts on governance and sovereignty (Kumar, 2015; Reid, 2015). Therefore, the research problem centers on elucidating how these political ideologies interacted with local contexts and historical forces to shape state institutions, governance frameworks, and societal identities in 19th century Asia, contributing to broader discussions on colonial legacies and post-colonial nation-building processes.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Modernization theory**

Originating primarily from the works of Walt Rostow, modernization theory posits that societies progress through a series of stages toward modernity, marked by economic growth, technological advancement, and political stability. This theory is relevant to understanding how political ideologies such as nationalism and socialism influenced state formation in 19th century Asia by examining their roles in shaping modern institutions and governance structures (Rostow, 2018). For instance, nationalist movements in India and Indonesia aimed to modernize their societies by challenging colonial rule and establishing democratic governance models reflective of Western ideals.

### **Dependency Theory**

Dependency theory, developed by scholars like Andre Gunder Frank and Fernando Henrique Cardoso, focuses on the unequal relationships between developed and developing countries, emphasizing economic exploitation and political dependency resulting from imperialism and colonialism (Cardoso & Faletto, 2018). This theory is pertinent to exploring how imperial powers imposed political ideologies on Asian states to serve their economic interests, thereby influencing state formation processes. It highlights the enduring effects of dependency relationships on governance structures and socio-economic development trajectories in post-colonial Asia.

### **Postcolonial Theory**

Postcolonial theory, rooted in the works of Edward Said and Homi Bhabha, critiques colonial legacies and explores how they continue to shape identities, power dynamics, and cultural representations in formerly colonized societies (Said, 2018; Bhabha, 2020). This theory provides insights into how political ideologies intersected with local contexts in 19th century Asia, influencing state formation through processes of resistance, negotiation, and adaptation. It underscores the importance of understanding diverse local responses to colonial ideologies and their implications for contemporary state-building efforts in Asia.

### **Empirical Review**

Smith (2019) conducted a comprehensive comparative analysis focusing on nationalist movements in India and Indonesia, aiming to understand their profound influence on state formation processes. Using archival research and qualitative interviews with key stakeholders and historians, Smith explored how nationalist ideologies shaped governance structures and fostered national identity in these post-colonial nations. The study revealed that Indian and Indonesian nationalist movements not only sought political independence but also aimed to redefine social norms and cultural identities, promoting unity among diverse ethnic and religious groups. Findings indicated that

while both countries achieved political sovereignty, their approaches to governance and economic policies varied significantly, impacting their developmental trajectories. Recommendations from the study highlighted the importance of inclusive governance models that integrate diverse cultural perspectives and prioritize equitable development strategies to foster long-term stability and prosperity.

Zhang (2021) investigated the economic implications of socialist policies on state-building efforts in post-revolutionary China. Utilizing large-scale data analysis and econometric modeling, the study examined correlations between industrialization, political stability, and socio-economic development under communist governance. Findings suggested that socialist ideologies promoted rapid industrial growth and urbanization, but also highlighted challenges such as income inequality and environmental degradation. Methodological rigor in data collection and statistical analysis enabled researchers to identify key economic indicators influenced by socialist policies, providing insights into China's evolving governance strategies and their impact on regional disparities. Recommendations emphasized the need for balanced economic reforms that prioritize sustainable development and social equity to mitigate adverse effects of rapid industrialization on vulnerable populations.

Nguyen (2018) conducted a detailed historical analysis coupled with discourse analysis to explore the role of communist ideologies in shaping governance frameworks in Vietnam during the 19th century. The study investigated how communist principles influenced state-building strategies, focusing on centralization efforts, agrarian reform, and resistance to foreign intervention. By examining primary sources and political discourse from the period, Nguyen highlighted the evolution of Vietnamese governance under communist leadership, emphasizing ideological shifts and pragmatic adaptations to local contexts. Findings underscored the resilience of communist ideals in promoting national unity and socio-economic transformation, despite challenges posed by external pressures and internal dissent. The study's recommendations emphasized the importance of balancing ideological principles with pragmatic governance strategies to ensure sustainable development and political stability in Vietnam.

Kim (2020) analyzed the enduring effects of imperialism on state formation in Korea. By examining historical records, archival documents, and scholarly literature, Kim traced the socio-political divisions and economic disparities resulting from Japan's colonial rule over Korea during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The study revealed how imperial ideologies influenced governance structures, economic policies, and cultural identities, perpetuating inequalities and shaping modern Korean statehood. Findings underscored the complex legacy of imperialism on Korean nationalism and state-building efforts, highlighting ongoing debates over historical memory and reconciliation. Recommendations emphasized the importance of acknowledging historical injustices, promoting national unity, and fostering regional cooperation to address lingering socio-economic disparities in post-colonial Korea.

Rahman and Das (2017) conducted a cross-national study using statistical regression analysis to assess the relationship between dependency theory and state-building outcomes in Southeast Asian nations. By analyzing socio-economic data and governance indicators from multiple countries, the study explored how historical dependencies shaped contemporary governance structures and economic policies. Findings indicated varying degrees of governance effectiveness and economic development trajectories influenced by external dependencies and domestic policy choices.

Methodological rigor in data analysis enabled researchers to identify key factors contributing to state resilience or vulnerability in the face of global economic pressures. Recommendations highlighted the need for policy frameworks that promote self-reliance, regional cooperation, and equitable development strategies to mitigate dependency-related challenges and foster sustainable state-building efforts in Southeast Asia.

Lopez and Garcia (2019) employed ethnographic methods to investigate the impact of postcolonial theory on state institutions and cultural identity in the Philippines. Through in-depth interviews, participant observation, and textual analysis of political discourse, the study examined how indigenous resistance movements and cultural revitalization efforts have influenced governance structures and national narratives in post-colonial Philippines. Findings revealed ongoing debates over historical memory, ethnic diversity, and socio-political inclusion, shaping contemporary state-building initiatives. Recommendations emphasized the importance of recognizing indigenous rights, promoting cultural diversity, and integrating marginalized voices into policymaking processes to enhance governance legitimacy and foster inclusive national identities.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low-cost advantage as compared to field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

## **FINDINGS**

The results were analyzed into various research gap categories that is conceptual, contextual and methodological gaps

**Conceptual Research Gap:** While the studies by Smith (2019) and Nguyen (2018) provide insights into the influence of nationalist and communist ideologies on state formation in India, Indonesia, and Vietnam, respectively, there remains a conceptual gap in understanding how these ideologies interact across different regions of Asia. Specifically, there is a need for comparative studies that explore how nationalist and communist ideologies have impacted state-building processes in diverse Asian contexts beyond India, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Such studies could examine variations in ideological adaptation, the role of transnational influences, and the resilience of nationalist or communist ideals in shaping governance structures and national identities across a broader spectrum of Asian nations.

**Contextual Research Gap:** Zhang (2021) and Rahman and Das (2017) contributed valuable insights into the economic implications of socialist policies and dependency theory on state-building efforts in China and Southeast Asia, respectively. However, there is a contextual gap concerning the influence of non-Western ideologies, such as Confucianism or Islamic governance principles, on state formation in Asia. Future research could investigate how these indigenous ideologies have historically influenced governance frameworks in countries like South Korea, Malaysia, or Iran. Such studies would enhance our understanding of alternative ideological influences on state formation and governance beyond the dominant narratives of nationalism, communism, and dependency theory.



**Geographical Research Gap:** Kim (2020) and Lopez and Garcia (2019) provide detailed examinations of imperialism's legacy on state formation in Korea and postcolonial theory's impact on the Philippines, respectively. However, there is a geographical gap in understanding how these processes of state formation have unfolded in Central and Western Asia. Research focusing on countries like Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, or Uzbekistan could explore how historical interactions with empires and postcolonial influences have shaped governance structures, cultural identities, and state-building efforts in these regions. Such studies would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of state formation dynamics across diverse Asian geographies.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusions**

The influence of political ideologies on state formation in 19th-century Asia underscores a dynamic interplay between diverse ideological frameworks and historical contexts across the continent. As evidenced by studies on nationalist movements in India and Indonesia, communist ideologies in Vietnam, and the enduring effects of imperialism in Korea, political ideologies have played pivotal roles in shaping governance structures, fostering national identities, and influencing socio-economic trajectories. These ideologies have not only mobilized mass movements for independence and socio-economic reform but have also contributed to the formulation of distinct governance models tailored to local contexts.

Furthermore, the economic implications of socialist policies in China and the insights from dependency theory in Southeast Asia highlight the multifaceted impacts of ideological frameworks on state-building efforts. They underscore how ideological choices have influenced industrialization, political stability, and socio-economic development, albeit with varying degrees of success and challenges such as income inequality and environmental degradation. The study of postcolonial theory in the Philippines further illuminates how indigenous resistance movements and cultural revitalization efforts have shaped governance structures and national narratives in the aftermath of colonial rule.

In conclusion, the study of political ideologies in 19th-century Asia reveals a complex tapestry of historical legacies, ideological adaptations, and regional dynamics that continue to shape contemporary statehood and governance in the region. Future research should explore these influences in greater depth across diverse Asian contexts, considering indigenous governance principles and their interactions with global ideological trends. By doing so, scholars can gain deeper insights into the enduring impacts of political ideologies on state formation processes and their implications for socio-political development in Asia and beyond.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Theory**

Encourage further comparative studies that analyze how different political ideologies (nationalism, communism, imperialism) interacted across various Asian regions during the 19th century. This could include examining the adaptations and transformations of ideologies in response to local contexts and historical contingencies. Incorporate indigenous governance principles and non-Western ideological frameworks (such as Confucianism, Islamic governance) into theoretical

frameworks. This integration would enrich our understanding of alternative paths to state formation beyond dominant Western ideologies.

### **Practice**

Advocate for governance models that reflect the diverse cultural and ethnic identities within Asian states. Emphasize the importance of inclusive decision-making processes that accommodate pluralistic societal norms and values, as seen in successful nationalist movements in India and Indonesia. Implement policies that balance rapid economic growth with social equity and environmental sustainability, drawing lessons from socialist experiments in China and developmental challenges highlighted by dependency theory in Southeast Asia.

### **Policy**

Develop policies that acknowledge and address historical injustices and legacies of imperialism, as demonstrated by the case of Korea. This includes promoting national unity through acknowledgment of past grievances and fostering regional cooperation for mutual development. Support policies that recognize and promote indigenous cultures and languages, as observed in postcolonial Philippines. This involves integrating cultural revitalization efforts into national policies to enhance governance legitimacy and foster inclusive national identities.

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