

The State

Political Science

What distinguishes a state from other organisations.

Defining features and the questions each raises.

Features

Defined territory and population

Monopoly on legitimate force

Sovereignty, internal and external

Administrative capacity

Recognition by other states

Contested questions

What makes force legitimate

Whether failed states remain states

How sovereignty survives globalisation

Where authority comes from at all

Educational reference. Legitimacy is what separates a state from an occupying force, and it is the hardest element to establish.