

Nationalism and the Rise of the Nation-State, Part 2

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Lecture 12



The idea of the nation and the modern state system

- The “state is a set of institutions that has monopoly on violence and rule making.”
- The idea of the modern state developed after 1648.
- The idea of national sovereignty developed after 1648.
- Before this date there were premodern states.

Pre-modern states: the traditional system of government

- Political rule is hereditary and based on feudalism
- The city and country were ruled differently. Independent city states also had overlords, but they also had city charters and rights
- Serfs were legally tied to the land.
- The Catholic Church had a lot of power in Europe
- Martin Luther, who invented Protestantism, believed that the Church had too much worldly power. The ideal of a universal Christian church was destroyed

The Idea of the Nation-State

- 30 Years War and 80 Years War in Europe
- 1648 Peace of Westphalia
- Establishment of the concept of sovereign states with fixed boundaries

Sovereignty

“Sovereignty came to mean ...*supreme authority within a territory*. This is the quality that early modern states possessed, but which popes, emperors, kings, bishops, and most nobles and vassals during the Middle Ages lacked...” (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

3 Elements of Sovereignty

- Authority
- Supreme Authority
- Territoriality



National Border Demarcation

Three Dimensions of Sovereignty

- Where held- Individual vs. Institution
- Absoluteness (vs. Non-absolute)
- Relationship to outsiders (Internal vs. External)

Three Problems with Sovereignty

- International Law
- Centralism, not Pluralism
- Democratic Notion of Accountability

Consequences of the 30 Years Wars

- Established a new political system of nation-states
- Between 1648 and 1789 (French revolution) saw the development of political thought that grappled with relationship of the governing and the governed. The Declaration of Rights of Man.
- Rise of centralized monarchies
- Colonialism drove state consolidation in Europe

Summary of Part 2

- Nation-States arose out of a historical process
- Power and authority was distributed amongst military and political elites, and the Church. It was negotiated
- The Peace of Westphalia established an International System that was in effect from 1648 through 1945 (World War II)
- Week 11: The interplay between lived experience, facts on the ground, and the creation of ideologies established a new concept of a *nation* after 1648.