

PERPETUAL PROBLEMS: ISSUES WITH SOVEREIGNTY IN GLOBAL POLITICS

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This paper discusses the role of sovereignty within Kant's depiction of states as existing in a Hobbesian state of nature. Kant holds that states should maintain sovereignty after rationally coming into a society with one another under the power of law to maximize freedom and end perpetual war. However, the analogy of states to individuals existing in a state of nature no longer holds if we allow states such sovereignty. Individuals leaving a state of nature cannot retain ultimate authority, or sovereignty. In seeking to preserve the integrity of the analogy, I argue that perpetual peace cannot be achieved without subjecting national sovereignty to international law.