

QUESTION NO 5:

EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY AND ITS ATTRIBUTES?

1. PREFACE:

Sovereignty is that characteristic of state by virtue of which it stands superior to all other human associations. The concept of state sovereignty is, in fact very important in modern political theory. Sovereignty is the real power of a state. No state can be independent and free unless it has sovereignty. Sovereignty is the most exclusive element of the state.

2. DERIVATION OF WORD " SOVEREIGNTY:

The word Sovereignty has been derived from Latin word "**Superanaus**", which means superior to all.

3. MEANING OF SOVEREIGNTY:

According to Black's Law Dictionary:

" The supreme political authority of an independent state".

4. DEFINITION OF SOVEREIGNTY:

According to Bodin's :

" Supreme power over citizen unrestricted by law".

5. ASPECTS OF SOVEREIGNTY:

There are two aspects of Sovereignty:

- Internal Sovereignty.
- External Sovereignty.

I. Internal sovereignty:

The concept of super power, is found in the political writing of Aristotle.

➤ **According to Thomas Hobbes:**

Thomas Hobbes, an English political thinker of 16th century, portrayed absolute concept of sovereignty but ascribed this supreme authority to the ruler.

➤ **Later Bentham and Austin:**

Later that English utilitarian developed legal concept of sovereignty.

9. DUAL ASPECTS OF SOVEREIGNTY:

Dual aspects of state sovereignty signifies its external and internal features.

➤ **Internal Sovereignty:**

Internal sovereignty implies the supremacy of state over all individuals and their association within its territory. It means the power of the state to order and regulate the activities of all the people groups and institution which are at within its territory.

➤ **External Sovereignty:**

External sovereignty signifies the independence of state from foreign control. It also means the full freedom of the state to participate in the activities of the community of the nation.

10. ATTRIBUTES OF SOVEREIGNTY:

Following are the attributes of the sovereignty:

- I. Absoluteness.
- II. Indivisibility.
- III. All-comprehensiveness.
- IV. Permanence.
- V. Exclusiveness.
- VI. Inalienability.

Internal sovereignty means that all individuals along with their associations of any kind , governmental or non governmental , are to be under complete control of a state.

II. External sovereignty:

External sovereignty means that in spite of all external relations it should be free from all kinds of external pressure and there is no pressure on policy making.

6. KINDS OF SOVEREIGNTY:

Following are the kinds of sovereignty:

- I. Legal Sovereignty.
- II. Political Sovereignty.
- III. Popular Sovereignty.
- IV. Dejure Sovereignty.
- V. Defacto Sovereignty.

7. SOVEREIGN STATE:

A state that possesses an independent existence, being complete in itself , without being merely part of a large whole to whose government it is subject or a political community whose members are bound together by the tie of common subjection to some central authority , whose commands those members obey is a sovereign state. In simple words a sovereign state is one which is subordinate to no other. It is supreme over the territory under the control.

8. EVOLUTION OF CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY:

➤ Father of Concept:

Jean Bodin introduced the concept of sovereignty into political discussions.

➤ Concept Of Super Power:

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➤ **Concept Of Super Power:**

In the modern age of democracy, powers are transferred and more powers are given to states due to certain special situation. Even these powers are transferred, not the sovereignty.

17. ESSENCE OF SOVEREIGNTY:

A sovereign is a person or body of person in whom sovereignty resides:

- I. Sovereignty is the quality or attributes of sovereign.
- II. Sovereignty is the chief attribute of statehood.
- III. Sovereign is not in the habit of obeying any other superior.
- IV. Sovereign is habitually obeyed by the bulk of people.
- V. Sovereign is invisible and is unlimited.

18. FINAL THOUGHT:

Finally it can be say that over the years , sovereignty has grown to be accepted as an essential element of international relation. The doctrine of sovereignty is the fundamental organizing principle of contemporary inter- State relations. It is based on the premise of mutual recognition of political independence among states. It is sovereignty that confers on a state recognition by other states and gives a state the right to relate with other countries on equal footing irrespective of size.

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