

Political Dimension of Globalization

Sovereignty

- Peace of Westphalia 1648: Series of treaties which ended the 30 years' war in the Roman Empire (signed by the European nations).
- Established a principle that still governs IR: **Sovereignty.**
- Signatories agreed that only a legitimate government could:
 - *Exercise control over its citizens and territory*
 - *Act independently and flexibility in its relations with other states.*
 - *Craft its own strategies and policies aimed at securing perceived national interests.*

Sovereignty

- ***The claim of supreme political authority within a territory.***
- The government enjoys autonomy and freedom from constraint within their own borders.
- Result: concept of “non-interference” in the domestic jurisdiction of other states.

Definitions

- **What is a State?**

- State is a set of ***political institutions*** that govern within a delimited ***sovereign territory***. (A. Thomson)

- **What is a Nation?**

- Nation is a group of people who share a common culture, language, institutions, religion, and historical experience.
- In this definition, the concept of “territory” is not necessary to define the term “nation”.

Definitions

- **What is a Nation-State?**

- Nation-state is an independent state inhabited by a people of one nation (sharing a common culture, history, and language).
- It is also frequently used interchangeably with the terms “state” and “country”.

The demise of the nation-state?

- Proponents of globalization predict the decline of the concept of bounded territory for understanding political and social change.

- Territorial divisions are becoming irrelevant
- Example: European Union



- Opponents of globalization argue that political decision matters.

- Expansion of the global economy is the result of political decisions which justify the relevance of territory.

Challenges of Nation-State: Migration

- Technological progress contributed to the increase of global migration.
- Migrants are perceived as threat by local residents because of cultural differences, economic competition, and religious differences.



South African waves of anti-immigrant violence in 2008, 2013, and 2015



Migration crisis in Europe and its challenges

Challenges of Nation-State: International Governmental Organizations (IGOs)

- State members surrender some degree of sovereignty to IGOs.
- IGOs are gaining more power.
 - Power of the WTO is regulating international trade
 - International Criminal Court (ICC): nation-states agreed to allow an outside court to render judgment on the actions of their officials.

Challenges of Nation-State: Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- NGOs are taking many of the services and functions previously exclusive to the nation-state.
 - Example: education, health, food aid, humanitarian, environmental, etc.
- NGOs could question the legitimacy of their governments:
 - Protest against government abuses

