

## What does Sovereignty of a Country mean

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### Misunderstandings on Sovereignty

The sovereignty of a country is the degree of freedom a country has, to follow and protect its interests. So, details of sovereignty cannot be discussed without the political aims (interests) for which specific suitable means of protection and promotion may be needed. They constitute what is called the sovereignty of a country.

1. The sovereignty of a country does not necessarily increase, if the government can decide more. There are relevant examples for which the increase of the country's sovereignty is caused by the decrease of sovereignty of the government. In democratic countries the most relevant example is the separation of power and its distribution to different independent institutions.
2. The degree of sovereignty of a country is mainly defined by the **scope of issues** on which a country can decide, even though there may be rules to be obeyed or if someone else can also influence the decision. The alternative is to be confronted with decisions which are made elsewhere. Robinson Crouse was completely independent of an EU-rule to keep his budget deficit below 3%. In fact, he had no budget which - if large enough - may have allowed him to leave his island. He could make decisions completely autonomously, but his sovereignty was very limited.
3. International relations often are carried out in a field, where no rules apply or where there is no judge, who can be harmful to you, if you brake a rule. The international influence of a country depends on its “negotiation power”, which means:
  1. economic power and market size
  2. being part of a treaty organization (e.g. NATO / EU), which provides mutual support
  3. military capabilities and credible options to use them
  4. influence on other countries due to their dependency
  5. disturbance potentials of any kind (e.g. sanctions, cyber-attacks, ....)
  6. cultural influence on the people in other countries
  7. ....

This incomplete list does not suggest, that deciding everything autonomously will increase the sovereignty of a country. Allies may be helpful, but their interests must be compatible with yours.
4. Sovereignty is not a purpose on its own. It is meant to protect interests, which are the aims of politics. So, the optimization of influence (what for?) must not compromise the aims (interests) a country has.

Therefore, the aims of politics (interests) needs a solid justification. Only this justification gives guidance to see,

- where the compatibility of the own interests ends compared with the interests of other countries and
- which delegation of autonomy will increase the sovereignty of the own country to protect and reach the own aims.

## What means Sovereignty for which Country and who is “the country”?

### The sovereign of a country

For a democratic type of government, the sovereign in the country is the people with its own interest profile (typically defined by human rights) for whom the institutions of the state have to work.

For autocratic types of government, the government is the sovereign with its own interest profile to whom the people have to obey and work.

### The international Influence

All types of governments have in common the longing for “international influence and also independency”. This is not a contradiction.

- They do not want to be dependent on the generosity of other countries.
- They want to be respected due to their own strength and do not want to be blackmailed.
- They want to be powerful enough to at least protect their own vital interests and if possible
- to press other countries to give in when desired.

## What does Sovereignty mean for a democratic Country?

The sovereignty of a democratic country can be measured by

- the extend, to which human rights have been implemented and are protected strong enough to prevail,
- not ignoring all threats to human rights and democracy like corruption, organized crime, lack of transparency, data spying, selfish economic interests, and the extend to which they are (not) under control
- including the influence of foreign states which tend to stabilize or destabilize the development of your country.

In a globalized world the mentioned threats for democracy are of international nature and need democratic allies to maintain democratic sovereignty.

For democratic sovereignty multinational organizations and agreements became more important in order to establish the strength of law in international relations, which are more experienced as a field on which the law of the strongest applies.

Nationalistic populist parties and governments (where already in power) undermine and weaken democratic sovereignty: they try to concentrate sovereignty for the government, avoid transparency, intimidate critics and the freedom of the press and fight multinational relationships. They are no patriots, they weaken the international influence of their own country.

## For the increase of international Democratic Sovereignty national European Governments must hand in parts of their sovereignty

For all democratic countries, which are part of an alliances like NATO or EU it is a loss of sovereignty for all allied countries if one partner of the alliance

- A. either leaves the alliance
- B. or if in one country a nationalistic populist government can be established.

Example for A:

- the Brexit - USA exit from climate agreement

Example for B.

- Donald Trump President of USA - Victor Urban in Hungary - PSI government in Poland

Example for negotiation power

- EU could prevent 25% customs on cars for exports to USA  
Lucky UK did not yet need to negotiate on its own,
- Turkey defenseless against US customs on steel imposed by D. Trump because of lack of obedience by Mr. Erdogan. The case is a political blackmail, and not an attempt to establish economic fairness.
- Will the UK be defenseless in bi-lateral negotiations with D. Trump, when standing alone - like Turkey?
- How shall Europe defend its way of live against the growing influence of China?

The examples show:

If sovereignty is handed in by European governments and is established on European level, then the sovereignty of each single democratic European country will increase in fields like

- Trade
- Currency (EUR / EZB) being able to establish an alternative world currency
- Military cooperation
- Data protection and political control of Data Giants like Google Alphabet Facebook ...
- Ecological standards
- Economic regulation stability of the European finance system
- ....

## The List of Global Players - a threat to Democracy?

China a state capitalistic dictatorship with growing economic influence world wide

USA a democracy with a nationalistic populist president not interested in democratic control nor in human rights, but bound by a strong system of checks and balances

Russia a dictatorship with military disturbance potentials and high but unused economic potentials due to political institutions

India an "old democracy" with high economic and developing potentials and political conflicts

EU a common market of democratic countries, which will lose their position if they do not reach closer integration

Japan a democracy which is not very used to change power

The main question is, will the Chinese model of economic development be the example for most countries in this world, or will the European model (currently the USA stepped back) be more attractive and adopted?

What will happen to the European way of life and consequently to the sovereignty of European states, if most countries follow the Chinese development model?

Can the European model ever become attractive enough, if the EU does not manage to become an "ever closer union", with common resources and a common position to demonstrate what advantages the European way of life may have and what solutions to current challenges are possible?

There is a need to have the US-President back on the democratic side for giving democracy enough international influence in this world.