



UNIT

1

Introduction of Political Science



1.1 Meaning, Definition and Origin of Political Science

Politics

What is Politics??!! I hear about it in tea-stalls, restaurants, buses and in all other places that I go to... I have been hearing this word since childhood... and everybody is so serious when they talk about it... so should I get to know what is politics?



The term 'Politics' is closely related to the Greek word 'Polis' meaning 'city-state' (for affairs of the cities-for affairs of the state). The study of politics dates back to 5th century BC(BCE) Greece with immense contributions by political philosophers **Plato** (428/427 BC – 348/347 BC) and **Aristotle** (384 BC- 322 BC). Before the 20th century, the study of politics was integrated with other disciplines such as history and philosophy.

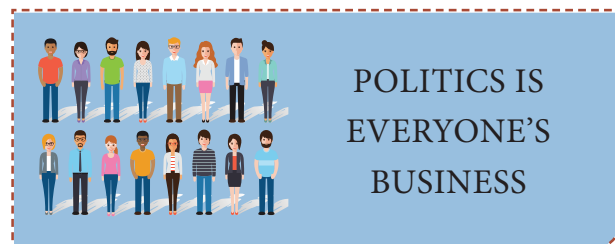


Learning Objectives

- ❖ Provides insights into the meaning of Politics and the manner in which it affects the lives of people.
- ❖ Examines the definitions of Political Science and the changing nature of the discipline.
- ❖ Explains the scope of Political Science.
- ❖ Throws light on the various approaches to the study of Political Science.
- ❖ Discusses the relationship between Political Science and other Social Sciences.

Politics was primarily concerned with the study of ethics. It further focused on the study of political ideas, political institutions and processes within states

and the relations between states. But the last two centuries witnessed the study of politics concentrating on the conflict between liberty and equality. In the 21st century, a central theme has been the constant conflict between liberty and security. Some other major themes that are not central to the study of politics are development, environmental sustainability, gender equality and international peace and co-operation.



All through history, political philosophers have different perspectives on the central theme of politics. The Greek philosopher **Aristotle**, the father of Political Science, considered the study of





politics as a systematic inquiry to understand the truth about politics so as to explain the relationship between the State and the individual. He described and classified different political systems. **Aristotle** and **Plato** made immense contributions to the origin and development of the discipline. **Plato** analyzed different political systems and **Aristotle**, closely following the trails of his teacher **Plato**, gave the analysis a historical perspective. They tried to understand the working of different forms of governments.

ACTIVITY



Collect information about Arthashastra and have a discussion in class on it.

Politics was a matter of discussion in the churches during the medieval period as political power remained with the church under the Holy Roman Empire. The works of philosophers such as **St. Augustine** ('The City of God') amalgamated the principles of political philosophy with those of religion. It must be noted here that for the Greek and medieval philosophers, politics was a knowledge centering on the city-state, which by and large had spiritual bond. It was more of a community than a state.

It was during the Italian Renaissance that **Niccolo Machiavelli** laid the foundations of modern political science through his emphasis on empirical observation and investigation of political structures and political behaviour from a secular perspective. Politics, in the words of **Harold Lasswell**, an American Political Scientist, is 'Who gets What, When and How?' This definition is based on the

assumption that all societies exhibit sharp diversities with people pursuing different interests and values and hence there requires a mechanism through which the conflicting interests are reconciled. Also, scarcity of resources is a feature of all modern societies and so politics would mean the mechanism through which goods and resources are distributed. For **Karl Marx**, politics was all about class conflict and political power and to **David Easton** politics meant 'the authoritative allocation of values'.

Political scientists have explained politics through its basic concepts such as power, order and justice. Power is the ability to make and enforce rules and to influence the behaviour of the individuals. Power may or may not be legitimate. One needs to understand the difference between power and authority. Authority is the moral or legal right and is the ability to control. It implies legitimacy, where power is exercised through established institutions and people willingly accept it as proper and just. Power, on the other hand, may or may not be legitimate.

Politics is also concerned about order which denotes the structures, rules, rituals, procedures and practices that make up the political system. As the majority is ruled by the minority, there is always an apprehension of the fairness of the government mechanism. Therefore, the exercise of power should be based on the foundations of justice. Thus, power, order and justice are regarded the basic concepts in politics. Since the late 19th century, the study of politics as an academic discipline is commonly referred to as 'Political Science'.

ARISTOTLE ON HAPPINESS

Aristotle believed that happiness was the most important thing in life. He taught that one should not waste one's time in the pursuits of pleasure, but should seek happiness instead. According to him, true happiness lay not in material things, but in understanding one's true nature, and regaling one's full potential. In short, happiness depends upon ourselves, and not on the outside world. One of **Aristotle's** most famous quotes is

"...happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence..."

CONVERSATION



Student: Sir, we make a mention of Greek Thinkers like **Plato** and **Aristotle** in our discussion about the study of politics. In the Indian context, who is considered the first political thinker?

Teacher: In the Indian context, **Thiruvalluvar**, the author of Thirukkural, the ancient legal text, is considered as one of the first political thinker.

Student: Sir! It is very interesting to know that an ancient Tamil literature seems to be the first political manual in India.

Teacher: Though **Kautilya**, who was the author of Arthashastra, wrote his book in 300BCE that book concentrated more on the Political Economy, while the Thirukkural of **Thiruvalluvar** concentrated more on Political governance.

Student: Oh is it! Sir! Will you please say something about Kautilya!

Teacher: With Pleasure! **Kautilya**, was the chief Minister of Chandra Gupta Maurya, who ruled a North Indian State about 300 BCE wrote the book Arthashastra, which literally means Artha=wealth and Sastra=knowledge. In short a first literary source on political economy.

Student: Sir! Then what is the contribution of Thiruvalluvar to political science?

Teacher: Thiruvalluvar has given many concepts in Thirukkural regarding king and kingdom which



can be correlated with the contemporary concepts of political science like state, government etc.

Qualities of King: (Kural no: 382 & 383).

- i) Courage ii) Liberal hand iii) Wisdom & energy
- iv) Knowledge v) Taking strong decisions.

What a kingdom should and should not have? (Kural no: 734).

- i) Complete cultivation i) Excessive starvation
- ii) Virtuous person ii) Irremediable epidemics.
- iii) Merchants with inexhaustible wealth
- iii). Destructive foes.

Components of Kingdom: (Kural no: 381)

- i) People ii) Army iii) Resources iv) Ministry
- v) Friendship vi) Fort

Duties of King:

- i) Identifying resources
- ii) Collecting revenue
- iii) Protecting revenue.
- iv) Distribution of revenue.

Student: Oh! It is very much Interesting to know more from you, about our ancient literary sources on Political Science!



There is a limited amount of power in society, which can only be held by one person or group at a time.

- *Karl Marx*

Power is a relationship in which one group of persons are able to determine the actions of the others in the direction of the former's own end.



- *David Easton*



Power breeds power and this forms the central tenet of elitism.

- *Robert Michels*

Political Science

The switch from 'Politics' to 'Political Science' occurred as the discipline began to emerge as an autonomous discipline in the modern period. The term politics referred to the affairs of the city state, which was a small community, in the ancient Greece. But the term nowadays refers to as *Gilchrist* says, 'current problems of the government'. It means that when someone says he is interested in politics it implies that he is involved in several political activities relating to political issues, legislations, labour issues, party activities and the rest which has far wider canvass. On the other hand, the political studies are distinct and hence they need to be differentiated from current problems. Further, politics in one country differ from the others. What is 'politics' in India may not mean

the same in other places. But 'political science' will mean one and the same thing everywhere. Hence it would be better to name the discipline as Political Science than as Politics. The Political Scientists who met at Paris in 1948 also found the term 'Political Science' more acceptable. It is not appropriate to use the two terms as synonyms, though a few still prefer to style the discipline also as politics.

The important developments in Political Science since the time it became a distinct academic discipline occurred in the United States. Until then, Politics was a part of disciplines such as philosophy, law and economics. Political Science as an autonomous discipline dates back to 1880 when *John W. Burgess* established a School of Political Science at the Columbia University. By 1920's most of the leading Universities established an exclusive department for the study of Political Science. The American Political Scientists showed tremendous interest in this direction and took efforts to separate it from history, law and philosophy. The discipline then had very formalistic and institutional approach and this trend continued up to the Second World War.

But later, scholars such as *Woodrow Wilson* and *Frank Goodnow* stressed more on the study of social facts over the study of static institutions. There was a conscious effort by scientists such as *Arthur Bentley* to develop an objective, value-free analysis of politics and the principle impetus in this regard came during the 1920's from the Chicago University. *Charles E. Merriam* was the leading figure in this movement for empirical observation and measurement



in political analysis. **Charles E. Merriam's** 'Political Power' and **Harold Lasswell's** 'Politics: Who Gets What, When, How?' made the aspect of power the central theme of politics. The totalitarian regimes in Europe and Asia in the 1920's and 30's and the onset of the Second World War turned the discipline away from its focus on institutions and procedures. Works during this phase focused more on political parties, pressure groups, elites and the basis of electoral choices. This new focus on political behaviour came to be known as 'behaviouralism'. The term was borrowed from 'behaviourism' in psychology. Later, the 1960's saw the emergence of a new trend known as 'Post-Behaviouralism'. It was a reaction against the orthodoxy and dominance of the behavioural methods in the study of politics. The call for the development of this trend was given by **David Easton**, who ironically, was one of the leading advocates of the behavioural revolution. He claimed that the behavioural method lost touch with reality and hence post-behaviouralism argued that research did not have to be necessarily value free and the emphasis had to be on relevance over precision. Thus, the intellectual revolution resulted in many political scientists attempting to comprehend the sociological, anthropological and psychological aspects of the study of Political Science. They vehemently criticized the traditional methods and its formal and parochial tools of analysis. They pointed out that the political theorists in the past concentrated on state, government, institutions and their formal structures and did not take into consideration the interactions between them and the subjects and failed

to examine the political behaviour of humans. Thus, modern political analysis began to rest upon the following four principles:

- ❖ the search for comprehensive scope
- ❖ the search for realism
- ❖ the search for precision
- ❖ the search for intellectual order

ACTIVITY

Why is **Aristotle** regarded as a great political philosopher? Discuss

Why do we say that both **Plato** and **Aristotle** had a profound influence on Greek social, political and economic life?

Read more about **Charles E. Merriam**, **Woodrow Wilson** and **Arthur Bentley** and find out their important works.

Definition of Political Science

Scholars have defined Political Science in different ways. For **Garner** it begins and ends with State. **Leacock** and **Seeley** see its dealing with government. **Robson** and **Lasswell** regard it as the study of power and influence. Some scholars define it as the study of political aspects of organized human society. But the latter one instantly enlarges the scope of political science as it tends to include everything. Thus Political Science has been variously defined though for most part of the history the emphasis was placed on state, its institutions, laws and processes. Political behaviour of individuals and groups also became a part of it after the behavioural revolution. The latest addition to this has been the concept of governance.



Political Science deals with the origin, development, purpose and all political problems of the State. - **Garris**

The study of Politics concerns itself with the life of men in relation to organized states. - **Harold Laski**

Political Science investigates the phenomena of government as Political Economy deals with Wealth, Biology with Life, Algebra with Numbers and Geometry with Space and Magnitude. - **Seeley**

Political Science is an empirical enquiry in the study of shaping and sharing of power.

- **Harold Laswell**

It is the historical study of the past, analytical study of the present and ethical study of the future. - **Gettel**

Political Science is the process by which scarce resources- human, economic, spiritual are allocated within a social limit, be it a city, a state, a nation or an organization for the purpose of providing for human needs and desires. - **David Easton**

On the basis of your reading / understanding of the above report answer the following questions briefly:

1. What do you understand by the term "Tryst with destiny" ?
2. List any three challenges highlighted by the Prime Minister Nehru.
3. Discuss why freedom, power, peace and security are considered as core components in our day to day life.

1.2 Nature of Political Science

Human being is a social animal. They prefer company to solitude. Humans are never self-sufficient and depend on fellow beings for the satisfaction of their diverse needs. So, they have always lived in social groups. They have been a part of the society with set rules of common behaviour. Such a society had to be properly organized with individuals to enforce rules and regulations and also

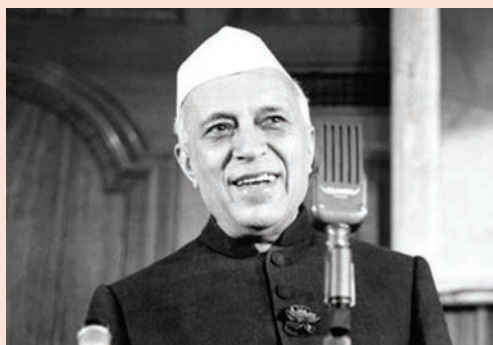
their observance had to be ensured. The society thus organized is called the State, the rules that govern social conduct are the laws of the State and the individuals who enforce the same and ensure their observance is the government. Thus, Political Science deals with human being in relation to the State and government. It is the study of humans in the process of governing themselves.

Political Science is concerned with the theory and practice of politics. It describes and analyzes political systems and political behaviour. It traces the origin and development of State. It studies the associations and institutions related to the State. Political Science attempts to explain what men and women do in political situations. At the initial stages the discipline was closely aligned with subjects such as history and philosophy. The American Political Science Association founded in 1903 made efforts to separate



Case Study

“Tryst with Destiny”



The following is the report by The Hindu on 14.8.1947 delivered by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

“Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially”, declared India’s first premier, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, moving the resolution prescribing an Oath for the members in the Constituent Assembly to-night.

“At the stroke of midnight hour,” Pandit Nehru said, “when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. (cheers) The moment come, it comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity”.

“Freedom and power bring responsibility. That responsibility rests upon the Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom, we have endured all the pains of labour and our tears are heavy with the memory of this sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now.

The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer, it means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us, but so long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over. And so we have to labour and to work and work hard to give reality our dreams. Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together to day for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart. Peace has been said to be indivisible, so is freedom, so is prosperity now, and so is prosperity now, and so also is disaster in this one world that can no longer be split into isolated fragments”.



the study of politics from other social sciences such as history and economics. At the later stages, when scientific approach became the order of the day it was aligned with disciplines such as psychology and anthropology. The behavioural revolution stressed on the need for a scientific and systematic analysis of individual and group behaviour. With the advent of Post-Behaviouralism, relevance to social problems along with political facts became the focus of Political Science.

ACTIVITY



Make a list of the important works of *Plato* and *Aristotle*.

1.3. Scope of Political Science

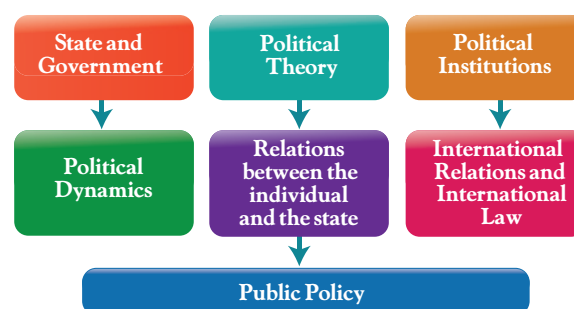
Scope of the discipline implies its jurisdiction or subject-matter. Political Science covers a vast field. Basically it is seen as a study of State. The state is located on a territory with its own people and a government to maintain and promote orderly and happier life. Hence the scope of the discipline takes a quantum jump. Further the human nature will not remain static. Men Change and the scope of the discipline keep expanding. As the subject matter of political science includes enacting legislations that binds every one and every other activity its areas of inquiry also includes fields like economics, commerce, sociology, law, etc.,

In the year 1948, the International Political Science Association mentioned the following as the Scope of Political Science;

- ❖ Political Theory
- ❖ Political Institutions

- ❖ Political Dynamics
- ❖ International Relations

As the scope of Political Science cannot be limited to the above mentioned sub-disciplines, the following diagram illustrates the broad scope of Political Science.



Political Science primarily studies the problems of the State and Government. State possesses the authority to frame rules for governing its people. The State executes its will through the government. The government is an agency of the State. Some political theorists such as *Bluntschli* have restricted the scope of Political Science to the study of State alone as they believe the State includes also the government. The government is considered the part and parcel of the State. On the other hand, other writers such as *Karl Deutsch* opines that Political Science deals only with the government. Scholar such as *Harold Laski* argue that Political Science is the study of both state and government. Despite the fundamental differences between the state and government, the scope of one cannot be separated from that of the other. The scope of Political Science includes the study of the past, present and future developments of the State.

Political Theory is an important component of Political Science. It includes political thought and philosophy and

further explains the basic concepts of the discipline. Political Science examines the nature, structure and working of political institutions. It undertakes a comparative analysis of different constitutions and governments. The scope of the discipline also includes the study of contemporary forces in government and politics. This includes the study of political parties, interest groups and pressure groups. An empirical study of political dynamics explains the political behaviour of individuals, groups and organizations. Most importantly, Political Science throws light on the relationship between individuals and the state. Consequently, modern political scientists under the behavioural and systems approach have widened the scope of political science to cover many more aspects like political socialization, political culture, political development and informal structures like pressure groups, etc.

Moreover, the study of International Relations which includes diplomacy, international laws and international organizations also come within the purview of Political Science. It is also a study of Public policy explaining the governmental and non-governmental responses to public issues.

1.4. Is Political Science, a Science or an Art?

What is Political Science?

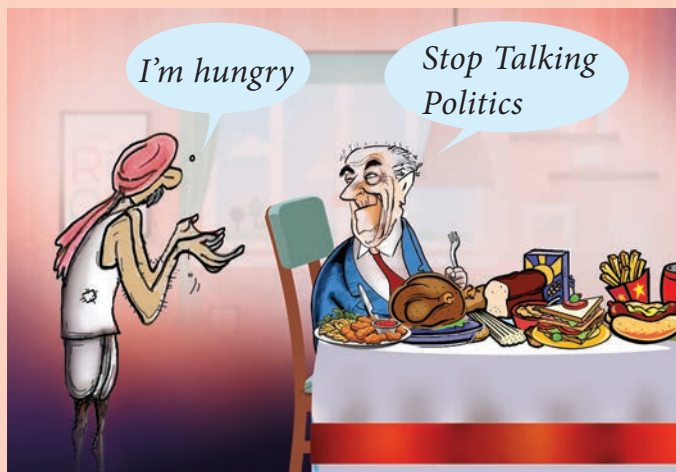
What is political science?

The scientific study of politics and government

What political science is not?

A perfect science that has all the answers

Is political science a science? If so, how is politics scientific?



The subject of Politics is popularly called as Political Science only after the empirical approaches entering into the subject after the Contributions of American Political Scientists' contributions. Though it is called as "Political Science" it cannot be claimed a status of a pure science like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, etc. It can be called only as social science, as it is mainly dealing about human behaviour.

There is a great debate on the scientific nature of Political Science. Some scholars consider it a science of the State and the Government. While others are of the opinion that it is one of the most backward of all the arts. Writers like **Auguste Comte** and **Maitland** are of the opinion that social sciences lack scientific character as there is no consensus of opinion among experts on its nature, methods and approaches. It lacks continuity and development and the elements that constitute a basis of precision. There are no universal principles and the scientific methods of observation and experimentation may not be applicable to Political Science. The elements of reliability, verifiability, precision and



accuracy found in natural sciences are absent in Political Science. There is no uniformity in the principles of Political Science and it does not strictly observe the relation of cause and effect as the other sciences do. Similarly we do not find that exactness and absoluteness in Political Science as it is found in Physics and Chemistry. Hence several scholars identify it with Arts.

On the other hand, some writers argue that Political Science is the science of state and government. **Aristotle** was the first one to call it as a supreme science. Writers such as **Bodin**, **Hobbes**, **Montesquieu** and **Bluntschli** subscribe to this view. **Dr. Garner** defines science as knowledge relating to a particular subject acquired by a systematic study, observation or experience. If science is thus defined, conclusions in Political Science are also drawn after systematic study, observation or experience. Though Political Science cannot claim of universal laws as in the case of natural sciences, there are conclusions that can be proven. For instance, it cannot be denied that democracy is the most suited form of government in pluralistic societies and that it is best possible one to promote social welfare. This conclusion was derived after a systematic study of the other forms of governments in different parts of the world during the ancient, medieval and modern period. There is no consensus among scholars on the nature, methods and principles of the discipline as it engages in the study of human beings and the institutions manned by them. These institutions adapt themselves to changing needs of human life and hence scholars are also of different

views and opinions. Nevertheless, all Political Scientists unanimously agree that imperialism, colonialism, inequality, illiteracy and poverty affect the society at large.

Though Political Science does not strictly adhere to the theory of cause and effect, certain political phenomena have their own cause and effect. For instance, poverty and unemployment are causes that can result in the consequence of revolution. Hence, some writers conclude that Political Science is undoubtedly a 'Science'.

Though Political Science cannot be equated with the natural sciences but nevertheless, it is a social science dealing with individuals and their relations with the State and government. One can say that, whether Political Science could be seen as an Art or Science would largely depend on the chosen subject matter for the study and the approaches used to carry out the study.

Quotable quote

Whoever you are or want to be, you may not be interested in politics, but politics is interested in you. - **Marshall Berman**

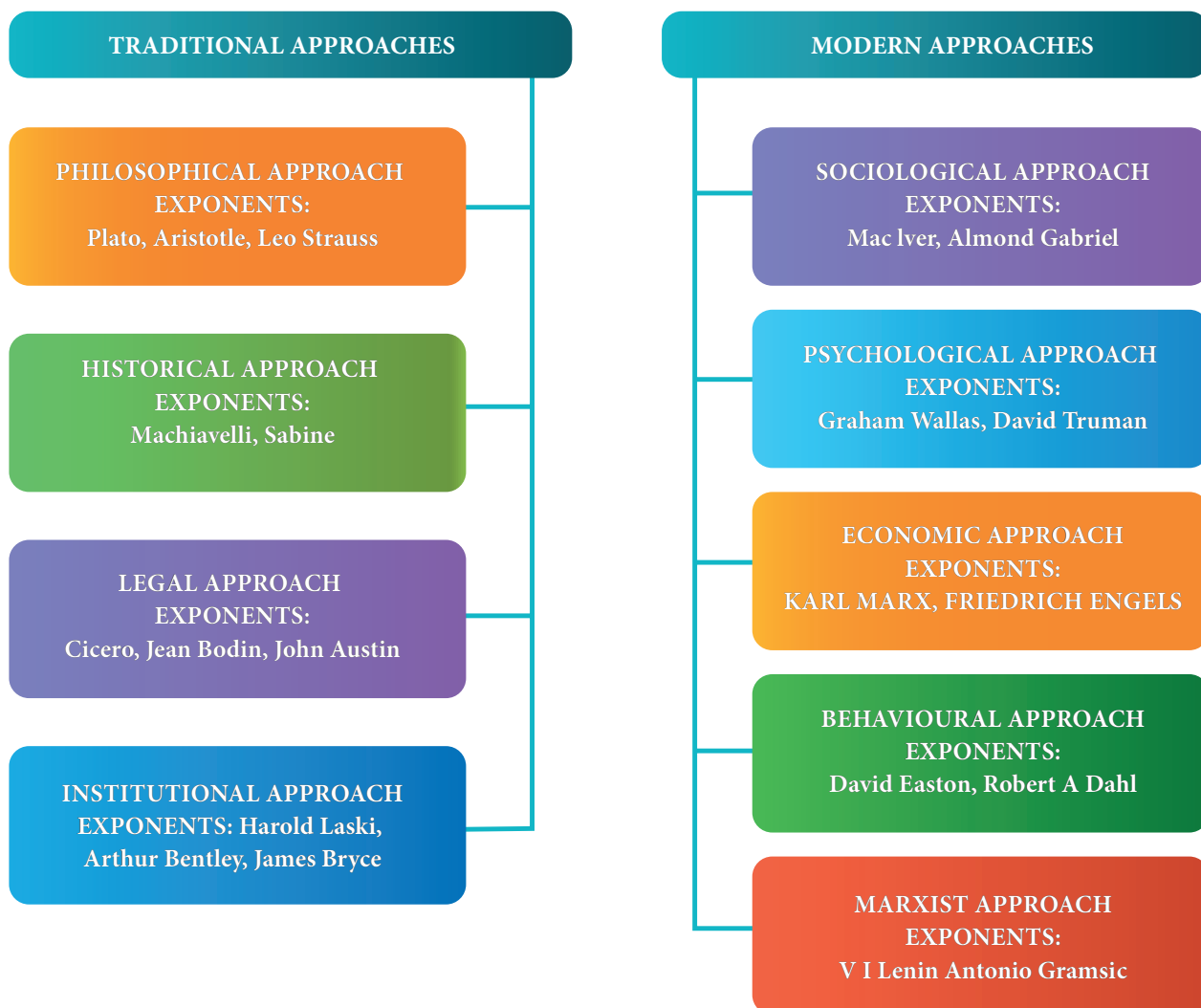
1.5 Approaches to the Study of Political Science

An approach is the way of looking at a political phenomenon and then explaining it. The approaches and methods to the study of Political Science are many. There are both traditional and modern or scientific approaches. The traditional approaches are highly speculative and normative and the modern approaches are more empirical and scientific in nature.

I. Traditional Approaches

i. Philosophical Approach

It is the oldest approach to the study of politics. It is also known as speculative, metaphysical or ethical approach. The study of state, government and the political behaviour of man is intricately linked with the quest for achieving certain goals, morals or truths. Here, the discipline moves closer to the world of ethics. The approach is criticized for being highly speculative and abstract.



ii. Historical Approach

This approach throws light on the past and traces the origin and development of the political institutions. It seeks to study the role of individuals and their motives, accomplishments and failures in the past and its implications for the future. In understanding the political issues of today, the help of historical parallels

are sought. However, critics argue that historical parallels can be illuminating, but at the same time they can also be misleading as it is loaded with superficial resemblances.

iii. Legal Approach

The study of politics is linked with the study of legal institutions created by the State for the maintenance of the



political organization. As the State is engaged in the maintenance of law and order, the study of judicial institutions become the concern of political theorists. This approach looks at the State as an organization primarily concerned with the creation and enforcement of law. However, critics argue that this approach has a narrow perspective. The State has various other functions to perform other than enforcement of law and order. Laws deal with only one aspect of an individual's life and do not enable the complete understanding of his political behaviour.

iv. Institutional Approach

This approach is also known as the structural approach. It lays stress on the formal structures of the political organization such as legislature, executive and judiciary. The informal structures are also studied and a comparative study of the governmental systems are encouraged. However, this approach is criticized for laying too much emphasis on formal and informal structures and ignoring the role of individual in those institutions.

II. Modern Approaches

i. Sociological Approach

This approach emphasizes on the understanding of the social context to explain the political behaviour of the members of the community. The state is considered primarily as a social organism and politics is understood through the sociological factors. But critics are of the opinion that too much of emphasis on the social context can affect the very autonomy of the discipline.

ii. Psychological Approach

This approach studies and explains political and social institutions through

psychological laws. It assumes that the psychological analysis of political leaders reveals significant knowledge about politics. However, this approach ignores the sociological, legal and economic factors in the study of politics.

iii. Economic Approach

As matters pertaining to production and distribution of goods are regulated by the State, the economic matters also become a concern for the political theorists. This approach emphasizes on the role of the State in regulating the economic matters and argues that economic affairs are intimately linked to the political process of the State. The approach is inclined towards linking and understanding the political and economic life of individuals. However, the approach takes into account only the economic factors and ignores other factors such as social and psychological factors.

iv. Behavioural Approach

This approach focuses on political behaviour and studies the attitudes and preferences of humans in the political context. Thus, the study of politics moved its focus from formalism and normativism to the study of political behaviour. However, critics argue that this approach is based on a false conception of scientific methods.

v. Marxist Approach

This approach is basically different from the other modern approaches. It perceives State as an inevitable consequence of class contradictions. It assumes that there is a continuous interaction between the political and economic forces and separating one from the other is not possible. However, this



approach gives undue importance to the economic factors and ignores the other important factors.

After careful analysis of the approaches, it is understood that each approach has its own relevance in the study of political phenomenon and also suffer from certain limitations.

III. Relationship with other Social Sciences

i. Political Science and History

The state and its institutions are a product of slow historical growth and Political Science uses historical facts to discover general laws and principles. Political History is the narrative of political events and movements. The relationship between History and Political Science is well explained by Freeman as he says 'History is past Politics and Politics is present History'. *John Seeley* adds to it through his quote, 'History without Political Science has no fruit, Political Science without History has no root'.

ii. Political Science and Economics

Economics was considered a branch of Political Science and in fact, the Greeks called Political Science by the name of Political Economy. Political Economy attempts to understand how political institutions, political environment and economy influence each other. Historians have explained as to how groups with common economic interests have utilized the political process and environment to effect changes for their own benefit. The study of Political Science and Economics are directed towards the same end providing the best possible life for its people.

iii. Political Science and Ethics

Philosophy is closely associated with ethics. Ethics deals with morality and formulates rules and regulations governing the behaviour of individuals in the society. Ethics is the science of moral order and Political Science is the science of political order. Both Political Science and Ethics aim at the noble and righteous life of humans.

iv. Political Science and Sociology

Political Science and Sociology are intimately related and it is Sociology that provides the basic information regarding the origin and evolution of state and other political institutions. Political Science is also called as Policy Science and policies of the State cannot be formulated without the careful analysis of the social needs of the people. Political Science provides information to Sociology about the organization and functions of the state and how the policies and programmes of the State affect the society at large.

v. Political Science and Psychology

Psychology deals with all the aspects of human behaviour while Political Science deals only with the political behaviour of humans. Psychology throws light on why individuals and groups behave in a certain manner. It aids Political Science in understanding the behaviour of political parties and varied other groups in the state. *Barker* rightly says, 'The application of psychological clue to the riddles of human activity has indeed become the fashion of the day. If our forefathers thought biologically, we think psychologically'.

vi. Political Science and Public Administration

Political Science is closely related to Public Administration and in fact, the term 'public' denotes 'government' though Public Administration also includes the study of non-governmental organizations. Public Administration is the implementation of governmental policies and Political Science deals with the process of policy formulation. There is a similarity in the objective of Political Science and Public Administration as they both aim at optimum use of resources and social welfare.

Thus, we understand that Political Science is the systematic study of governance by the application of empirical and scientific methods of analysis. Though it involves empirical investigations, it does not generally produce precise predictions. Political Science examines the state and its organs and institutions. It also encompasses the study of societal, cultural, economic and psychological factors that influence the government. It borrows heavily from the other social sciences but its focus on power differentiates it from the other disciplines. Apart from power, Political Science also focuses on comparative politics, international relations, political theory, public law and public policy. Most importantly, the study of Political Science gives us the basic understanding of the political process, the system of government and the way in which it affects the life of every citizen.

ACTIVITY

Write a short note on how politics affects your daily life.

ACTIVITY

Collect pictures on the life and works of your favorite political thinker and explain to the class about his contributions to the discipline.

Glossary

Political Systems Various Forms of governments with different types of Constitutions

Arthashastra It is a work on political economy and administrative governance written by Kautilya in 3rd century BC.

City-State A community oriented small state with the governance of small population centered around a city.

Political Behaviour It may be defined as any action regarding authority in general and government in particular.

Authority Ability of a person or an institution to use its power and influence with legal sanction. It can also be called as legitimate use of power.

Tryst It is an appointment to meet at a certain time and place, especially one made somewhat secretly.

Destiny The things that will happen in the future

Political Dynamics The continuously changing and moving in political institutions from one stage to another stage.

Politics It is the art or science of government or governing, especially the governing of a political entity, such as a nation, and the administration and control of its internal and external affairs.



Political Science It is the branch of knowledge that deals with the state and systems of government and the scientific analysis of political activity.

Behaviouralism It stressed on objective and quantified approach to explain and predict political behaviour.

Post-Behaviouralism It is a reaction against the behavioural orthodoxy and the emphasis was on relevance over precision.

Democracy Democracy refer to a popular government based on the will of the people.

Totalitarianism It refers to the subordination of all aspects of human life to the authority of the state.

Oligarchy It is a government by the few, especially despotic power exercised by a small and privileged group for corrupt or selfish purposes.

Imperialism The policy of extending the rule or authority of an empire or nation over foreign countries, or of acquiring and holding colonies and dependencies.

Colonialism The control or governing influence of a nation over a dependent country, territory, or people.

Evaluation



I Choose the Correct answer

1) The term 'Politics' is closely related to the Greek word 'Polis' meaning,

- a) City-state b) Police Forces
- c) Politics d) Police state

2) Who told the central theme of politics is 'Who gets What, When and How?'

- a) Harold Laski b) Harold Laswell
- c) Charles E Merriam d) Franck Goodnow

3) According to David Easton Politics is

- a) 'The authoritative allocation of values'
- b) 'The authoritative allocation of resources'
- c) 'The authoritative allocation of authority'
- d) 'The authoritative allocation of power'

4) In the Indian context, who are all considered as the ancient political thinker?

- a) Kautilya and Thiruvalluvar b) Valmiki and Varahamihira
- c) Charaka and Susruta d) Viyasara and Aryabatta

5) The Concept 'Legitimacy' is closely related to

- a) Study of Law b) State and Government
- c) Legitimate ownership of Property d) Power and Authority





6) Who told that ‘Power breeds power and this form the central tenet of elitism’?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| a) Robert Michel | b) Harold Laski |
| c) David Easton | d) Charles E Merriam |

7) Who can be called as the Father of Political Science?

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a) Aristotle | b) Socrates |
| c) Plato | d) Machiavelli |

8) Who told that ‘Man is by nature a Political Animal’?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a) Plato | b) Jean Bodin |
| c) Aristotle | d) Socrates |

9) Who changed the subject matter of politics from the religious approach to the empirical observation with secular Perspectives?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| a) Thomas Hobbes | b) Niccole Machiavelli |
| c) John Locke | d) J.J. Rousseau |

10) Who gave the famous quotation, ‘History is past Politics and Politics is present History’?

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| a) Harold Laswell | b) Freeman |
| c) Charles E Merriam | d) John Marshall |

II Answer the following questions very shortly

- 1) Define the origin of the word ‘Politics’.
- 2) What do you understand by the term “Tryst with destiny”?
- 3) Describe the view of Karl Marx about Power.
- 4) Write about the views of Aristotle on Happiness.
- 5) List any three challenges highlighted by the Prime Minister Nehru.
- 6) Write about the Concept of secularism.
- 7) Explain the basic concept of Post-Behaviouralism.

III Answer the following questions shortly

- 1) Explain the Nature of Political Science.
- 2) Define the concept ‘Power’.
- 3) Write the relationship between Aristotle and Plato.
- 4) Explain the philosophical approach of Political science.
- 5) “History without Political Science has no fruit, Political Science without History has no root” - John Seeley: Explain.
- 6) Explain the legal approach to political science.

IV Answer the following questions in detail

- 1) Is Political Science an Art or Science? Substantiate your answer.
- 2) Explain the relationship between Political Science and other social sciences.
- 3) Explain the Traditional Approaches to study political science .
- 4) Explain the basic principles of Post Behaviouralism.
- 5) Explain the Context by which the subject of politics was released from the clutches of Religion.

Reference books



1. Robert Garner, Peter Ferdinand, Stephen Lawson, Introduction to Politics, Oxford University Press, New York, 2009.
2. O.P. Gauba, An Introduction to Political Theory, Macmillan Publishers India Ltd, New Delhi, 2009.

Further readings



1. Plato, The Republic.
2. Aristotle, Politics.
3. Laski, Harold J. A. Grammar of Politics. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1925.
4. International Encyclopedia of Political Science.