

Systems of Anarchy: Analyzing the Dynamics of Violence and Coercion within Opposite Institutional Contexts

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In economic analysis, the government is typically referred to as the entity with a monopoly on violence. Whether or not it is good at providing public goods or protecting life, liberty, and property are more normative, philosophical questions. What this paper examines is the dynamic that violence creates in understanding why certain individuals are chosen to rule over others. More importantly, this paper attempts to analyze why more collective institutions might be favored over polycentric arrangements or vice-versa. The goal of this paper is to try and understand the most extreme form of polycentric arrangement in governance—anarchy—and then paralleling it to the alternative of absolute authoritarianism.

Brief Bio:

Sarah Moore is a third-year Ph.D. student at George Mason University, USA, specializing in economic sociology, systems of governance, and entangled political economy. She is currently working on various projects that involve a Smithian analysis on levels of governmentalization and examining rationality on a broader scale.