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**1 Definition of State:**

A State on international level is an independent political unit occupying a defined, permanently populated territory having full sovereign control over its and foreign affairs. Not all recognized territorial entities are States. With the exception of Antarctica no significant territorial area is free from State control. Antarctica, for example, has neither established government nor permanent population; it is therefore, not a State. The first political units came in to being when families bonded together in to clans in order to defend their claimed territory against intruders. The most urgent needs were for a food supply. Thus, the occupation of particular areas was related to how the land could satisfy the need for food. Naturally hunters and gatherers needed more space than nomads did, and nomads do needed more space than farmers do. It was then either to defend small area than larger area that people were organized. The transition from hunting to pastoral stage and to farming activity brought our ancestors closer to a delineated territory. The division of the world into bounded political units, commonly referred to as states, is the bestknown example of formalized territories and of political–territorial organization. As a consequence, the state has long been a central element in political geography with a focus on various facets of the state including their origins, spatial development, key properties, roles, and functions. Traditional approaches in political geography have tended to take the state for granted. However, while it may be the dominant form of political territorial organization in the contemporary world, it has not always been so. Nevertheless, the state has been naturalized in much political geography. Geographers such as Ratzel developed ‘organic’ theories of the state which likened it to a natural entity which needed living space. Others devised theories of state growth in which it was argued states evolved through phases from youth to maturity, similar to rivers. These ideas can be seen as part of the broader trend of devising theories of political behavior analogous to natural processes. Ideas of state stability or instability were often linked to state size in terms of either land area or population and the extent of internal regional differences, whether physical, economic, or cultural. These centrifugal or centripetal pressures would help to determine state stability or instability. Conflicts between states, especially border disputes, have also been a focus of attention. While earlier consideration of borders tended to explore distinctions between natural boundaries (such as rivers) and artificial boundaries (lines of latitude or longitude, for example), more recent perspectives have broadened to examine borders, not just as lines dividing territories, but as social and discursive constructs which can have important ramifications in people’s everyday lives. They may have a profound impact on people’s ability to travel and on a whole range of ‘ordinary’ activities. For some, such as nomadic groups, borders may be irritants that disrupt their social practices. Some borders are more significant than others; the French–Spanish border is less significant

State can be defined as the politically organized society or apolitical system. If we take society as a system, the state represents one of the sub systems of the society-called the political system. The state can also be understood as the most supreme organ or institution of the society. The state refers to all institutions, agencies and agents that operate within a given territorial space, have legitimate power and authority over us, and can legitimately utilize force as a ultimate sanction against us if we fail to accept its rules or orders or resist its actions or act against it. The state possesses five essential elements are Population, Territory, Government, Sovereignty and Organized Economy.

**1.Population:** The State is a human institution. It is the people who make a State, so Antarctica is not a State as it is without any human population. Because the population must be able to sustain a state .States should be large enough to be self-sufficing and small enough to be well-governed, but it is difficult to fix the size of the people of a state. In modern times we have India and China which have huge population and countries like San Marino with a very small population. The quality of the population is also important for the state requires healthy, intelligent and disciplined citizens. Therefore, the state with a homogenous people can be governed easily.

**2. Territory-** a State must occupy a definite portion of the earth’s land surface and should have more or less generally recognized limits, even if some of its boundaries are undefined or disputed. Just as every person belongs to a state, so does every square yard of earth. There is no state without a fixed territory. Living together on a common land binds people together. Some call their countries as fatherland and some call it motherland without a fixed territory it would be difficult to conduct external relations. It is essential for the identification if one state attempts to conquer the territory of another. The territory may be small or large, but the state has to have a definite land, it may be as small as San Marino, which has an area of 62 Square kilometers, or it may be as large as India, USA, Russia or China.

**3. Government:** The government is the particular group of people, the administrative bureaucracy that controls the state apparatus at a given time. That is, governments are the means through which state power is employed. States are served by a continuous succession of different governments. Function is to enforce existing laws, legislate new ones, and arbitrate conflicts via their monopoly on violence.

**4. Sovereignty:** sovereign/sovereignty is highest power; final power; having supreme power and authority. State is an area that has a sovereign government; there is no higher power that can make rules for that place. A state has the final power to make rules for people living in the region it controls, a state is a legal unit controlling a certain territory within which ultimate political power and authority reside in (belong to) a sovereign central government

**5. Organized economy**- While every society have some form of economic system, a state invariably has responsibility for many economic system, a state invariably has responsibility for many economic activities, even if they include little more than the issuance and supervision of money and the regulation of foreign trade .

**The Nation:**

Nation" as a conceptual entity refers to a grouping of people who, at a minimum, share a sense of common identity (usually associated with a particular territory or homeland) and a desire for political sovereignty. And also mean a reasonably large group with a common culture, sharing one or more important culture traits, such as religion, language, political institutions, values, and historical experience. They are clearly distinguishable from others who do not share their culture. . Example, the people of France are called French. Their “Frenchness” is demonstrated primarily by their speaking the French language, though it is spoken by a significant part of the people of Belgium and Switzerland. But within the whole body of French speakers, a complex of social ideas and attitudes, French tradition and culture distinguish as the French themselves. This is the cement which binds the people together and makes them cohere in to a nation. The members of a nation recognize a common identity, but they need not to reside within common geographical area, example Jewish nation refers to members of the Jewish culture and faith throughout the world regardless of their place or origin. On the other hand, when a nation does not have a territory to call its own or nations without state, we call it Stateless nation, Example- Kurds.

The concept of a nation is essentially a geographical (territorial) concept because, a nation denotes a group of people with a strong sense of belongingness to their homeland, and also place loyalty to the groups as a whole. Nationalism- Is the feeling of belonging to as well as the belief that a nation has a natural right to determine its own affairs. The desire of cultural, linguistic and religious groups to achieve a political status that would give them a limited measure of self government, sufficient at least to allow them to protect and defend their cultural individuality, is a fairly recent phenomena. Nationalities come in to existence only when certain objective bonds delimit a social group.

A nationality generally has several attributes, of these very few have all of them.

**Common descent-** belief in a common biological descent may have some cohesive force among tribal societies.

**Common language-** is the most frequent and obvious sign of social cohesion. Nevertheless some separate nations such as Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, USA, and Canada speak English.

**Religion-** it is a powerful political force. Example, in Arab world, the Catholic Church constitutes a significant part of the cement of the polish and Irish nations.

**3 The Nation-State:**

The nation-state is a state that self-identifies as deriving its political legitimacy from serving as a sovereign entity for a country as a sovereign territorial unit. The term "nation-state" implies that the two geographically coincide, and this distinguishes the nation-state from the other types of state, which historically preceded it. Clear examples of nation-states (where ethnic groups which make up more than 95 percent of the population are shown) include: Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Lesotho, Malta, Poland, Portugal, and Swaziland. Japan, Sweden Uruguay, Egypt and New Zealand are all nation-state, The nation-state is the dominant political entity of the modern world. However, it is comparatively recent phenomenon. It developed in Europe between the 16th and 19th centuries after the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire and the emergence of the centralized state claiming exclusive and monopolistic authority within a defined territorial area. Being a nation- state likely to show the greatest stability and permanence when it corresponds closely with a nation. It is also an instrument for national unity, in economic, social and cultural life. It also used for more centralized and uniform public administration. But today many of states are multinational states.

**Multinational states** are states which are composed of more than one ethnic or religious group, Example, Ethiopia, USA, Canada, South Africa, Spain, France, and Russia. Alternatively, a single nation may be dispersed across and be predominant in two or more states. This is the case with the part-nation state. Here, a people’s sense of nationality exceeds the areal limits of a single state. An example is the Arab nation, which dominates 17 states. On the other hand, there is the special case of the stateless nation, a people without a state.

**Nation-building:**

Nation-building is the process whereby a society of people with diverse origins, histories, languages, cultures and religions come together within the boundaries of a sovereign state with a unified constitutional and legal dispensation, a national public education system, an integrated national economy, shared symbols and values, as equals, to work towards eradicating the divisions and injustices of the past; to foster unity; and promote a countrywide conscious sense of being proudly South African, committed to the country and open to the continent and the world.

**Nation-building** is constructing or structuring a [national identity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_identity) using the power of the [state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_(polity)). Nation-building aims at the unification of the people within the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run.

According to [Harris Mylonas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harris_Mylonas), "Legitimate authority in modern national states is connected to popular rule, to majorities. Nation-building is the process through which these majorities are constructed.”

Nation builders are those members of a state who take the initiative to develop the national community through government programs, including [military conscription](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conscription) and national content mass schooling. Nation-building can involve the use of propaganda or major infrastructure development to foster social harmony and economic growth.

According to Columbia University sociologist [Andreas Wimmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas_Wimmer), three factors tend to determine the success of nation-building over the long-run: "the early development of civil-society organisations, the rise of a state capable of providing public goods evenly across a territory, and the emergence of a shared medium of communication."