

Chapter 5

1. There is a good deal of debate and disagreement concerning whether or not globalization means the decline of the nation state. Here, we draw on three key thinkers discussed in this chapter whose ideas about the nation state relate to this question in different ways. Study the pages in your textbook where their ideas are examined and then match up the thinkers on the left with their ideas on the right in the table below.

<p>Martin Shaw (page 104)</p>	<p>A. Virtually all nations are deeply divided along regional, religious, social class, ethnic and other lines. Yet modern states usually manage to convey the idea of the nation as a powerfully <i>imagined community</i> of citizens whose sense of shared horizontal unity cuts across these divisions. Common exposure to media and educational influences coupled with the key role played by intellectuals, artists and others help to forge this sense of community. (Interestingly, however, is it valid to suggest that the creation of a powerful imagined sense of global unity - out of ideas, images, emotions, values and universal interests that override national and other differences - might one day become equally possible?).</p>
<p>Benedict Anderson (pages 98-9)</p>	<p>B. Nation states are experiencing some loss of influence over their own territories and citizens. For example, transnational corporations demand concessions from governments before they will invest and global money markets often speculated in currencies which may decrease their value and perhaps create domestic inflation when the cost of imports rise for the countries concerned. But perhaps if we distinguish between the <i>autonomy</i> enjoyed by nation states (their capacity to operate the home policies they prefer) and their national <i>sovereignty</i> (the legitimate right to monopolize power within their borders, to defend their territories against attack from other nations or to enact their own laws, etc.) the issue becomes clearer. While the former is definitely in question the latter remains rather more intact.</p>

David Held. (pages 104-5)	C. The idea of the sovereign and autonomous state really goes back to the nineteenth and early twentieth century era of popular nationalism. Then, there were far fewer independent nation states (see table 5.1) compared to today, military technology was much less dangerous and economies were more separate and independent. Thus, nations expected to defend their territories and interests by deploying their own independent military forces including exercising the right to colonize weaker societies. But, at least since World War Two, most countries have needed to join military and defence alliances – such as NATO – in order to ensure the security of their borders. The nature of ‘sovereignty’ has changed somewhat
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2. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (see page 100 of your textbook for guidance).
 - a. Modern nation states operate gender neutral policies as, for example, with the case of women’s employment during and after wars.
 - b. Women’s contribution to nationhood is understood by many governments and their officials primarily in terms of their key role in transferring a country’s unique cultural heritage to children.
 - c. In recent wars and civil wars women have invariably been treated as combatants and insulated from military actions.
 - d. Women play no part as frontline warriors in any contemporary nation state’s military force.
 - e. Systematic sexual violence has been quite often used against women in many recent wars and civil wars.

3. Read the section on the transition from the Bush to the Obama presidency (especially pages 101 -103) then try to answer the following questions with a brief sentence or two.
 - (a) What does Nye mean by ‘soft’ power and how does it differ from ‘hard’ power? Does he think that even superpowers such as the USA can go on exercising mainly ‘hard’ power exclusively, especially in a global age? If not, why not? (also see page 106)
 - (b) The same pages also examine the shift under the Bush presidency from 2001 towards a more unilateralist stance on the part of the USA with regard to its treatment of the United Nations and the rest of the world. Indeed, several observers

talked about the US operating as an unashamed hegemonic power during the period from 2001 to 2009, imposing its will across the world while scarcely even consulting with its Western allies. One possible explanation for this show of 'hard' economic and military power is that the US government was both humiliated and shocked by the terrorist attack on New York on 9/11. There are at least three other possible explanations discussed in the textbook, including:

- the rise of neo-conservatism among political leaders and their primary concern to retain long-term US global hegemonic supremacy
- the need to guarantee future oil supplies
- the anxiety that the social and moral cohesion of US society was declining.

Elaborate on and explain each of these in turn.

4. Read pages 106-108 of your textbook, then study the sentences below. Identify which of the two alternatives underlined in each sentence is the correct one.

Despite or because of globalization:

- (a) Most nation states are/are not in terminal decline.
- (b) Most nation states are less likely/just as likely to become involved in wars with other states as in earlier times.
- (c) When military violence does occur which involves nation states today, this is less likely/more likely to take the form of internal civil wars than in earlier decades.
- (d) The opportunities for nation states to assert their national interests and to exercise influence in the international sphere are equally possible/less possible for countries possessing limited natural resources or smaller populations compared to better endowed countries.
- (e) 'Competition states' (Teschke and Heine) today exercise as much/less power over their populations than states did fifty years ago: its character is merely of a different kind.
- (f) During the global financial crisis of 2008/9 nation states discovered how little/how much power they retained to deal with the situation.