

Changing Nation States in the Context of Globalization

Nation vs State

A nation state is a state in which a great majority shares the same culture and is conscious of it. The nation state is an ideal in which cultural boundaries match up with political boundaries

- Nation and State are two similar and sometimes interchangeable concepts.
- State is a type of polity that is an organized political community living under a single system of government and sovereign. State is a political entity which is bounded by a territory and headed by a government
- A Nation (from Latin: natio, "people, tribe, kin, class, flock") is a large group or collective of people with common characteristics attributed to them - including language, traditions, mores (customs), habitus (habits), and ethnicity.
- Nation is more cultural and identity-based.
- Nations are socially constructed units.

Video link related to this lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWJVnsMd0MU>

What is Nation-State?

A type of state that joins the political entity of a state to the cultural entity of a nation, from which it aims to derive its political legitimacy to rule and potentially its status as a sovereign state.

Origin of Nation State System

The origin of nation state system can be traced back to the signing of the treaty of Westphalia in 1648. Even before it the state existed and they entered into relations with each other but they were not sovereign states as their authority was restrained by the Roman Church and the Roman Empire

It means that the treaty of Westphalia recognized the sovereign nature of the state and henceforth the supreme authority shall be recognized with the state. State shall be free from internal and external control.

Two main factors which led to the rise of nation-states the decline of feudalism and the decline of Church power.

Resultantly such countries, as England, France, Germany, and Spain shook off the authority of the pope and became Nation States

In the course of time Nation States underwent further development and changes on account of the rise of representative governments, industrial revolution, change in population, growth of International law, development of diplomacy, growing interdependence of states in economic sphere, and the expansion of the nation state system to non-western world like Africa, Indian Sub-continent etc.

Elements of Modern Nation State

The three elements of Nation State are Sovereignty, territorial integrity, and legal equality

Sovereignty:

This principle was established by the treaty of Westphalia which provided that only sovereign states can enter into relation. In IR it means the right of self govt and pursuit of National Interest through independent Foreign Policy. There are many limitation on the sovereign equality of the state but still it is not obsolete

Territorial integrity:

It is corollary of the element of sovereignty that a state's territorial boundaries shall be honored and it shall be free from external control. States shall have the right over its international borders and other states shall interfere in the internal affairs of the state. The state may influence the behavior of each other through established diplomatic channels.

Legal equality:

It means that all the states, irrespective of their size, population, military capability, economic resources, etc. are equal members of international community. This legal equality is recognized by the UN charter.

Legal equality has been challenged by the positivists who argued that to assert that a "state with the thousand inhabitants is equal to a state with ten million inhabitants... is as false as to assert that a thousand is equal to a million"

Legal equality became a farce when big powers got permanent membership of UN security council.

Merits and Demerits of Nation State

Nation states have three great advantages from previous forms of state organisation.

1. Their lack of centralised dictatorship has enabled their societies and economies to develop.
2. They are the sole environment in which democracy can appear
3. They do not have a tendency to increase their territory.

There are some disadvantages of nations states as well. These are

1. Nations that are ruled in a dictatorship, oftentimes, find an extreme in economic class with a few rich oligarchs and a mass of poor.
2. Nations can become polarized within and with other nations if their identity with ethnic, economic, or political will are too different

Video link related to this lecture: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DK_4UJkuxXA

Role of the Nation-State in Globalization

The role of the nation-state in globalization is a complex one in part due to the varying definitions and shifting concepts of globalization. While it has been defined in many ways, globalization is generally recognized as the fading or complete disappearance of economic, social, and cultural borders between nation-states. Some scholars have theorized that nation-states, which are inherently divided by physical and economic boundaries, will be less relevant in a globalized world.

While increasingly reduced barriers regarding international commerce and communication are sometimes seen as a potential threat to nation-states, these trends have existed throughout history. Air and sea transportation that made same-day travel to other continents possible and greatly expanded trade among countries did not abolish the sovereignty of individual nations. Instead, globalization is a force that changed the way nation-states deal with one another, particularly in the area of international commerce.

Globalization Favors Westernization

One commonly recognized effect of globalization is that it favors Westernization, meaning that other nation-states are at a disadvantage when dealing with the Americas and Europe. This is particularly true in the agricultural industry, in which second- and third-world nations face competition from Western companies. Another potential effect is that nation-states are forced to examine their economic policies in light of the many challenges and opportunities that multinational corporations and other entities of international commerce present.

Multinational corporations, in particular, challenge nation-states to confront the unique issue of foreign direct investments, forcing nation-states to determine how much international influence they allow in their economies. Globalization also creates a sense of interdependence among nations, which could create an imbalance of power among nations of different economic strengths.

The role of the nation-state in a global world is largely a regulatory one as the chief factor in global interdependence. While the domestic role of the nation-state remains largely unchanged, states that were previously isolated are now forced to engage with one another to set international commerce policies. Through various economic imbalances, these interactions may lead to diminished roles for some states and exalted roles for others.

Changing Nation state

whether the nation state has a future as a major focus of governance in an increasingly 'globalized' economic and social system. It begins by considering the development of the sovereign state and argues that international agreements between states were important in establishing the power of the state over society. It goes on to consider the changing capacities of the state in the modern world. Extreme versions of the 'globalization' thesis are then challenged, and it is argued that national-level economic processes remain central and that the international economy is far from ungovernable. Major nation states have a pivotal role to play in creating and sustaining such governance. However, their role is less than as

autonomous national macro-economic managers, than as agencies that are representative of their populations and sources of legitimacy for new forms of governance. The central function of the nation state is that of distributing and rendering accountable powers of governance, upwards towards international agencies and trade blocs like the European Union, and downwards towards regional and other sub-national agencies of economic co-ordination and regulation.

Globalisation Altered the Role of the State

In our ever modernizing planet, globalization is compressing the world through changes in the ‘spatial organisation of social relations and transactions creating transcontinental and interregional flows and networks’ (Held et al 1999: 16). Hyperglobalists believe that globalization has made the state superfluous (Heywood, 2007: 103) while others believe it is ‘globaloney’ and has had no effect on the state’s role whatsoever (Brown & Ainley, 2009: 177): the most likely option is between the two, that globalization has changed the role of the state to some extent. The original state role was created from the Westphalian Model, portraying the state as the highest power with complete sovereignty, with an internal role to provide to and govern for the people of the state and an external role as an actor in world politics; the current role of the state is different politically, socially, technologically and economically.



SETBACKS TO THE NATION STATE SYSTEM

The rise of several non state actors and constraints due to spread of Nuclear weapons and Inter- dependence among the states, is responsible for weakening the nation state system.

Following factors affected Nation State System

1. Growing Inter-dependence
2. Compromise on national interests
3. Regional integration
4. Rise of nuclear weapons
5. Growing role of public opinion
6. The role of MNCs