

# SOVEREIGNTY

Sovereignty, in its simplest sense, is the principle of absolute and unlimited power. However, distinctions are commonly made between legal and political sovereignty, and between internal and external notions of sovereignty. Legal sovereignty refers to supreme legal authority: that is, an unchallengeable right to demand compliance, as defined by law. Political sovereignty, in contrast, refers to unlimited political power: that is, the ability to command obedience, which is typically ensured by a monopoly of coercive force. Internal sovereignty is the notion of a supreme power/authority within the state, located in the body that makes decisions that are binding on all citizens, groups and institutions within the state's territorial boundaries. External sovereignty relates to a state's place in the international order and its capacity to act as an independent and autonomous entity.

taget fra: Andrew Heywood, *"Politics"* 3. udgave, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007

