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Essay and Discussion Questions: Building Blocks

# Explain

1. If a country is unhappy with another country, what kinds of responses respect the principle of sovereignty? What kinds of responses challenge or violate sovereignty?
2. What is the major exception to sovereignty recognized by the United Nations?
3. What is the difference between a nation and a country (also known as a state)?
4. What is the opinion today of the United Nations and most countries regarding self-determination?
5. Why was the responsibility to protect (R2P) doctrine adopted?
6. What are the most common ways in which sovereignty is threatened or violated?

# Analyze

1. In what way is sovereignty a kind of equality among countries?
2. Why have so many nations seeking independence been unable to achieve their goals?
3. What are some common methods of trying to gain independence? What are the benefits and drawbacks of these methods?
4. Why have many European countries delegated (or pooled) their sovereignty in the European Union?
5. Why do countries often intervene when another country’s sovereignty is violated?

# Evaluate

1. What are the shortcomings of the concept of sovereignty?
2. Is nationalism a force for good in the world?
3. Is self-determination an outdated concept in a world that no longer has empires and colonies?
4. Does the responsibility to protect doctrine effectively balance sovereignty and human rights?