

Freshman Common Courses

➤ **Welcome to Nile Global Academia**

Course Title: Global Trends

This is a You Tube lecture series for Ethiopian University and College Freshman Students

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Contents For Chapter One

- Nation, nationalism, state/country
- **International Relations (IR)**
- **Actors in IR** –state actors/sub-state actors
 - non state actors
- **Level of analysis in IRs** –individual
 - group
 - state
 - system
- Structure of International system
- **Theories of IRs** –Idealism/liberalism
 - Realism
 - Marxism/Structuralism
 - Constructivism
 - Critical/Frankfurt school

Chapter one

- **Lesson 1: -**
- **Conceptualization of nation, nationalism and state**
- ❖ **Nation** refers a community with common history, language, culture, psychological make up, tradition, songs and reside in a shared territory
- It constitutes a community of people joined by a **shared identity and common social practices**
- Nations are historical entities that evolve organically out of **more similar ethnic communities** (Heywood, 2014)

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- ❖ On the other hand, though it's not appropriate, **nation** sometimes used interchangeably with state/country (it would be better particularly for nation-states)
- Despite, this terminology becomes irrelevant we still use 'nations' for referring States
- For instance, to refer member states of the former **League of Nations** and today's UN (**United Nations**), we are using 'nations' interchangeably with that of 'States' or countries

Defining Nationalism

- **Nationalism** has most contested definitions; however, here we do have at least two broad ways of defining the concept;
 - **Firstly**, it is feeling of loyalty, proud, devotion, love, patriotism or sacrifices to one's own state/country
- Sometimes nationalism is also defined as the belief that one's own country is **better** than others
 - **Secondly**, it serves as social, political and economic movement and even an ideology of a society with common identity in terms of ethnicity or nation;

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- Nationalism is the doctrine that asserts the **nation** as the basic political unit in organizing society (Heywood, 2014)
- Nationalism is a movement that **promotes the interests of a particular nation/ethnicity**
- Nationalism serves as instrument to defend a particular nation from disappearing or challenges driven by their counterparts
- It also includes the aspiration and struggle of societies for establishing **independent/sovereign state of one's own,**
- In this sense, some argued that it promotes the **liberalists' principle of self-determination** but this became a major challenge to legitimacy of the then Empires in Europe

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- Nationalism was a triggering force that brought new gov'ts
- For instance, nationalistic revolutions in France, 1789, has brought the overthrow of old regime and to be governed by the principles of liberty, equality and brotherhood
- In 19th c the spread of nationalism uprisings in Europe has influenced both domestic and international politics
- Nationalism also influenced why the Finns wanted an independent Finland; the Bulgarians an independent Bulgaria; the Serbs an independent Serbia, and so on
- The post WWI has given Europeans to use self-rule as their right and establish nation-states, after experiencing in Westphalia treaty

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- Thus, as nationalism caused the outbreak of **revolutions and wars** across the globe
- It brought **collapse of old empires, marker for new borders, forced the coming of new states**, particularly the nation-states in Europe;
- And these nation-states became major actors in the international politics
- A **country**, in this sense doesn't need to have a predominant ethnic group like nation-state
- Generally, the implication of nationalism in contemporary international politics (post-cold war era) shouldn't also be undermined in religion, ethnicity, culture,...

Distinguishing states based on Nation

- **Nation-state** – a state established by a dominant nation who shared similar identities/ usually homogenous people, such as Japan, France...
- **Multi-national state** – consists of multi-ethnic/cultural societies within a single state
- **Part-nation state** – people with common identities but living in a different states
- **Federated state** – the existence of two governments within a particular state i.e. the federal and administrative units
- **Empire** – composed of many countries, usually non-sovereign states ruled under single gov't
- **Confederation** – an association or league of sovereign states , where the central gov't's power is loose

What is State?

❖ **State** is an organized and self-governing political entity/unit with an international legal personality

- State has the following elements:

These are:-

- Government, population, defined territory, sovereignty and; **recognition** has now added as the fifth element of a state
- **Government** can be individuals or groups who act on behalf of the people or representing one's state
- It consists of organs of gov't or institutions within a state

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- Government is considered as a soul of a state
- **Population** can be homogenous or heterogeneous and they are believed to be ‘the people’ who permanently reside within the state
- **Territory** refers a known or clearly defined area of a state, usually boundaries are expected to be made based on the international law
- A territory of a state can be separated by natural or human made means

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- Thus, state's boundaries are drawn through **delimitation and/or demarcation**;
- ✓ Delimitation refers sketching it on map whereas,
- ✓ Demarcation indicates pointing out visible/separating means on land such as using stone, tree or buildings
- Territory also consists of **land, air space and water bodies**

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- **Sovereignty** refers State's absolute power over its boundary
 - Internal sovereignty the state through its government has the full right to manage the internal affairs with respect to laws
 - State's exclusive right to govern its respective territories in its own fashion
 - External sovereignty is to be free from any external control or interference
- **Recognition** to be accepted or recognized as a State by internal or external bodies/IGOs for instance

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- Recognition is the **acknowledgment or acceptance of state as an international legal personality** by the existing State of the international community
- The declaration to fulfill certain essential conditions of statehood as required by international law
- In addition, **States may not give recognition for a New State arbitrarily but taking in to account of their future interest** and with the aspiration keeping their relations with the mother state where the new state is established/secede

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Thank you!