**Power**

In actual practice, political power is mostly about (1) competition for positions of governmental authority, (2) competition for influence over what government officials do, and (3) relationships between elites and populations. In all of these arenas, power is rational: it involves a relationship between a power holder (A) and someone else (B) over whom A has some kind of power. Power relationships can take a number of different forms. For example, A has power over B to the extent that:

* A can beat B (in a war, for example)
* A can influence B’s behaviour
* A can cause B to do something that B would not otherwise do.
* A can compel B to do something, even if B would do it anyway.
* A can affect B in a manner contrary to B’s interests.
* A can prevent B from doing something contrary to A’s wishes, in effect exercising a kind of veto power over B’s actions.
* B believes that A is more powerful.

These and other conceptualizations of power relationships must take account of varying degrees of power. Power comes in different sizes.

*Taken from: Comparative Politics, Michael J Sodaro*

**Sovereignty**

Before discussing how we should think about sovereignty in the light of the proposed institutional -cosmopolitanism, let me define this term, in a somewhat unusual way, as a two-place relation: A is sovereign over B if and only if

1. A is a governmental body or officer (“agency”), and
2. B are persons, and
3. A has unsupervised and irrevocable authority over B
   1. to lay down rules constraining B’s conduct, or
   2. to judge B’s compliance with rules, or
   3. to enforce rules against B through pre-emption, prevention, or punishments, or
   4. to act in B’s behalf toward other agencies (ones that do or do not have authority over B) or persons (ones whom A is sovereign over, or not).

A has absolute sovereignty over B if and only if

1. A is sovereign over B, and
2. no other agency has any authority over A or over B which is not both supervised and revocable by A.

Any A having (absolute) sovereignty over some B can then be said to be an (absolute) sovereign (the one-place predicate).

*Taken from: World Poverty and Human Rights, Thomas Pogge*