SOVEREIGNTY

DEFINITION

Sole Legislative Authority within a clearly defined set of territorial boundaries, recognised as sovereign borders by other sovereign states.

Clear Characteristic of Internal Sovereignty

A Capacity to recognise other sovereign states and conduct external foreign relations with those states (diplomacy, trade, war).

Internal Sovereignty denotes the ability to secure internal order and stability - rests upon Weber's concept of the state's monopoly of coercive power.

Joseph Schumpeter also suggest that the state has a monopoly of fiscal powers for example coercive powers of taxation.

Sovereignty implies complete jurisdiction over economic, foreign and domestic policy.

State sovereignty is the foundation upon which the International Rule of Law is built.

State sovereignty is absolute and fundamental and is underpinned by a) the inviolability of borders & b) the norm of non-intervention.

ORIGINS

The Peace of Westphalia 1648

Gradual Emergence of the Nation State throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries - though some multination empires such as the Austro-Hungarian Empire persisted.

1848 - The year of revolutions and the Unification of Italy and Germany

REALIST THEORY

Sovereign Nation States are the building blocks for International Relations.

Billiard Ball Model

Power as Capability Economic and Military strength, population, resources, ability and willingness to project.


NEO-REALISTS emphasise Hierarchy of states and neo-colonialism.

AN O U T M O D E D CONCEPT?

Firstly Sovereignty is a concept first developed in the 17th Century.

In terms of Economic Sovereignty, economic globalisation greatly impinges on national sovereignty - 1. Interlocking financial markets. 2. Capital flows 3. Rise of TNCs. 4. Growing importance or regional economic organisations such as EU/NAFTA/ASEAN/MERCOSUR. 5. Development of the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO.

There have been many shifts and development which impinge on sovereignty.

