Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of sovereignty.

An acceptable definition will include at least TWO of the following:
- Supreme or independent authority
- Authority over a particular population or territory
- Recognition by other international actors

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of an international organization that challenges state sovereignty.

Acceptable identifications include:
- United Nations
- European Union
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- Terrorist groups that meet certain conditions

Note: NAFTA is not an international organization.

One point is earned for a correct description of how the international organization challenges state sovereignty.

An acceptable response will demonstrate that the international organization attempts to or succeeds in exerting control or authority in sovereign states.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how multinational corporations (MNCs) challenge state sovereignty.

An acceptable response will demonstrate that MNCs attempt to, or successfully, exert leverage or control.

Examples may include challenges to any of the following policies:
- Labor
- Environmental
- Land rights
- Tax
- Budgetary
- Legal

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how new information technologies challenge state sovereignty.

Acceptable descriptions include:
- Provide access to information, reducing public support
- Provide access to information, challenging political legitimacy
- Increase government internal or external accountability
- Threat to national security or the capacity to govern from cybersecurity incidents

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a method states use to maintain sovereignty in the face of challenges.

Acceptable descriptions include:
- Control information
- Leave the international organization
- Restrict multinational corporations
- Nationalize industry
- Join the international organization to influence policy direction
- Ignore or defy international organizations

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points or an off-task answer.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank.

Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. State sovereignty can be challenged by external factors.

   (a) Define sovereignty.

   (b) Identify one international organization that challenges state sovereignty AND describe how it challenges state sovereignty.

   (c) Describe a challenge that multinational corporations pose to state sovereignty.

   (d) Describe a challenge that new information technologies pose to state sovereignty.

   (e) Describe one method states use to maintain sovereignty in the face of challenges.

Sovereignty is defined as the power a national government has over its constituency and its nation, without external influence. Often times, sovereignty is positively correlated with a strong national government and strong feelings of nationalism within a country.

State sovereignty has often been challenged by international organizations, such as Amnesty International, Amnesty International, an internation human rights advocacy and watchdog group, has had a marked influence over the sovereignty of Nigeria. Marred by human rights abuse allegations since it became independent, Nigeria has ramped up such abuses since the rise of Boko Haram, a terrorist group. The Nigerian government now enters villages and imprisons and/or executes anyone it feels is remotely affiliated with Boko Haram without a trial or evidence; Amnesty International has raised awareness of such abuses, and has led several Wester nations to cut funding and attempt to intervene

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to stop such abuses of human rights.

Multinational corporations also pose challenges to state sovereignty. ~~In~~ Nigeria, for example, is a rentier state, leasing out its oil fields in order to survive off oil profits. However, because Nigeria relies on multinational corporations, such as Shell, who lease its oil fields, Nigeria has been forced to dedicate great amounts of money and government resources to maintain these profits, and the Nigerian government has become reliant not on itself, but on multi-national corporations.

~~New information technologies pose a threat to state sovereignty by making it possible to challenge everyone... just finished... no national governments... for example in Nigeria the government... those accused to be affiliated...~~

New information technologies challenge state sovereignty by allowing opposition forces to spread their message and gain support. For example, in Nigeria, Boko Haram has used new technologies, such as social media and internet videos, to recruit new members and spread its anti-West message. These methods have made it nearly impossible for the Nigerian government

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to contain Boko Haram, which poses a threat to the federalist government it currently has.

Despite all these challenges, however, nations have taken steps to maintain sovereignty. Russia, for instance, monitors and controls internet usage, making it more difficult for information regarding government practices to spread. This has ~~stunted~~ dissent, allowing Putin and his regime to maintain a close grip on the country and the Russian People.

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6a) Sovereignty is the right that a State has to govern itself.

b) The EU challenges State sovereignty by trying to determine which type of currency each country must use in the EU.

c) Multinational corporations will likely only invest in countries with stable economies and certain democratic characteristics. If a corporation sees potential in a certain country, yet they are uncomfortable with the government institutions. They will likely lobby or even bribe countries to change laws or even governments. Therefore, the state has lost some of its power to govern itself.

d) Information technology has made it very easy to share information around the world. ~~It is a matter of freedom~~. In an authoritarian regime's state, if information is spread about freedoms around the world, it may compromise

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the state's sovereignty. The ideas from outside sources could lead to a revolution and thus, ruins the state's sovereignty.

d) Some authoritarian states limit and censor the internet so that the people of this state will not be able to have access to certain information.

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(a) Sovereignty is a states political authority (and power) to carry out tasks within their country and ~~among~~ with other countries independently.

One international organization that challenges state sovereignty is ~~the European Union~~ NAFTA, and it challenges State sovereignty by setting rules and boundarics. For example, it determines tariffs and border policies for the state, and upon joining the organization, the State gives up some of its sovereignty in this area.

A challenge that multinational corporations pose to State sovereignty is the potential weakening of central government ~~The European Union, for example,~~ and national identity among nations. The European Union, for example, has set provisions that ~~member countri~~ ensure employment opportunities and fair trade among member nations, but this may dilute a nation's national identity and ~~homogeneity~~ homogenousness.

A challenge that new information technologies pose to State sovereignty is the globalization made possible through various

media ~~source~~ and internet sources, which can lead to interdependence among states.

A method states use to maintain sovereignty' is to provide regular ~~~~ elections that are fair and competitive. ~~~~ in the face of challenges

Question 6

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to define the concept of sovereignty and describe how different actors and dynamics — international organizations, multinational corporations, and new information technologies — challenge state sovereignty, as well as how states maintain sovereignty in the face of challenges. The skills tested were conceptual and descriptive: to define, identify, and explain. Students had six specific tasks: to define sovereignty, to identify an international organization and explain how it challenges sovereignty, to describe how multinational corporations and new information technologies challenge sovereignty, and to describe a method states use to maintain sovereignty.

Sample: 6A
Score: 6

The response earned a point for part (a) by correctly defining sovereignty as "the power a national government has over its constituency and its nation, without external influence." The response earned a point for part (b) by correctly identifying Amnesty International as an international organization and correctly describing how it challenges sovereignty because Amnesty International "has raised awareness of such abuses, and has led several Western nations to cut funding and attempt to intervene to stop such abuses." The response earned a point for part (c) correctly describing how a multinational corporation challenges sovereignty because "the Nigerian government has become reliant not on itself, but on multi-national corporations." The response earned a point for part (d) by correctly describing how new information technologies challenge state sovereignty by enabling Boko Haram to "recruit new members and spread its anti-West message" which "made it nearly impossible for the Nigerian government to contain Boko Haram, which poses a threat to the federalist government." The response earned a point for part (e) by correctly describing how the state can maintain sovereignty by using the example of Russia, which "monitors and controls [I]nternet usage."

Sample: 6B
Score: 4

The response did not earn a point for part (a). The response correctly identifies the EU as an international organization but does not correctly describe how it challenges sovereignty for part (b). The response earned a point for part (c) for correctly describing how a multinational corporation can "lobby or even bribe countries to change laws or even governments." The response earned a point for part (d) by correctly describing how new information technologies can challenge sovereignty because "ideas from outside sources could lead to a revolution." The response earned a point for part (e) for correctly describing how the state can maintain sovereignty because it can "limit and censor the [I]nternet."

Sample: 6C
Score: 1

The response correctly defines sovereignty as "a state's political authority and power to carry out tasks within ther [*sic*] country … independently." The response did not earn a point for part (b), (c), (d), or (e).