Sovereignty@Bay: Globalization, Multinational Enterprise, and the International Political System

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Abstract
This article is concerned with only one aspect of the vast literature on MNE–state relations: the impact of the MNE on sovereignty, autonomy, and control. It argues that the mainstream literature of the sovereignty at bay era did not predict the end of the nation-state or conclude that sovereignty is critically compromised either in theory or practice. In fact, while the terms ‘sovereignty’, autonomy’, and ‘control’ appear frequently in these discussions, they are rarely defined or even used precisely. At the end of the day MNEs are international or cross-border entities which are of the existing inter-state system firmly rooted in national territorial jurisdiction. The problems posed by the traditional MNE for both states and the inter-state system tend to involve issues of jurisdictional asymmetry, jurisdictional overlap and control, rather than sovereignty in its formal sense. The hierarchical or Fordist structure of the traditional MNE reinforces the core values of the modern international political system: state sovereignty and mutually exclusive territoriality.

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The problems of national sovereignty in political science have always played the essential role since Jan Boden’s times. However, in the late 20th – early 21st century there appeared new aspects in this field, especially in the context of discussing the issues of globalization and new world order. Both the increase of the quantity of problems common for states and the expansion of the number and types of integrand subjects take place. In other words the peculiar system emerges, where the problems of separate countries, nations, regions and other