

The concept of supranationality
Overcoming the Westphalian state system

Westphalian system

From 1648 on: states

From 19th Century on: nation states

European Union

Sovereignty

Non-interference

Supranationality

„pooled sovereignty“

Power

As the main source of
legitimacy

Law

As the main source of
legitimacy

**Interest balancing by
military alliances**

„Balance of power“

“Geo-politics”

**Interest balancing by
legally structured
negotiations**

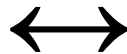
“Compromise”

„Replacement of war by
night sessions in Brussels“

The concept of supranationality

Supranational integration vs. imperial rule

International cooperation



Federal state

Criterion:

Principle of conferred powers

The member states remain masters of the treaty

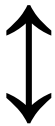
Criterion:

Competence competency

The federal level holds sovereignty

- **Intergovernmental** cooperation

- (Governments of) member states acting as a filter between the citizens and the organization



- **Supranational** integration

- Direct exercise of public power towards the citizen by institutions acting independently of the will of (governments of) the member states.
- Democratic feedback leads to a direct democratic power relationship between the individual citizen and the supranational entity.



- **Imperial** rule

- Rule of the centre over the periphery
- Without democratic feedback

The concept of supranationality
Direct and indirect democratic legitimation in the EU

