

- The principles on which a nation or ruling body comes to exercise supreme political authority, jurisdiction or power over the affairs of state.
- A sovereign nation is considered to be an independent political and territorial body
 - In no way limited by external control
 - Citizen's owe undivided allegiance to the state
 - In return the state is to look after the citizen's well being
- Sovereignty serves as a trademark of Nationalism.
 - Considered the root of national independence and international law
 - Countries build their nationhood and enter into foreign treaties and alliances
 - Responsible for both peaceful and armed conflict between nations

There are two basic types of Sovereignty

Internal Sovereignty:

- Political authority or power of the state – i.e. the government which has the authority with the right to make, execute and apply laws
- A Constitution outlines and declares a particular body to be invested with sovereign authority
 - Rules generally outline the limits of power
 - Concerns dealings between the people and the state
 - Conflicts handled by a set of domestic laws and a system of courts

External Sovereignty

- A nation state is an autonomous body - politically, legally, socially and culturally
 - An independent nation state claims the prerogative of self- determination without the interference of foreign nations
 - No other supreme power or authority has a legal right to intervene, impose a settlement or enforce a set of rules or laws within an independent nation – unless requested to do so
- International Treaties and Laws
 - Reduce tensions and problems caused by competing claims of sovereignty through voluntary associations
 - UN – United Nations [www.un.org]
 - NATO -North Atlantic Treaty Organisation [www.nato.int/]
 - SALT – Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
 - WTO – World Trade Organisation [www.wto.org] (GATT – General Agreement on Trades and Tariffs)
 - EU – European Union [europa.eu.int/]
 - OAS – Organisation of American States [www.oas.org]
 - OPEC – Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries [www.opec.org]

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