# DISCUSSING CHALLENGES TOWARDS TRADITIONAL SOVEREIGNTY: A NEW APPROACH THROUGH WORLD SOCIETY CONCEPT

**Dorina Ndoj**

European University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania, E mail: dndoj1@uet.edu.al

## Abstract

Sovereignty is a highly contested and controversial concept in international relations. New events occurred in the international arena have raised many questions on how can we genuinely respond to challenges toward sovereignty. This paper discusses the challenges to state sovereignty within the theoretical framework of the English School Theory, particularly focusing in the debate between society of states and world society concepts. It seeks to provide a better explain to the current international practices and the need to redefine the traditional notion of sovereignty by introducing a new concept such as world society. The English School Theory has developed the idea that society of states is the most effective social construct throughout human history that promotes coexistence between political communities based on mutual respect to sovereignty. New events and conditions occurred in the international arena, such as humanitarian interventions, globalization and the growth of the regional and international institutions and organizations, have intensively challenged the principle of sovereignty and therefore have affected the social construction of the society of states. Contemporary theorists within the English School have responded to challenges to state-centrism through the new concept of world society, which emphasizes the importance of individuals and transnational actors in world politics. The thesis of this paper claims that the threats to traditional sovereignty concept have caused an overlapping between society of states and world society. Thus, world Society is a very helpful concept in addressing the need to redefine the concept of sovereignty caused by issues linked to globalization, humanitarian interventions, non-state actors and deterritorialization.

**Keywords:** *Sovereignty, globalization, non-state actors, humanitarian interventions, society of states, world society*

The 2 nd International Conference on Research and Education – "Challenges Toward the Future" (ICRAE2014), 30-31 May 2014,

University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi", Shkodra, Albania