

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

UPSC 2016 · 10 marks

“A combination of internal pressures (ethnic and regional forces) and external threats (EU, UN, TNC, global market, etc.) has produced what is commonly referred to as a ‘crisis of the nation-state.’” Elaborate.

FLOW SNAPSHOT

how the answer moves

INTRO ROUTES

R1 nation-state as long-central actor → now squeezed from three directions at once → subnational + transnational + supranational • **R2** the ‘crisis’ = simultaneous pressure from below, across and above → state pressed on all three fronts

BODY FLOW

internal squeeze (militancy / secession / autonomy / identity denial / regional discrimination → Yugoslavia) → external squeeze (globalisation + regionalisation → sovereignty made multinational) → **Nye**: MNC direct/indirect pressure → **Simmons**: NGO policy influence → forced re-regulation (climate / terrorism / finance via transnational frameworks) → hyperglobalist redundancy claim

COUNTER-VIEW

Buzan → economic role reduced, but state still the sole security provider → uniquely holds both capacity to act + authority to define a threat

CONCLUSION ROUTES

R1 reshaped, not dissolved → survives as the central unit • **R2** continuous crisis, not collapse → the state is remade, not ended

The nation-state, long the central actor in world politics, is squeezed from three directions at once. Pressure from subnational, transnational and supranational forces is what is meant by a 'crisis of the nation-state'.

Internal pressure rises from within the territory. Militancy, secession and autonomy demands, the non-recognition of identity and regional discrimination weaken the state's hold, as the breakup of Yugoslavia showed.

External pressure works from outside. Globalisation & regionalisation turn domestic questions into multinational ones, so sovereignty can no longer be exercised alone. Joseph Nye shows how multinational corporations apply direct and indirect pressure on governments.

P.J. Simmons views how non-governmental organisations shape domestic and foreign policy.

States are therefore forced to collaborate, re-regulating climate, terrorism and finance through transnational frameworks. Hyberglobalists calls this as proof that the state is becoming redundant.

But Barry Buzan disagrees. Even with a reduced economic role, the state remains the principal provider of security. It is because it has the capacity to act and the authority to define a threat.

The state is therefore reshaped, not dissolved and the central unit still, but living in continuous crisis.