



Sovereignty in the Mouth of Globalization: Looking on the changing nature of Indian state

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Abstract

Globalization has now become a key concept across the academic world gaining importance in current debate and discussion among the intellectuals, scholars and academicians. Globalization is a process of socioeconomic, political and cultural change. The process involves all the aspects of human life. Globalization has integrated the whole world into one single unit or global village in which events in one part of the world have its impact on another part. Though the aspects of human life are multi-dimensional, yet they are interconnected by the process of globalization. The process of globalization has its impact on every aspects of human life and they are made interconnected. The present study analyses how the state is losing its sovereign power in the age of globalization with reference to Indian state. It examines the factors behind declining the state sovereignty and its prospect. The study tries to understand the changing trend of political system in the light of globalization.

Key Words: *State, Sovereignty, Globalization, Liberalization, Privatization, Marketization, Transnationalization etc.*

1. Introduction:

In the academic discussion and studies on international relations, the term globalization was not used extensively before early 1960s. It was found to be used only in the literary books of English language as early as the 1930s. It was used only in the context of English education that could establish centrism in the British colonies. But it was found to be loosely defined. Over the few decades, the term was rarely used by the scholars in different fields but with blur definition. François Perroux, French economist is the first who used the term resembling with the contemporary meaning in his essays from the early 1960s. Theodore Levitt, German-born American economist and a professor at the Harvard Business School in the middle of 1980s.

In the contemporary world, the concept of globalization has become one of the most frequently used term in every discipline. It is being projected as the common objective of the whole human kind. Globalization has now become a key concept across the world gaining importance in current debate and discussion among the intellectuals, scholars, academicians and also among political practitioners. Globalization is a process of social change that touches every aspects of human life. It has transformed the whole world into one single unit in which events in one part of the world have its impact on another part.

Even though, the aspects of human life are multi-dimensional, yet they are interconnected and integrated by the process of globalization. Roland Robertson, a theorist of globalization who taught sociology at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland defines globalization as an idea that refers to the compression of the world and intensification of the conscious of the world as a whole.

Edward S. Herman, an American economist, media scholar and social critic defines globalization as it is both an active process of corporate expansion across border and a structure of cross border facilities and economic linkage that has been steadily growing and changing.

In their most celebrated work, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, Bailys and Smith defines globalization as the process whereby social relations acquire relatively distance-less and border-less qualities.

From those definitions, the present study derives the understanding that globalization is the process of international integration arising from the sharing of world views, ideological exchange, technological exchange, materials exchange and cultural exchange. So, the present paper has made an attempt to understand, how the state sovereignty is declining in the process of international integration arising from arising from sharing and depending nature of state.

2. Objective of the Study

The present paper sets its objective to be examined the following two objectives.

- 2.1 Examining the status of state sovereignty before spreading the wave of globalization.
- 2.2 Understanding Indian sovereignty in contemporary world of globalization
- 2.3

3. Methodology

For studying on the title , *Sovereignty in the Mouth of Globalization: Looking on the changing nature of Indian state*, the present study reviews literary works previously done by academicians and researches. It also reviews the debate and discussions on the chosen topic for deriving satisfactory conclusion. The data are collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data are derived from intellectual debates, discussions and views. Secondary data are derived from related literary works and articles that concerned with the topic.

Descriptive and analytical approaches have been applied to analyse the data findings from both the primary and secondary sources.

The study is limited to understand the positive and negative impact of globalization on Indian sovereignty.

4. Discussion and Finding

Globalization is the process of increasing interconnection or establishing a complex set of linkage operating at different levels below the state or above the state which is referred to as Transnational Activism. Transnational activism has led to the decline of sovereign who has control over its territorial boundary. It undermines state as primary and dominant actor in the national domain as well as in the global system. Transnational activism pressurizes the state by articulating and advancing norms such as opposition to war, militarism and the prohibition of slavery etc. It also domesticates international norms by putting pressure on states to comply with international laws and standards. It transforms international institutions by protesting normative contradictions, such as those between global human rights norms and practices of international financial institutions. It develops autonomous spaces where activists can experiment with alternatives to dominant economic and social models and develop networks for advancing new norms of global corporation.

The hyper-globalists argue that globalization brings about the demise of the sovereign nation-state as global forces. It undermines the ability of government, as a significant agency of state to regulate its own economic and societal issues. The study reveals that in the age of globalization, the economy of the state are going towards denationalized. With increasing economic globalization, the transnational organizations are becoming increasingly essential international player in the global politics. The emerging trend of rising transnational organization results in declining the influential power of national government rather it is indirectly forced to operate increasingly according to the rules set by transnational organization.

In 1990 the Government of India decided to go for economic liberalization. It introduced economic liberalization under the name of Structural Adjustment Policy which have been implemented with an emphasis on economic reforms. The process of economic reforms have been governed by the principles of liberalization, privatization and free trade degeneration. These reforms pave the way for initiating the process of privatization and globalization in Indian economy. Since then the Indian state has been slowly declining in its functioning and status as a sovereign state.

The present study traces the decline of sovereign role of state after the disintegration of Soviet regime, when wave of global capitalism proliferated by the US along with its ally reached at its height. Along with the forces of globalization, rising up of global markets, formation of supra national and transnational institutions like- International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank (WB) etc. have paved the way for constructing new economic order and global governance set by liberal capitalists which limits the power of national authority in formulating its socioeconomic planning within and outside the national boundary. Along with the task of nation building, Indian nation also engages in economic development. After disintegration of Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), world experiences a new world order dominated by liberal capitalist countries. Having no ideological option for economic development, India had to opt for liberal economic ideology. Further more, India takes financial aid from world financial institution like IMF and World Bank who force the nation to fulfill certain pre and post conditions for approval and utilization of loan. This move traps the nation in the mouth of economic globalization.

Before getting stepped on the way of globalization, the politics of the international players was basically organized on the basis of the Westphalia System that concluded in 1648 after 30 years of war in the western territory of Roman empire. The treaty recognized sovereignty of nation state. Westphalia system became a framework of governance which stood on the principle of sovereign statehood. In this system, the sovereignty lies within state as it could exercise through its agencies comprehensive, supreme, unqualified and exclusive control over its designated territorial domain. But, in the age of globalization where the supra national institutions are rising as international actors, the state is no longer the central actor as it once used to be. After the departure of British, the state of India was also constituted based on the principle of Westphalia where nation-state and its sovereignty is recognized. But in the age of globalization, the sovereign nature of Indian state has to make compromise on restricting external force. It has to adopt open door economic policy so that the investors can invest directly within the Indian territory. This move of Indian state indicates the losing of regulating economic barrier.

The study reveals that liberalization, privatization and democratization are the three driving forces that pull the Indian state to the way of globalization. Those forces have affected the state sovereignty. Most importantly, the history of globalization tells that the debt crisis as well as the collapse of Socialist state provided an opportunity for the international monetary organizations to impose the policy of economic liberalization, privatization and democratization on the economic dependent third world states like India. The study also explores the three dimensions of globalization i.e. economic globalization, political globalization and security globalization. The process of globalization in those three aspects also contributes in undermining the state sovereignty of India. Economic globalization is the significant process where involvement of Multi National Corporations (MNCs) are found and free-flow of goods in the global markets is taken place. The process results in declining state sovereignty in national economic sphere. In the process of political globalization, the national political power, authority and legitimacy have been indirectly fused by the dominant capitalist states. Security globalization is the the process that involves having common policy and action on the issues concerned with environment, humanism, infectious disease, terrorism etc. The impacts of those three forces of globalization on the Indian state indicates the declining characteristic of state sovereignty in contemporary times. The idea of human rights which is understood today is the product of globalization through international forums. India signed the charter of UN on 26th June 1945 as British India. It joined in it after independence on 30th October 1945. As a member of world body, it became the signatory of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which is celebrated as common standard of human rights norms. India incorporates almost all the principles of UDHR in framing fundamental rights for its citizen that paved the way for linking Indian citizen with the global community. The young generation of India now wants themselves to be identified as global citizen who claim maximum liberty. They are ignorant about the the idea of human rights in traditional Indian culture due to not inserting the same in the fundamental law of the country. This step of Indian nation to get adjusted with the global idea of human rights without incorporating the traditional indigenous rights of Indian undermines the role of state as a saviour of valuable national culture.

Among those three dimensional forces of globalization, the present study identifies economic globalization as most dominant one. It reveals that the activities of MNCs, massive international financial free

flow and growth of international trade which have been supported by high technology, innovations, development of transportation and communication system challenges the sovereignty of the state. In extreme situation, economic globalization is considered to be put an end to the system of independent sovereign state like India and thus leads to the loss of the state. This debate was explicitly presented in publications such as *The End of Nation-State* (Kenichi Ohmae, 1996) and the *The Retreat of the State* (Susann Strange, 2009). In association with economic globalization, the emergence of global politics also leads to the development of new regional and global laws. Cosmopolitan laws or global humanitarian laws are legislated by international forum and instructed to the member nations to be followed directly and indirectly to the non-member states. Since India is also the member of international forum like, United Nations Organization (UNO), therefore, she has also to follow the directives of world body in every legislation and execution of policy. This development of world body is also challenging the state sovereignty of India in the field of legislation for their domestic matters.

5. Conclusion:

Even though, the sovereign power of state has been declining in economic, security and political field, the study explores that the importance of state has not been declined. Because, making free global market also needs for an authority to regulate its activity. Although the globalization affects every aspects of human life in society, still the state retain sovereign power and possess the ability to use coercive forces when necessary. Sovereign may be affected to some extend but the state is needed for the protection of market. The institution of state is essential for resolving the difference. Karl Marx, the father of scientific socialism also viewed that the state would wither away only when society regulate itself. In political literary books from time to time the political philosophers like Hobbs, Lock, Keynes etc. advocates for state, though it changes in nature and take different forms like laissez-faire state, crisis management state, welfare state etc. This is so because, certain issues in the society like security, rights and governance cannot be sacrificed at the altar of the global forces. The institution of state is still relevant in the era of globalization, only the fact is that the state autonomy is compromised, but it is done to get benefit from the globalization for its own purposes.

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