

SAMPLE

**Global Politics
Teach Yourself Series
Topic 1: Global Actors: States and Intergovernmental
Organisations (IGOs)**

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SAMPLE

Global Actors

Global Actors

The term 'global actors', refers to the various entities that play a role in global politics. These entities include states (countries), nations, non-government organisations, trans-national corporations and Intergovernmental Organisations IGOs such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organisation and the International Criminal Court.

Glossary

As it appears in Unit 3

The following is a glossary of key terms you will be expected to know for Area of Study 1 – Global Actors as outlined in the Study Design. The terms are also relevant to each of the four areas of study across unit 3 and 4. You should consider defining key terms using examples.

Globalisation

(U3 AOS1) Acceleration and intensification of exchanges of goods, services, labour and capital which promote global interdependence. These have been facilitated by rapid changes in communication and technology. Has widespread impacts on social, political, economic and cultural life. (TNCs such as McDonald's are one of the major aspects of this interchange)

Global governance

(U3 AOS1) Institutions, rules, norms and legal arrangements that seek to facilitate cooperation, and manage relations, between states. (Governance is carried out by both governmental organizations such as the UN and nongovernmental organisations such as the ICC.)

Multilateralism

(U3 AOS1) System of coordinating relations between three or more states, usually in pursuit of objectives in particular areas. (International: UN, regional: EU and military: NATO groupings)

Nation

(U3 AOS1)

U3 AOS2) Groups of people claiming common bonds based on culture, language and history. (Some nations have their own state, such as the Japanese, whilst others want their own state such as the Tibetans and Kurds.)

Power

(U3 AOS1)

U3 AOS2) The ability of one global actor to influence the actions of another global actor. Power can be exercised in a range of types and forms. (the 'power of veto' of the 'P5' in the UNSC)

Public Opinion

(U3 AOS1) Sentiment shared by the people can be an important factor in influencing the foreign policy decisions of governments. (declining public support for the war in Afghanistan ahead of the 2012 US elections has led to Obama setting a timetable for troop withdrawals to the transitional phase of 2014)

Sovereignty

(U3 AOS1

U3 AOS2) Legitimate or widely recognised ability to exercise effective control of a territory within recognised borders. Primary organising principle of global politics which provides states with the authority to represent their territorial entity within the international community. State sovereignty can be challenged internally (for eg, secessionist groups) or externally (for eg, one state invades another).

State

(U3 AOS1

U3 AOS2) Traditionally the central actor in international relations, states possess a permanent population, defined territory and recognised sovereignty. States are not necessarily culturally homogenous (Australia).

Review Questions

1. Define the term 'multilateralism' as it relates to the study of Global Politics.

2. Explain the nature of 'global governance' in contemporary Global Politics.

3. Complete the following task:

- a. Write the definition of the term 'sovereignty' in full.
- b. Underline or highlight the key words.
- c. Write out the key words in bullet point form.
- d. Use the key words to help you understand and memorise the concept.

States

As it appears in Unit 3

The key actors in contemporary global politics include states. Specific focus here will be given to the role of the state: aims, role, and power examined through an investigation of challenges to state sovereignty through:

- contested and changing borders – *Sudan/South Sudan Border Crisis*
- regional groupings – *European Union and the Greek Debt Crisis*
- issues and crises that require multilateral resolution – *Libya*

STATES

Although there are other significant actors, the global political system is based on a system of states. Regardless of their power and influence all states have the following characteristics:

- territory clearly defined by borders (although these can be disputed)
- a permanent population (who identify as belonging to the state eg Australians)
- a government that has effective control over its territory
- sovereignty, that is, the recognised ability (by other states and the UN) to exercise effective control of all people, property and territory within defined borders; includes the idea that all states are equal as states

Aims: *the aims of a state*

- To maintain its sovereignty
- Protect its population and territory from external & internal threats
- Maintain internal law and order
- To increase the wealth of the state and (in most cases) provide for the economic and social well being of its population
- Objectively defined as national interests - what the state sees as fundamental interests of the state
- Subjectively defined as elements of the national interests- what the state sees as in the best interests of the state

Roles: *the role of a state*

- To maintain its sovereignty (effective control of all people, property and territory within defined borders)
- To maintain the security of its territory (against both external and internal threats)
- To meet the needs of its citizens (facilitate provision of health, education and social services that provide for the economic and social well being of its population)
- To provide for a system of law and law enforcement (law making bodies, courts, police)
- To manage the economy of the state
- To manage its natural resources, including protection of the environment
- To represent its population/territorial entity within the international community (UN membership, international agreements or treaties, relations with other states)

Power: *the power of a state*

Can be measured by:

- A state's military capacity
- A state's economy
- A state's natural resources
- Population
- Geography

Solutions to Review Questions

1. System of coordinating relations between three or more states, usually in pursuit of objectives in particular areas. (International: UN, regional: EU and military: NATO groupings)
2. The global political arena is managed by a range of institutions, rules, norms and legal arrangements, that seek to facilitate cooperation and manage relations between states. Global governance is undertaken by a range of global actors including states, non-government organisations, trans-national corporations and Intergovernmental Organisations IGO's such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organisation and the International Criminal Court. Governance in the global arena is seen in collective action by these global actors to address crises and challenges beyond national borders on a global scale.
3. Sovereignty
 - a. Legitimate or widely recognised ability to exercise effective control of a territory within recognised borders. Primary organising principle of global politics, which provides states with the authority to represent their territorial entity within the international community. State sovereignty can be challenged internally (for eg, secessionist groups) or externally (for eg, one state invades another).
 - b. Legitimate or widely recognised ability to exercise effective control of a territory within recognised borders. Primary organising principle of global politics, which provides states with the authority to represent their territorial entity within the international community. State sovereignty can be challenged internally (for eg, secessionist groups) or externally (for eg, one state invades another).
 - c. Sovereignty can be understood as legitimate:
 - control of a territory
 - authority
 - to represent their territory internationally that can be challenged:
 - internally
 - externally
 - d. Rewrite the definition as you remember it
4. One of the roles of states in pursuit of the aim to maintain their sovereignty is the security of their territory (against both external and internal threats). In the case of the crisis in Crimea (February 2014), Russia intervened to protect Russians in Crimea. Russia justified its involvement in Ukraine on the basis of protecting the rights and liberties of Russians in Crimea. Ukraine on the other hand held as its primary concern the maintenance of its own territorial integrity. Russia annexed Crimea on March 18, 2014.
5. The Sudan – South Sudan Border War, or the Heglig Crisis of March 26 to September 26, 2012 was an armed conflict between Sudan and South Sudan. The dispute over the contested oil-rich regions between the South Sudan's Unity and Sudan's South Kordofan regions was the basis for the conflict. South Sudan invaded and briefly occupied the small border town of Heglig challenging

Sudan's territorial integrity and sovereignty over the region. An agreement on borders and natural resources was signed on September 26 2012, resolving most aspects of the conflict over the border region. Reports that emerged in 2013 that both Sudans were still violating the demilitarised border zones in contravention of international obligations under the agreement indicates that the conflict and the issue of sovereign control over these border areas has continued to challenge the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

6. Membership of a regional grouping such as the European Union sees states "give up", "share" or "pool" certain aspects of their sovereignty over the state to a supranational organisation for the benefits of agreed standards, including the "free movement of people, goods, services and capital". By banding together in a regional grouping, states can have their interests protected. However, membership of a regional grouping also binds states to restrictions, conditions, rules and limitations that have been determined and been agreed to. For example the European Union alongside the International Monetary Fund imposed austerity measures over Greece restricting the national government's capacity to formulate its own economic policies and measures to overcome the crisis it faced in August 2009. The EU and IMF responded with a series of negotiations, bailouts and austerity packages to restore economic growth. As at 3 February 2014: the eurozone had begun preparing a third bailout package for Greece of up to €20bn (£16.5bn) on top of existing loans totalling €240bn.
7. The situation in Libya in 2011 was a crisis that required the international community to undertake collective international responsibility and multilateral resolution. As determined at the UN World Summit in 2005 states no longer have unconditional sovereignty over their affairs and each state is responsible for protecting their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleaning and crimes against humanity. The situation in Libya was labelled a clear case for a timely and decisive multilateral response under the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine following Muammar Gaddafi's brutal crushing of protests that called for an end to his 41 year rule. The United Nations Security Council resolution 1973 adopted on 17 March 2011 authorised member states to "take all necessary means" to protect civilians in the Libyan civil war. Resolution 1973 included the establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya but did not include foreign occupation. While the resolution formed the legal basis for the military intervention, the responsibility to protect intervention was an assault on the Libyan state's sovereignty, that is, to 'control' its affairs within its own territory. A series of sanctions and the UNSC's referral of the situation to the International Criminal Court (ICC) further challenged Libya's sovereignty.
8. The UN's work is carried out through a range of organs and agencies. The Security Council pursues its responsibility to maintain international peace and security through its ability to issue binding resolutions and to take military and non-military action to "restore international peace and security" under chapter VII of the UN charter. For example, the UNSC adopted resolution 1718 on 14 October 2006 imposing economic and commercial sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK) after it conducted nuclear tests on 9 October 2006.
9. Article 1 of the UN Charter outline the aims and objectives of the United Nations. The central premise of the Charter is the maintenance of 'international peace and security'. In order to pursue the aim of a more peaceful world the United Nations has played a leading role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Australia has provided more than 65,000 personnel to more than 50 UN and other multilateral peace and security operations since 1947, and contributes 2.074% (2013) to the UN budget, for example. Australia's peacekeeping role through military deployment in East Timor in 2006 under Operation Astute had as its principle objective the quashing of unrest and a return to stability in the country. The operation ended in 2013 with the objective of the stabilisation of East Timor being achieved.

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