

State Sovereignty

.1. Introduction

State sovereignty is one of the most fundamental concepts in public law and political science. It represents the legal and political basis of the modern state. Without sovereignty, the state cannot exist as an independent authority.

Sovereignty refers to the supreme power of the state to govern its territory and population without external interference. It gives the state the authority to create laws, enforce them, and organize its institutions.

Historically, sovereignty emerged with the rise of the modern state, especially after the decline of feudalism. It was developed to establish a strong central authority capable of maintaining order and stability.

Today, sovereignty is no longer absolute. It is influenced by international law, globalization, and human rights. Therefore, modern sovereignty is based on a balance between independence and international cooperation.

2. Definition of State Sovereignty

State sovereignty can be defined as: The supreme power of the state to govern itself and its population.

It means:

- The state has the highest authority
- No other power is above it inside its territory

✓ Importance of Sovereignty

- Ensures political independence
- Maintains order and stability
- Allows the state to function effectively
- Protects national interests

3. Types of Sovereignty

.3 .1. Internal Sovereignty

Internal sovereignty refers to the authority of the state within its territory.

It includes:

- Making laws
- Applying laws
- Controlling institutions

3.2. External Sovereignty

External sovereignty means the independence of the state in international relations.

It includes:

- Freedom in foreign policy
- No foreign control

4. Characteristics of Sovereignty

- Supreme → highest authority
- Independent → no external control
- Permanent → continues over time
- Indivisible → cannot be divided

5. Limits of Sovereignty

In modern times, sovereignty is limited by several factors:

5.1. International Law

States must respect international rules and agreements.

5.2. International Organizations

States cooperate and sometimes accept limits.

Example:

Participation in global institutions.

5.3. Globalization

Economic and political interdependence between states.

Example:

Global trade influences national decisions.

5.4. Human Rights

States must respect fundamental rights.

Example:

No state can justify violations of basic human rights.

Note : Evolution of Sovereignty

In the past:

- Sovereignty was **absolute**

- The state had unlimited power

Today:

- Sovereignty is **limited**
- States are part of an international system

6. Conclusion

State sovereignty remains a central concept in public law. However, it has evolved from an absolute power to a more flexible concept influenced by international relations and global challenges. Today, sovereignty must be understood in the context of cooperation and legal obligations.