

Q: Sovereignty is the most essential element of statehood. Discuss the pros and cons if it rests with people in the state, parliament, or with the crown.

### INTRODUCTION:

State has four characteristics that includes, Population, Government, Territory and Sovereignty. Sovereignty is the most essential element of the state as it distinguishes the state from other associations. Sometime Sovereignty can reside with entities each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

### Defining the concept of Sovereignty:

Sovereignty is the absolute authority of the government on its own state and no other external forces can intervene in its domestic affairs. Sovereignty includes the ability and power of the government to enact and implement laws, regulate trade and commerce and define itself against the external threats.

### Sovereignty of the people:

#### Pros:

1) Democracy of the people.

When Sovereignty rests with the people it upholds the democratic values, ensuring that the government reflects the will of the majority. For instance in US people elect their representative that reflects their will in the decision making process.

- Public participation:

It ensure public participation in the decision making process, for ~~example~~ example, it depends on the votes of public to elect a ruler for a state to rule.

- Individual rights.

Sovereignty of the people ensure the protection of individual rights and freedom.

- Cons.

- Potential for populism:

The disadvantage of people's sovereignty is that it leads to populism where the decisions are based on the opinion of majority and popular votes rather than longer-term benefits.

- Lack of Expertise

Common people often lack expertise require for the complex decision making processes. Therefore it can result in disastrous policies.

- Instability:

Frequent change in the opinion and decision of the people can lead to inconsistent policies that can no longer benefit state.

**Example:** Sovereignty with the people best exist in the state of <sup>US</sup>

### Sovereignty with Parliament.

- Representative Democracy:

Parliament represents the interest of the different segments of the society, which results in the reflection of the will of people in decision making processes.

## Expertise and Deliberation:

Representatives in the parliament are the experts and they know how to take good decisions that can benefit the state as well as its people.

## Stability

The expertise of the parliament focus on longer term policies that enable stability in the state and result in productive economic growth.

## Cons

### Potential for disconnection:

These representatives might disconnect themselves from the electorate, leading to the decisions that will not reflect the will of people.

### Influence of interest groups:

Parliaments often get under the influence of interest groups and undermine the interest of public.

### Bureaucracy:

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Parliamentary processes are bureaucratic in nature which means they delay the necessary actions.

**Example:** State of UK best represent the sovereignty of the parliament.  
Sovereignty with the Crown

## Pros

### Symbolic Unity

Sovereignty with the Crown serve as a unifying symbol for the nation transcending political divisions.

- o Stability and Continuity:

monarchies provide long term stability to a state to function properly and implement the policies.

- o Reduced political conflict:

A non-elected sovereign can be above day to day politics, reducing political conflicts.

### Cons

- o lack of Accountability:-

monarchies are not elected by the people, which can lead to lack of accountability.

- o Potential for abuse of power:-

As these monarchs are not elected by the people so they establish authoritarian rule and oppress people. There are no human rights and freedom when the sovereignty rest with the crown.

o Example: In Saudi Arabia, sovereignty rest with the king. The king hold the power to make law, and control administration.

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### Conclusions

Sovereignty can be vested in different entities, each with distinct advantages and drawbacks. The choice of where sovereignty resides depends on the historical, cultural and political context of a state. Ideally, a balanced system that incorporate elements of popular sovereignty, parliamentary democracy, symbolic unity can promote a robust framework for governance.

Q: Differentiate the following.

1) Public opinion and Propaganda:

Public opinion	Propaganda.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public opinion is a collective thought of a general public regarding certain issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propaganda is a biased and misleading information used to promote the cause of political agenda.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Spontaneous</u>:- Public opinion forms naturally through individual thoughts, experience and discussion.</p>	<p><u>Deliberate</u>:- Propaganda is caused intentionally with the purpose of misleading people.</p>
<p><u>Democratic</u>:- Public hold diverse opinion and government make policies according to the will of the public.</p>	<p><u>Undemocratic</u>:- often lacks transparency and suppresses opposing views to maintain control over the narrative.</p>
<p><u>Diverse Sources</u>:- Public opinion are formed from diverse sources such as media, education, experiences research etc.</p>	<p><u>Control Sources</u>:- Typically disseminated by government, political groups, or organizations with a specific agenda.</p>
<p><u>Informative</u>:- It can influence the government policies and decisions as it influence people's will.</p>	<p><u>Manipulative</u>:- It uses tactics like emotional appeal, and repetition to shape public opinion.</p>
<p><u>Example</u>:- Public hold view about climate change through experience, scientific research, media etc.</p>	<p><u>Example</u>:- Politicians often use propaganda to make public against the government of the opposition.</p>

## Political Parties

- Political parties are organized group of people that seek to gain power through elections.
  - The purpose of political parties is to govern or rule by winning the majority in legislative power.
  - Political parties contest elections, form government, and implement policies.
  - They aim to represent the interests of their constituents and the broader public.
  - Political parties have broad policy agendas covering various issues.
  - Political parties have usually well-defined organizational structure with leaders, members, and various committees.
- Example:**  
The Republican party

## Pressure groups

- Pressure groups also called interest groups aim to influence the public policy and decision making.
  - Aim to influence government policy without seeking the political power.
  - Pressure groups are lobby policymakers, organize campaign, and use public advocacy.
  - They often aim to raise public awareness and educate people about their cause.
  - They advocate for particular causes, such as environmental protection, human rights, or business interests.
  - Pressure groups typically have a more flexible and less hierarchical structure compared to political parties.
- Example:**  
Amnesty International.