

What we mean when we talk about

NATION-STATES

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Nation-States in a Globalized World

- Before we can start talking about globalization, we need to define the basics.

States

Nations

What is a **State**?

- An organized community living under a single government which has exclusive control over its own territory
- States are responsible for their citizens' welfare

Health

Security

Opportunity

What is a **Nation**?

- A nation is a people who share similar cultural characteristics including

Language

Customs

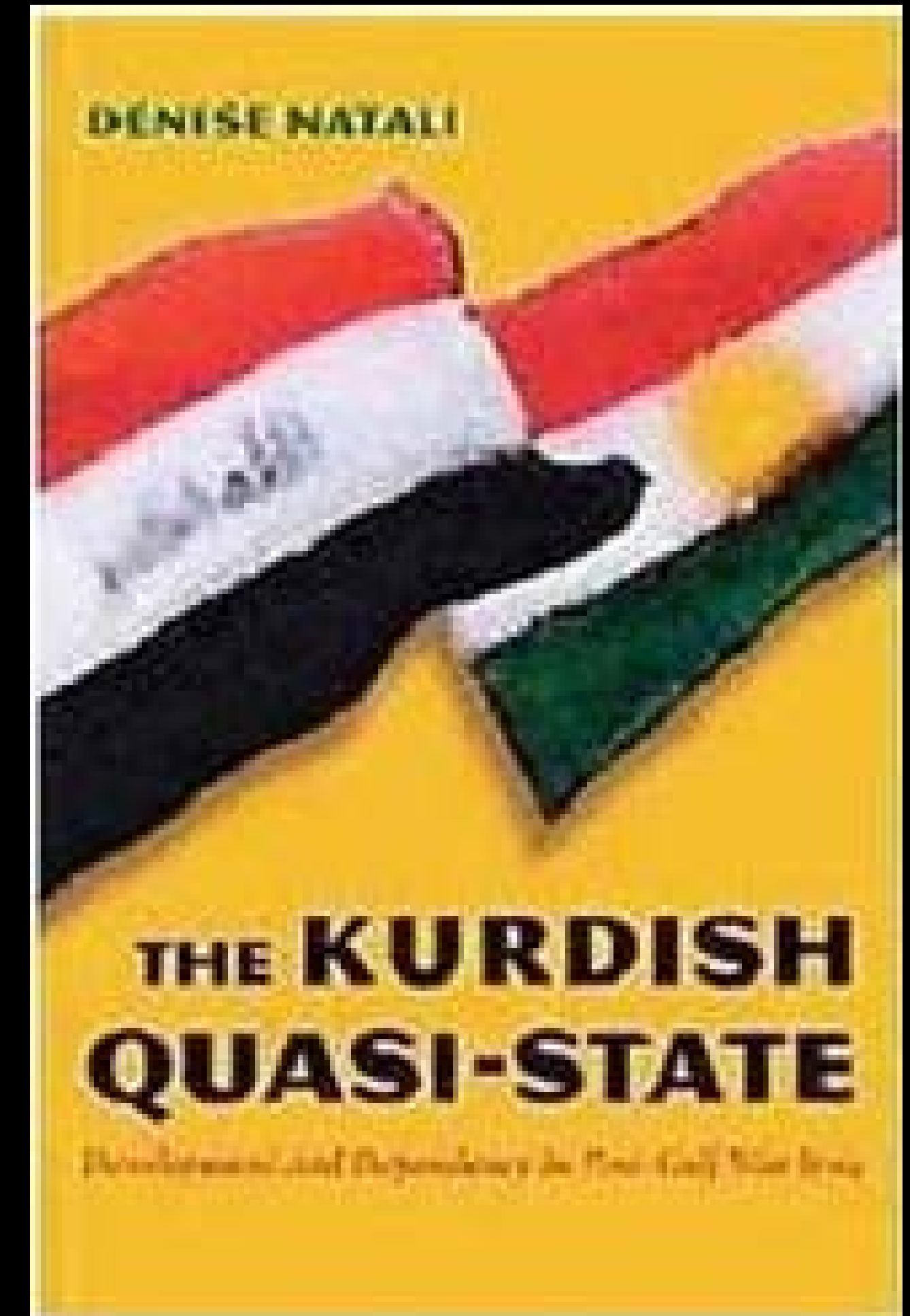
Religion

Ancestry

Origin

History

- Not all “nations” of people have states in which they are the majority or whose culture is dominant



Case Study: **the Kurds**

- a minority ethnic group inhabiting the areas shown at right

- a nation that shares

a common **language**,
cultural **customs**, and
a distinct **history**

- However, they do not have a state in which they are dominant



What is a **Nation-State**?

- A political state whose borders encompass the entirety of a nation
- The great majority of the state share the same culture and are conscious of it. They make up the “nation” in nation-state
- People who live in the nation-state are citizens whose rights are protected by the state
- *Where do nation-states come from?*

Origin of the Nation-State

- Warfare was almost constant between areas of mixed control and “gray areas” on the edges of large empires
- Example: Thirty Years’ War
- People living in these places weren’t citizens for which the state was responsible
- Personal allegiance to a local noble

War's Effects on the Nation-States

- War during the period 1450-1650 started to become much more expensive than in the previous centuries

European
Colonization

Bigger Armies
and Navies

More Taxes to
fund the Military

War's Effects on the Nation-States

- States started to look more “modern”
 - States became more independent from the king (or, very rarely, the queen)
 - Some even became republics and democracies*
- War tended to make citizens of a state see one another as having common histories, languages, and in need of common protection

Beginnings of the Nation-State System



- The Treaty of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty-Years' War (1618-1648), marks the beginning of what we know today as the nation-state system
- The root cause of war was fighting between Protestants and Catholics for political control of disputed territories

What did the Treaty of Westphalia Say?

- Two major ideas were made into law by the Treaty of Westphalia:

Sovereignty


Citizenship

- State borders were rigidly defined
- States also became the main unit for international diplomacy

Sovereignty

- The quality of having independent authority over a geographic territory and the population of that territory
- This was intended to limit conflict between states over borders and control at the edges of states
- States promised to recognize each others' authority over their own people and territory
- Hasn't always worked out that way!

Sovereignty

- For a state to be sovereign, it has to be recognized by other states
- Obtaining recognition can be highly political!
- States might deny or grant recognition for their own political goals
- Example: 
 - Some states recognize Taiwan as an independent state, but others do not
- Why might states do this?

Citizenship

- The Treaty stated that states claimed responsibility for their citizens' behavior
- In the original treaty, this meant that they wouldn't let their citizens start trouble abroad!
- This laid the groundwork for the idea that states should also protect the rights of their own citizens against other states
- Like sovereignty, this hasn't always worked out either!

Who enforces the Westphalia rules?

- States are the main enforcers of the rules
- International law
 - Treaties
 - International Governmental Organizations
- Why are some states more capable of protecting their sovereignty than others?

Who enforces the Westphalia rules?

- However, states are the main violators of sovereignty!
- Powerful states use political and economic pressure to change other state's behavior
- In what situations is it acceptable for a state to violate another state's sovereignty?

From Westphalia to WWII

- Taking a long view of history, the “Westphalian system” has been a major success!
 - Defined borders
 - Limited state intervention
 - Citizen welfare

From Westphalia to WWII

- The number of states has risen and fallen with the growth and decline of large empires
- After WWII, when large areas of Latin America, Africa, and Asia became independent from European control, more states were created
- Today, there are around 192 recognized states in the world
- But not every state agrees on this number!

The Challenge of Globalization

- In today's globalized world, there are many new political and economic arrangements influencing states. Four main areas of emphasis:

Multinational Corporations

Intergovernmental Organizations

Regional Power Blocs

Non-State Political Actors

Regional Power Blocs

- Often based on common national groups embracing multiple states
- Examples:
 - E.U.
 - African Union
 - Arab League
- In what ways are regional power blocs different from nation-states?

Multinational Corporations (MNCs)

- MNCs are large businesses, registered in one state, that have operations in more than one state
- MNCs are often said to have “no allegiance” to a state
- Thanks to advances in technology, investment dollars and business operations can be quickly moved anywhere in the world
- Globalization!
- The relocation of MNCs often deprives countries of much needed wages (pay) for their population, even though this work can be dirty, dangerous, and low-paying by any standard.

Intergovernmental Organizations

- IGOs are sometimes controversial
- They may interfere with state sovereignty
- Large states often use them to obstruct the political and economic goals of weaker states
- What examples of sovereignty issues in IGOs can you think of?

Non-State Political Actors

- The freer movement of money, ideas, and worldviews means new groups can try to influence the state outside government channels
- Non-state political actors include, but are not limited to,:
 - Terrorist groups
 - Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Non-State Political Actors

Positives

- Forums for citizen voices in state policy-making
- Allow for social movements worldwide to coordinate their actions
- Advance agendas for human rights, the environment, etc.

Non-State Political Actors

Negatives

- Groups undermine the legitimacy of the state
- As non-state actors, it is difficult for states to control their activities
- States may be punished by other states for the actions of groups over which they have no control

What's next for the Nation-State?

- Nation-states will have to adjust to a globalized world
- Some scholars say that the state is losing its importance
- Still, states have a great deal of power

The future of Nation-States

- What will the globe look like in 20 years?
- 50 years?
- Will the nation-state system be more or less stable?
- Will regional power blocs become the new states?