

Treaty of Westphalia 1648

The modern State System

- Series of Peace Treaties
- Signed in May-October, 1648
- In Osnabruck & Munster
- It ended –
 - 1) 30 years War, in Holy Roman Empire (1618-1648)
 - 2) 80years War, between Spain & Dutch (1568-1648)

It Marked

- Victory for German Princes over-
 - 1) Catholic churches
 - 2) Habsburg Empire

- Gave individual rulers in Holy Roman Empire
 - 1) the right to govern their land free of **external interference**
 - 2) Keep any land they had confiscated from church

Treaty of Westphalia



❖ Political Provisions:


- Each Ger. prince became free from any kind of control by the HR Emperor.
- The United Provinces [Dutch Neths.] became officially independent → so. part remained in Spanish. possession.
- France. rcvd. most of the German-speaking province of Alsace.
- Sweden → got lands in North. Ger. on the Baltic & Black Sea coasts.
- Switzerland became totally independent of the HR Emperor → Swiss Confederation.
- Sweden won a voice in the Diet of the HR Emp.
- Brandenburg got important terrs. on No. Sea & in central Germany.

Introduction

- The treaty of Westphalia was the first explicit expression of a European society of states which served as a precedent for all subsequent developments of international society
- It was the external aspect of the development of modern secular states which had to find an orderly and legitimate way to conduct mutual relations without submitting to either superior authority from abroad.


Features

- Initiated a **new system of political order** in Europe.
- based upon the concept of a **sovereign land governed by a sovereign** .
- allowed the rulers of the imperial states to independently decide their religious worship.
- each prince would have the right to determine the religion of his own state, the options being Catholicism, Lutheranism, and Calvinism

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- General **recognition of the exclusive sovereignty** of each party over its lands, people, and agents abroad, and each and several responsibility for the warlike acts of any of its citizens or agents

Westphalian Sovereignty

- Westphalian sovereignty is the concept of nation-state sovereignty based on two things:
 - 1) Territoriality;
 - 2) the absence of a role for external agents in domestic structures.

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- Modern I.R. Scholars have identified the Treaty as the origination of M.N.Cs & I.O.s
 - the major European countries agreed to respect the principle of territorial integrity
 - Modern diplomatic relations started after this treaty

 - It is against
 - -- powerful states to seeking chance to influence the affairs of others,
 - -- forcible intervening by one country in the domestic affairs of another

- States recognized each other's independence
- It legitimized a patchwork quilt of independences in Europe
- Principle of **internal sovereignty**
- Beginnings of a **new concept of international law and diplomacy**
- "Raison d'etat" (reason of state) replaces religion as the determining principle of alliances between European princes- various political orders and constitutional laws.
thus: primary loyalty to the state (and later, the nation)

Broader Concept

- Ended Imperial Unity & Unity under Catholic Church
- Evolved into modern Principle of Sovereignty:
- *“Supreme and independent political authority of the nation state within its own territory”*

Relevance of its

Principles in contemporary world

- The principle of the sovereignty of states and the fundamental right of political self determination
- The principle of (legal) equality between states
- The principle of non-intervention of one state in the internal affairs of another state

Some Terms

- **Nationalism-** A set of ideas that help distinguish people from one another, like loyalty or devotion to one's nation.
- **Patriotism-** Pride in accomplishments of one's nation
- **State-** A territorial entity controlled by a government, which is sovereign (recognized by int'l community)
- **Nation-** part of a population that share a group identity (based upon race, religion, language etc)
- **Country-** A geographical entity
- **Government-** institution through which public policy is implemented