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Q8(a)

"Globalization involves deterritorialization ." Examine with reference to the nation-state."

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Sociology GS 1 · 20 marks · Politics and Society

Politics and Society: Sociological theories of power; Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties; Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology; Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

Core demand of the question

- "Globalization involves deterritorialization ." Examine with reference to the nation-state."
- Keep the examination within a 20-mark length

Revision summary

- **Deterritorialisation:** practices unhook from one soil, via finance, media, and migration.

The nation-state's territorial monopoly of force is strained, not abolished.

Marx's world market and Wallerstein precede the slogan; Giddens and **Appadurai** name intensity.

Borders, nationalism, and war re-territorialise.

- **India:** **remittances** and IT versus **Census**, farms, and internal social borders.

Introduction

Deterritorialisation means social practices unhook from a single bounded place. Globalisation of capital, media, and migration does that. The nation-state is a territorial claim to law and force. The statement is strong as a tendency, not as the end of territory.

Body**What deterritorialisation names**

- **Arjun Appadurai's scapes:** finance, media, and people move across borders faster than maps.
- **Anthony Giddens:** time-space distancing; modernity already stretched relations, globalisation intensifies it.
- **Immanuel Wallerstein's world-system:** accumulation was never only national.

Nation-state under strain

- **Max Weber** defined the state as monopoly of legitimate force in a territory. Capital flight, tax havens, and platforms weaken fiscal monopoly even when police remain local.
- **Karl Marx** already pictured a world market. The nation is a political form inside that market, not its master.
- Human rights, trade treaties, and rating agencies add extra-territorial rules.
- **Diasporas vote, remit, and fund parties:** belonging without exclusive soil.

Why territory returns

- Borders, passports, and camps are hyper-territorial. Migration control is a booming state craft.
- Nationalism resacralises soil, which **Emile Durkheim**'s civic cult and later civil religion help read.
- War and sanctions re-territorialise supply chains.
- Talcott Parsons's goal-attainment subsystem, politics, still needs a territorial centre to tax and to war.

Indian reference

- Liberalisation after 1991, IT exports, and Gulf **remittances** deterritorialise livelihoods.
- The **Census** still counts a territorial population. Personal law and internal borders of caste-language re-territorialise intimacy.
- Farmers and informal workers remain place-bound while prices are global.

Examination

- Globalisation involves deterritorialisation of some circuits, especially finance and images.
- **The nation-state is reorganised, not erased:** it competes to host capital and to police people.
- Robert K. Merton's latent function of "global culture" can be a new local inequality.

Flow diagram

Globalisation -> Deterritorial circuits
Globalisation -> Re-bordering
Nation-state -> Weber territorial force
Deterritorial circuits -> Nation-state
Re-bordering -> Nation-state

Conclusion

Deterritorialisation is a real dimension of globalisation, especially for capital and media. The nation-state remains the territorial organiser of force, census, and most welfare. Examine unhooking and re-bordering together. **Weber**'s state and **Marx**'s world market are both still on the map.

Facts & figures

Weber's state

Successful claim to monopoly of legitimate physical force within a territory.

Appadurai

Ethnoscapes, financescapes, and mediascapes as disjunctive global flows.

World-system

Wallerstein: capitalism as an inter-state world economy, not a set of sealed nations.

Remittances

Indian Gulf and other flows that stretch household reproduction across borders.

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