

# Sovereignty: Reality or Mirage?

## Outline

### A. Introduction

- a. Origin of sovereignty
- b. Importance of sovereignty in geopolitical and international landscape
- c. Thesis statement

### B. How Sovereignty is a ~~is~~ Mirage

1. Economic globalization: the influence of multinational corporations on domestic policies;
  - a) Case in point: The financial crisis of 2008 and global bailouts
2. Developing nations' reliance on international creditors;
  - a) Pakistan's economic crisis and IMF bailout program
  - b) Greece economic meltdown and European Union influence on it
3. Role of international organizations in overriding national decisions;
  - a) Invasion of Iraq in 2003 and Libya in 2011 under UN resolutions

4. Military interventions: Undermining state sovereignty;

- a) NATO's war on terror in Afghanistan
- b) US airstrikes in Pakistan

5. Vested interests of major powers in war-torn countries;

- a) US' repeated veto on resolution seeking ceasefire in Gaza
- b) Trump's statement, "all hell will break out in the Middle East"

6. Rise of international terrorism and cyber warfare disrupting state control;

- a) Rise of Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and TTP
- b) Arab spring and driven by digital platforms

7. Influence of social media and digital platforms in controlling narratives;

- a) Case in point: Prevailing culture of fake news

8. Spread of western culture affecting local traditions and sovereignty;

- a) English - a dominant language worldwide
- b) The prevalence of western dress code in Asia

## C. Sovereignty : a Reality

1. Recognition of territorial sovereignty under international law:
  - a) Case in point: Russian invasion of Crimea condemned by global leaders
2. Rise of new wave of global nationalism:
  - a) Trump's narrative of 'America First'

## D. Conclusion

### Essay

In the ancient times, there was no concept of state system and the people were totally unorganized, leading towards wars and civil discords. However, the peace of westphalia in 1648 gave ~~the~~ birth to a nation ~~sys~~ state system, defining territorial boundaries and supremacy of state within that boundaries. This concept is called sovereignty. Sovereignty is a concept of supremacy of power within predefined ideological and territorial boundaries. It carries undeniable significance in the geopolitical and international landscape. However,

the prevailing realpolitik and growing nationalism have blurred the concept of sovereignty and proved it mere a mirage. The influence of multinational corporations on domestic policies and heavy reliance of developing countries on international creditors have compromised their sovereignty. Moreover, the vested interests of major powers in war-torn countries and their <sup>military</sup> interventions in that areas undermine state sovereignty.

There is also threat of rising terrorism, hybrid and media warfare, and digital opinion building which ~~at~~ disrupt the state control and harm its sovereignty. Although these evidences justify that sovereignty is a <sup>only</sup> mirage ~~only~~ in contemporary era, yet there are multiple perspectives that ensure the ~~existence~~ reality of sovereignty. Recognition of territorial boundaries under international laws, and rise of wave of global nationalism protect the real sovereignty of states. In summation, sovereignty is a mirage in present era due to growing interdependence and influence <sup>of</sup> on each other in economic, political, and social paradigms, instead of a reality which is theoretical only.