

State and nation



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State

□ Legal Definition of the State

- ▣ the **state** is a *territorially bound sovereign entity*.
- ▣ The idea of sovereignty emerged in the **sixteenth and seventeenth centuries**.
- ▣ In current interpretations, **sovereignty** is *the premise that each state has **complete authority and is the ultimate source of law** within its own boundaries*.
- ▣ Sovereignty is the key element in the legal concept of the state.

□ Structural—Functional Definition of the State

- The state is defined as a country's organized institutional machinery for **making and carrying out political decisions and for enforcing the laws and rules** of the government.

Elements of state

- Population
- Territory
- Government
- Sovereignty- The highest power that gives the state freedom of action within its own territory.

Major Goals of a state

- Three overarching goals:
 - ▣ **security,**
 - ▣ **stability, and**
 - ▣ **prosperity.**

Security

- **1. Survival** entails the very **existence** of the state, such that other states do not conquer it and that internal forces do not destroy it.
- **2. Autonomy** refers to the capacity of the state **to act within its own boundaries** without intervention in or control of its affairs by external actors.
- **3. Influence** involves the state's **ability to alter the actions of external actors** in desired ways by means of persuasion or inducements.
- **4. Prestige** is the desirable situation wherein **external actors admire and respect the state**.
- **5. Dominance** is the **use of power or violence** to enable the state to impose direct control over external actors.

Stability

- **1. *Order maintenance*** is the capacity of the state to **ensure social peace** for its citizens through the prevention of individual and group violation of societal norms, especially those involving violence.
- **2. *Political development*** refers to the concentration of political authority in a state that has strong **capabilities to make and enforce effective policies** and to gain support from its citizens.
- **3. *Democratization*** is the process of institutionalizing a democratic system of governance, which is achieved by **allowing free elections, limiting the actions of the rulers**, and guaranteeing civil and political rights.

Prosperity

- **1. *Economic growth*** refers to the increasing scale, complexity, and specialization of the productive system and of the goods produced.
- **2. *Welfare distribution*** refers to the private or public allocation of adequate and increasing levels of valued goods to enhance the quality of life of the citizenry.

Nation

- A **nation** is defined as *a set of people with a deeply shared fundamental identification.*
- Different factors might be the basis of such identification: shared **descent** (belief in a common kinship or history), shared **culture**, shared **geographic space**, shared **religion**, shared **language**, or shared **economic order**.

Nation—state

- A ***nation—state***, which is an area that has ***both the territorial borders of a single state and a citizenry who all share the same primary national identity.***
- Only a **few modern states** have the **combination** of common **culture, history, ethnicity, religion, and language** that results in a strong sense of shared nationality among nearly all the citizens governed by the state.

| Nation–state | Japan |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| One nation is split into two states | North and South Korea |
| A stateless nation | Kurds |
| Multinational states | Catalonia within Spain |

Suggested readings

- Danziger, J. N., & Smith, C. A. (2016). *Understanding the political world: A comparative introduction to political science*. Boston :Pearson. Chapter 5, pp.111-123

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