

**Enduring question:**

***Can the sovereign state continue to overcome challenges to its authority?***

1. How would you characterize your own state’s capacity to exercise sovereignty? What historical, geographic, cultural, and other factors have contributed to this capacity? Can you think of an example of a state with a starkly different capacity to exercise sovereignty and answer the second question for that state?
2. Which types of non-state actors do you think pose the greatest threats to sovereignty? Why?
3. Which types of non-state actors do you think pose the least serious threats to sovereignty? Why? Why might a state still be concerned about actors of that type?
4. How has technology influenced the rise of non-state actors since the Second World War? What about globalization?
5. Giant data companies are a relatively new phenomenon, and their long term impact on the international state system is unclear. What do you think the future of these non-state actors will be? Will governments step in and find ways to curtail their power? Will they continue to grow as formidable actors in their own right in the decades to come? Justify your predictions.
6. What factors do you think would lead the leader of a state to decide to collude with warlords within their borders? When might a leader opt to try to eliminate the warlord instead?
7. History is replete with examples of both successful and unsuccessful separatist movements. Drawing on your knowledge of these movements, can you generate any factors (besides the presence of a great power patron) which make separatist movements more likely to be successful?
8. Wikileaks is a highly controversial organization. What do you think of its mission and actions?
9. Why do you think it is that most refugees begin and end their journeys in the Global South? Was learning this fact surprising to you? If so, why?
10. What is the greatest danger to the international community arising from failed states?
11. Do terrorists pose a legitimate threat to the stability of individual states and/or to the international community as a whole?