

## Sovereignty Under international law

In international law, *sovereignty* is the exercise of power by a state (or nation).

a) *De jure* *sovereignty* is the *legal* (or *legitimate*) right to do so; *de facto* *sovereignty* is the *ability in fact* to do so (which becomes of special concern upon the failure of the usual expectation that *de jure* and *de facto* sovereignty exist at the place and time of concern, and rest in the same organization).

b) Foreign governments *recognize* the sovereignty of a state over a territory, or refuse to do so. They refuse to do so when the state is exercising *imperilistic sovereignty* (that is, **de facto sovereignty** without **de jure sovereignty**).

## DEFINITIONS

***Imperialism*** is a policy of extending control or authority (that is, gaining *de facto* sovereignty) over foreign entities as a means of acquisition and/or maintenance of [empires](#). This is either through direct [territorial](#); conquest or settlement, or through indirect methods of exerting control on the [politics](#) and/or [economy](#).

**An *empire* is**

1. A political unit having an extensive territory or comprising a number of territories or nations and ruled by a single supreme authority. (traditional definition)
2. Imperial or imperialistic sovereignty, domination, or control. (post-World War 2 definition)

