

Quadrant II - Notes

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Module Name: Characteristics of Sovereignty

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Characteristics of Sovereignty

1. Sovereignty is absolute and unlimited-This means that neither within the state nor outside is there any power which is superior to the Sovereign. Sovereignty is absolute and unlimited. The Sovereign is entitled to do whatsoever he likes. Sovereignty is subject to none. There is no authority outside the state to which a sovereign is obedient or dependent.

2. Sovereignty is Inalienable- it cannot be transferred. It is merely a change in the form of Government. The state cannot part with its sovereignty. Sovereignty is the life and soul of the state and it cannot be alienated without destroying the state itself. The abdication of a monarch or sovereign does not mean the alienation of sovereignty.

3. Sovereignty is Permanent – Sovereignty is permanent in the same way as the state itself is permanent. The two cannot be separated from each other. Sovereignty lasts as long as an independent state lasts .The death of the king, the overthrow of the government and the abdication of power does not lead to the destruction of Sovereignty. We should keep in mind the basic fact that the king or

the ruler exercises sovereign power on behalf of the state and therefore sovereignty lasts as long as the state lasts.

4 .Sovereignty is Indivisible-Sovereignty is an entire thing; to divide it is to destroy it, It is the supreme power in a State. Indivisibility is the life blood of Sovereignty. Gettell has also very aptly remarked in this regard, "If Sovereignty is not absolute, no state exists. If Sovereignty is divided, more than one state exists".

5. Originality-By Originality we mean that the sovereign wields power by virtue of his own right and not by virtue of anybody's mercy.

6. Unity- Unity is the very spirit of Sovereignty .The Sovereign state is united just as we are united.

7. Universality or all Comprehensiveness- –The sovereign is supreme over the persons, associations, and things within the state. No persons or body of persons can claim exemption as matter of right. The state is all comprehensive and the sovereign power is universally applicable. Every individual and every association of individual is subject to the sovereignty of the state. No association or group of individuals, however rich or powerful it may be, can resist or disobey the sovereign authority.

Conclusion

Thus we can conclude that:

Sovereignty is absolute, unlimited, universal, All comprehensive inalienable, permanent and indivisible. There can be no state in the absence of Sovereignty. Sovereignty is the supreme political power of the state. It is unlimited power and it is not subject to any other authority.