

Grade :- **10**

Subject :- Citizenship Education

Unit :- **1.4**

Name :- Nature of the state

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## State

The supreme social organization in human civilization is the state. There is no one who is under the governance of the state.

The state is an organization established by the people to live happily and honorably.

Aristotle

The state is a community of persons more or less numerous, permanently occupying a definite portion of territory, independent of external control and possessing an organized government to which the great body of its inhabitants render habitual obedience.

Garner

There are four basic characteristics of a state.

- Land (fixed frontiers)
- Population (national foundation)
- Government
- Autonomous power

The type of state which is in the modern world is “nation state”.

## Nature of the Nation State

The nation state was established in centered with Europe after the 15<sup>th</sup> century. France and England were the first nation states. Later, Italy and Germany became nation states. At the moment, there are about 200 autonomous nation states in the world. The basic nature of the nation state is it is based on the principle of “one state for one nation”.

### ❖ Reasons behind the origin of nation states

- Collapse of feudal system
- Rise of capitalist economy
- Protestant reformation
- Great revolution
- Development of scientific knowledge
- The ideas of the political thinkers like Nicolo Machiavelli, Jin Bodan and Thomas Hobbs.

### ❖ Countries like England, France, Holland and Portugal emerged as strong nation states owing to several reasons.

- National cohesion
- Military and Naval strength
- Advanced economic condition
- Creative abilities of these nations

## Features of a nation state

- ❖ Based on the concept of one state for one nation.
- ❖ Consists of supreme power, land, population and the government.
- ❖ Governed by a professional hierarchy of authorities.
- ❖ Use of supreme power regarding external and internal matters.

## Tasks of the modern state

- Protection of law and peace.
- Maintaining economic development.
- Maintaining political stability.
- Social welfare activities.
- Taking steps for poverty alleviation.
- Solving problems of war, rebellion and ethnic disputes.
- Protection of fundamental rights.
- Maintaining international cooperation.
- Environmental management.
- Protection of national integrity.

## Main forms of states

- The basic law of any state is Constitution.
- Depending on the constitution and the devolution of power between the Central Government and the Local Government Bodies, there are two forms of states.
  - Unitary States
  - Federal States

## Main forms of states...

### Unitary States

- ❖ Unitary states are states with Central governments in which power is concentrated.

If the authorized power has been agglomerated in one central authorized institute however it is called a Unitary State.

Hermon J Fainer

- ❖ Central Government has the main responsibility to exercise the legislative, executive and judicial powers.
- ❖ Local Government Institutions are given only to implement the administrative powers.
- ❖ Sri Lanka, Britain and France are examples.

## Main forms of states...

### Federal State

- ❖ A federal state is a system of government with two tiers of governments.

Though it has independence to act within the power range, at times, the ways is open for acting together on some aspects.

K.C.Wiere

- ❖ Legislative, executive and judicial powers are implemented by both the Central Government and Local Government Institutions (states).
- ❖ Power is divided by the constitution under a list system.
- ❖ United States of America, India and Switzerland are examples.