

Polity

Chapter 01: Introduction

Lecture 05: Concept of Nation State, Making of Indian Constitution, Preamble

Difference Between State and Nation:

- **State:** A political entity consisting of four essential factors:
 1. Territory
 2. Population
 3. Government
 4. Sovereignty
- **Nation:** An imagined community of people sharing common cultural affiliations, such as language, religion, ethnicity, or historical background.

Westphalian Sovereignty:

- Westphalian sovereignty, rooted in the Treaty of Westphalia (1648), is the principle that each state has supreme authority over its territory, internal affairs, and governance, without external interference.
- It marked the end of religious wars in Europe and established a system where states were recognized as equal and independent entities, forming the basis of the modern international order.
- This concept also introduced the alignment of state boundaries with cultural or ethnic identities, influencing the rise of nation-states.

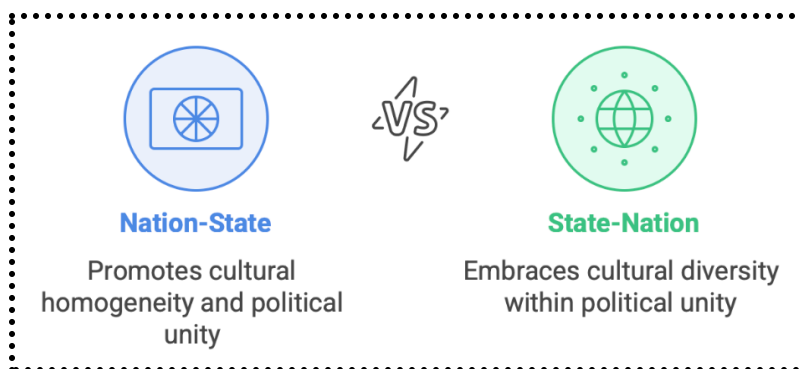
Nation-State:

- **Origin:** The concept emerged after the Treaty of Westphalia, 1648.
- It ensured a homogeneous identity within a state along with political power.

- The nation-state model promotes a **single national identity and central authority**.

State-Nation:

- A State-Nation is a **heterogeneous society** where **multiple cultures coexist within one state**.
- Unlike a nation-state, a **state-nation embraces diversity** while maintaining a **unified political structure**.
- Example: India is a classic example of a State-Nation.



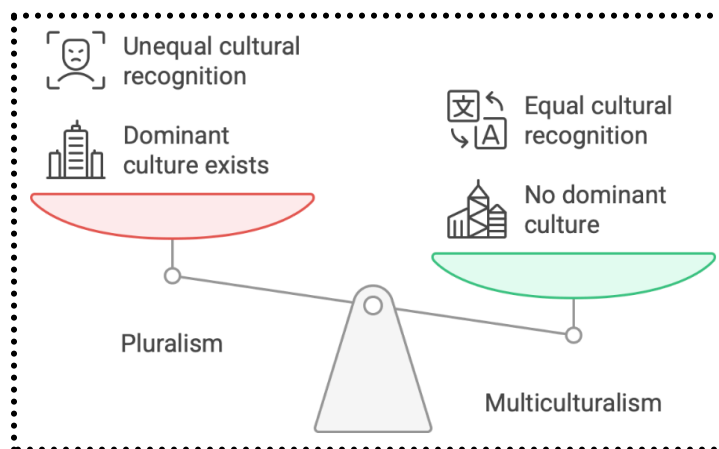
Why is India a State-Nation?

- **Constitutional Provisions for Cultural Diversity:**
 - **Article 371:**
 - Grants **special status to states like Nagaland and Mizoram** based on ethnic and cultural distinctiveness.
 - **Article 25:**
 - Ensures religious rights and **allows different religious communities to practice, profess, and propagate their faith**.
- **Political Representation:**
 - The **parliamentary system ensures wide representation of various groups**, allowing different ethnic, linguistic, and religious identities to be politically acknowledged.
- **Multiculturalism:**
 - India follows a **multicultural model where multiple identities and cultures coexist within the political framework**.
 - The Constitution recognizes and respects diverse languages, traditions, and religious practices, ensuring political inclusivity.

Pluralism vs Multiculturalism:

● Pluralism:

- Refers to the **existence of multiple cultures within a society**.
- However, within pluralism, **one dominant culture prevails while other cultures coexist** but may not have equal influence.
- **Example: France** – The country embraces different cultures, but the dominant French culture shapes the social, political, and linguistic landscape.



● Multiculturalism:

- It involves **multiple cultures coexisting within a society**.
- The key difference is that **no single dominant culture exists**; rather, **all cultures are recognized and given equal importance**.
- **Examples: India and Canada** – Both countries are known for embracing diversity where different cultural identities coexist without a single overarching dominant culture.

Types of Multiculturalism:

1. Melting Pot:

- **Various cultures assimilate and blend together to form a new culture.**
- The original cultural identities merge into a unified whole.
- **Example: The United States**, where multiple immigrant

Melting Pot vs. Salad Bowl

- The Melting Pot theory requires that immigrants assimilate in order to become one common culture—"American"
- The "Salad Bowl" theory basically calls for us to celebrate our diversity along with our oneness.



cultures contributed to a common American identity.

2. Salad Bowl:

- Different cultures are integrated, forming a new collective identity, but each retains its distinct cultural traits.
- Cultural diversity is preserved while coexisting within a single nation.
- **Example: India**, where multiple religions, languages, and traditions coexist without losing their unique identities.

Different forms of Government:

• Anarchy:

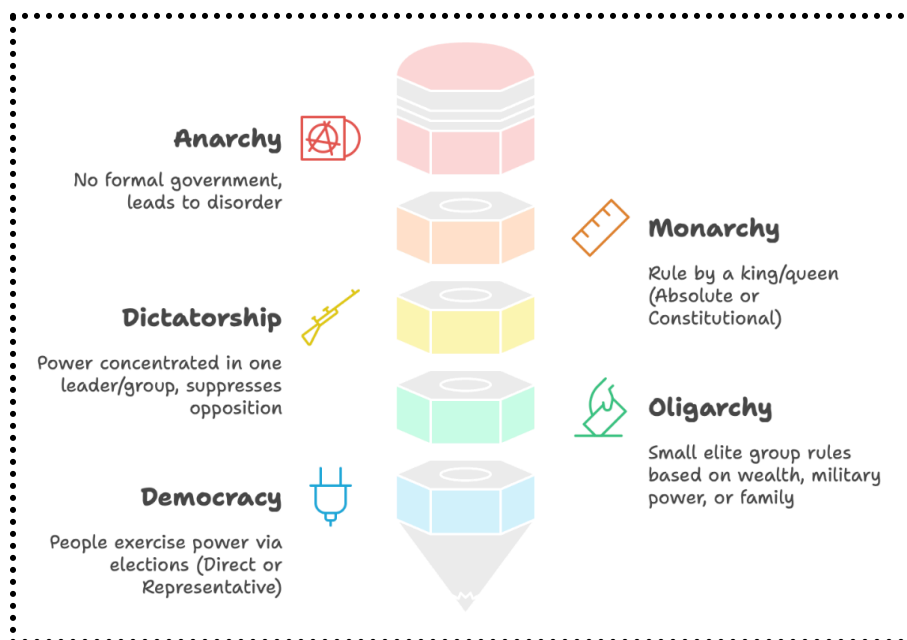
- A system where there is **no formal government or authority**, leading to a lack of structured leadership, often resulting in disorder or **lawlessness**.

• Monarchy:

- A government system where **a single ruler (king, queen, or emperor) holds supreme power**, often inherited.
- Monarchies can be **absolute** (unlimited power) or **constitutional** (limited by law or parliament).

• Dictatorship:

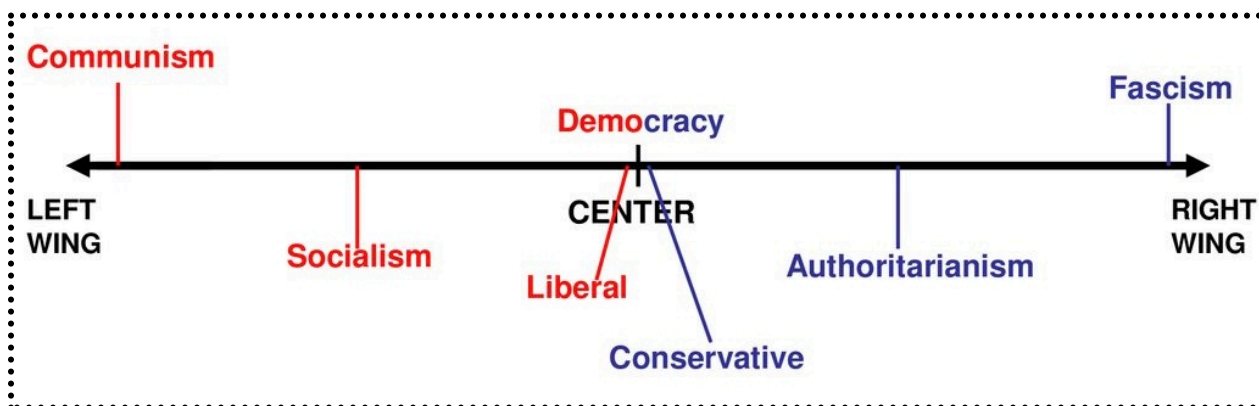
- A form of government where **one person or a small group has absolute power**, often acquired and maintained through force, with little or no regard for democratic processes.



• Oligarchy:

- A government controlled by a small, elite group of people, often based on wealth, family, or military power.
- The interests of the elite are prioritized over those of the general population.
- **Democracy:**
 - A system of government where **power is vested in the people**, who exercise their rights through **free and fair elections, representation, and participation in decision-making**.
 - It can be **direct** (where citizens vote on laws) or **representative** (where citizens elect officials to make decisions on their behalf).

Political Ideologies:



- **Left:** Advocates for **social equality, redistribution of wealth**, and government intervention in the economy to reduce **inequality**. Examples: **Socialism, Communism**.
- **Right:** Focuses on **individual freedoms, limited government, free markets, and traditional values**. Often prioritizes **national security and cultural conservatism**.
- **Liberal:** Emphasizes **personal freedoms, human rights, and equality**, advocating for reform and progressive policies while supporting market economies.
- **Communist:** Seeks a **classless, stateless society** where the means of production are collectively owned, eliminating private property and capitalism.
- **Centrist:** Advocates a **balanced approach**, borrowing policies from both left and right, focusing on pragmatism and moderation rather than ideology.
- **Extremist:** Represents radical views on either end of the political spectrum, often advocating for **revolutionary changes** or rejecting democratic principles entirely.

Making of the Indian Constitution:

Composition of the Constituent Assembly:

- *The Constituent Assembly was indirectly elected by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.*
- *Established under the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946).*
- *Princely States nominated their members, unlike British Indian provinces, where members were elected.*

Role of Provincial Assemblies:

- *Provincial Assemblies were legislative bodies during British rule.*
- *They implemented representative governance, which later influenced the structure of state legislatures in independent India.*

How Were Provincial Assemblies Elected?

- *Provincial Assemblies were elected in 1937, and 1946.*
- *Approximately 35 million people participated due to restricted suffrage, meaning only certain sections of the population (property owners, taxpayers, and educated individuals) had the right to vote.*

Election Process for Constituent Assembly:

- *One representative for every one million population.*
- *292 members were elected indirectly by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.*
- **Method of election:**
 - *Single transferable vote system.*
 - *Proportional representation system.*
- **Seats were allocated based on community representation:**
 - *General (Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, etc.).*