

Introduction

Political Science may be identified as a Science amongst Social Sciences. Political Science is also a science like different sciences. For example, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, History etc. which study society. All these social sciences touch different aspects of social life of human. So, they are called Social Sciences. Political Science has a special position among all these sciences which study specifically and comprehensively various aspects of social life. The word 'Political' is derived from the word 'Polity' of Greek language. People of Greece called their town or city as 'Polity'. Thus, it was believed, Political Science means Science which discusses the city life. It can be said that at that time there were city-states, in recent time city-states are not in existence and they are replaced by small-large or huge States. Aristotle a renowned philosopher, states that, human by nature is a social animal, obviously they wish to live in group. Isolation is impossible for human; we know that, a person is attached with human society from very birth till death. Thus human and society are closely related. In addition to social animal, human is also a political animal. Various activities are being run in the society, wherein political activities are also included and political activities are connected with politics. In short, where there is human society, politics enters.

Meaning of Political Science

Political Science studies the State systematically and scientifically. It discusses the principle matters of the State. Wherein, State, its origin, types of Government, relations between States and International Organizations are being studied. Simple definition Political Science can be given as :

'Political Science means a Science which has relation with activities and problems of States. The object of any discipline is to give explanation what it studies. In this sense, it attempts to explain systematically how political events occurs, in which manner it occurs, which are the forces and reasons responsible for it. In addition to it, it attempts to give concept of State and politics, its institution, function etc. the concept of Political Science is changing. Concept changes time to time. not only that, it seems its area is also expanding. In this manner we can see the changing meaning as well as forms of Political Science.

Ancient Ages

In ancient times political science was considered to be a part of Philosophy or moral science. What is known as "Political Science" today was known as "Rajnitishastra" in the ancient age This word makes absolutely clear the relationship between Political Science and moral science. Kautilya identified it as 'Dandniti'. Scholars like Plato had discussed politics for governments as central part of moral practices of man. Separating it from moral science and moral practices and establishing it as an

independent branch of knowledge was done by Aristotle and so he is considered to be the father of modern Political Science. The great philosopher Kautilya who separated it from moral science and established it as an independent branch of knowledge in his book "Arthshastra".

Medieval Period

Influence of theology were the most in medieval period, so Political Science was considered to be a part of theology. King holds unlimited powers because, he was considered to be part or representative of God. After that, during the time of renaissance and reformation, there was unprecedented revolution in the field of ideas and laid foundation in modern Political Philosophy. Instead of discussion on religious points, discussions were held on realistic issues like power of State, social organization, unity of nation. Thus, the concept of Political Science became more realistic.

Modern Period

The systematic study of Political Science, as an independent discipline began from the latter half of 19th Century. In the beginning of 21st Century, various universities have started study of Political Science as a separate subject. With that, important changes were come in approach of its study. Until then, study of State and subsequent matters were made by and large with idealistic approach, instead weightage were given to study of practical aspects and political behaviour in politics. This concept was known as behavioral approach. In addition to that, special weightage was given to prepare scientific approach to study of Political Science.

Nature of Political Science : Art or Science ?

Whether Political Science is a science or not is a controversial question. In the word Political Science, the word 'Science' is used as synonym of the science. So many times a question arises that, is Political Science a science like Physics or Chemistry ? The student of physics can do experiment in laboratory and arrive at generalization but the student of Political Science cannot do the same. So, it is believed that political science many not called science in this sense.

Political science can not be an exact like physics in which the principles are precise and non-controversial. In physics one can arrive at generalization very precisely but not so in the case of Political Science.

A Physical Scientist can make prediction with a great degree of precision where as a social scientist can not do the same. For example, a physical scientist can make a clear, accurate and universal prediction that a substance, when heated, would expand where as a political scientist can not make the prediction which says that democracy is unlikely to succeed where voters are illiterate. Because Political Science is related with man and men are variable by nature. And their nature are not the same irrespective of condition and so political science is not a accurate or pure science.

However, some political scientists believe that as science understood in a broader sense, Political Science is also a 'science'. Knowledge of any subject based on systematic study is called 'science'. Even though, in political science one may not arrive generalization by laboratory experiments as physics yet it is a science because it is studied in scientific way. The findings or principle are based on the

study of observation and analysis of events which take place in various States of huge laboratory of World. For example, after the study of Government of the world, it is generalized that democracy is better than dictatorship. This principle is accepted at global level. At Present, political scientists are trying to give definite identification as 'science' to Political Science using various methods and techniques of behavioral approach. And from this point of view the scholars of Political Science are known as political scientists.

On the other hand, Political Science is also known as 'Art' because the principles of political science are implemented in practice also. And so, some scholars prefer to see political science as 'Art' rather than science. Like a born artist creating skillfully a piece of architectural beauty, a politician, even without any systematic knowledge of general principles of political science can become a master in the art of governance through common sense, institution, imagination or a sense of discrimination and become a successfully politician. In active politics one can come across many examples of individual's having great achievements to their credit without any formal study of political science. This is true for many of our politicians. Many people consider 'compromise' to be the art to politics. However, we must not forgot that like an artist with systematic knowledge of this art, a politician can also become a good and successful politician through the acquisition of systematic knowledge of political science and practical politics.

Subject Matter of Political Science

After discussing the definition, meaning and nature of political science we will get an idea about the subject matter or subject of study of Political Science.

(1) Study of State : Political science studies the state (a) It studies about the theories related to rise of State. (b) It studies fundamental elements of state like, population, territory, government and Sovereignty. (c) The study of function and role of the state what the state should or should not do and different political theories like - Individualism, Anarchism, Liberalism, Socialism, Communism, Totalitarianism etc. is included. (d) Besides, it also studies basic ideas of Political Science like Law, Freedom, Equality, Justice, Human Rights and Fraternity etc.

(2) Study of Government: Political Science studies the most important part of the state, i.e. government It studies constitution which determines, the government, its composition, nature, power and functions. It is concerned with the definition of constitution, its types and its formation etc. It also studies the relationship between the three organs of a government namely, executive, legislature and judiciary and their composition, function, roles etc. Study of democracy, dictatorship, military rule, their nature, characteristics, features, merits and demerits and the changes like revolution or change of power etc. is also the part of the study of politics. The distribution of power and due to it the rise of Unitary Government, Federal government, its composition nature, merit demerits etc. are discussed. One component of Government Executive, how its formed and the rise of different types of government, like, Parliamentary Government Presidential Government, their theories, formation, relationship between legislature and executive, their characteristic, merits–demerits are also discussed. The study of institutions of local government, municipal corporations, and infrastructure of Panchayatiraj in rural areas and its institutions which are originated due to decentralization of powers, is also include in it.

(3) Study of Administrative Department : Political Science studies executive and administrative department. The implementation of laws which are passed by legislature and different policies and programmes is the function of executive, but in practice, the administration of the same is done by administrative department. So Study of various issues of public administrative is included in Political Science. State or government implements their decisions through administrative department, so it has much importance. In the study of Political Science, study of administration is also included.

(4) Study of Law : Political Science studies Law. Any government has to function within the broad framework of law. Therefore, political science studies law, its origin, nature-types, formulation, its scope and limitations etc.

(5) Study about Citizenship : Any state ultimately consists of its citizens, therefore, political science studies citizenship and its principles, the relationship between state and citizen and his rights and duties are part of political science.

(6) Study of Electoral Systems : Participation by citizens in the governance of state specially in a democracy is considered to be indispensable. Adult franchise, the necessary qualifications for that, electoral system and its types, representation and ideas about it relationship between a political representative and voters also form part of the study of Political Science.

(7) Study of Political Parties : Like citizens play an important role as the voter in management of State, political parties also play their role for capturing the power. So, the political science studies political parties, tries to define them and their role and functions. Party System, its characteristic feature, its merits and demerits limitations, its importance and role all are studied in political science. The study of political science also includes pressure groups and interest group as they try to influence political processes.

(8) Study of Nation and Nationality : In modern times the state has assumed the form of a nation- state. The study of Political science, therefore, includes study of nation and nationality, its definition, meaning, nature and factors shaping them, their merits and demerits and their pitfalls. Thus, Political Science studies nation and nationally.

(9) Study of International Politics : The relations between nation- state and relations between other nation-state which are known as International Relations or International Politics, is also studied in political science. It studies international politics, its meaning and nature, related principle of the theories, foreign policy and its formulation, diplomacy, national security, problems of war and peace international institutions like United Nations, their role and composition etc.

In short, the scope and study of the field of political science is very wide, i.e., it studies from Grampanchayat to international issues and day-by-day its scope is increasing.

Political Science and Politics

Very often the words political science and politics are used as synonym to each other, infect it is not proper. There is a big difference between Political Science and Politics. Political Science is discussing about the State. Its component and principles of Government. It gives the knowledge about the State. Politics in an activity which takes place near the centre of Power. Politics is the struggle to get Power.

We may understand the word Politics in narrow and broader both the sense : In the narrow sense

“By which activities or works the government is elected and by it the political program or policy get accelerated are called Politics”. Where as in broader sense “Politics means those activities which are related to administration of Public works. In other words Political Science is about the public work or activity. The Persons who take interest in the works of state or problems of states activity are known as Politicians, means one who is related to politics. In the competition to get power, many intrigues are used and so, many-a-times, it is called that politics is the game of intrigues. Apart from this, Politics is also identified as the practical science because besides a science, politics is an art also.

We may define Political Science in detail as, “Political Science gives the knowledge or information about state, its objectives and its relations with States.

There is also an opinion that, Political Science is related to Government, and according to this meaning, it studies the base of State and Principles of government. The scholars of political science are identified as Political Scientist.

The stream of politics is continuous changing. In Modern times, the influence of Politics is increasing in ones life. There may be hardly any person who is detached from Politics.! Every person is connected with politics either knowingly or unknowingly. There is politics every where, i.e. in family, group, caste group or other institutions. Today, due to the development of technology and fast means of communication, people are familiar with the politics of state and foreign state. Thus, at present politics becomes an important feature of civic life. Whether we desire it or not, Politics touches almost all aspects of our life in one or other way and influences them. There is not any field where the politics does not get entry. Thus, politics enters in our life very deeply.

The Importance of the Study of Political Science

The importance or the significance of the study of Political Science is as below :

(1) Preventing intervention by the State : The State’s sphere of action is increasing day by day leading to increasing intervention by it in the life of citizens also. The individual comes into contact with politics through his government, city, school, religious place, trade union, business organization, clubs, Political parties etc. Politics is an undeniable fact of human existence. Thus, by the study of Political Science we understand as how far the state interferes in our lives.

(2) Becoming aware of rights and duties : The study of Political Science enables us to know about our rights and duties. It also makes us aware of what the provisions are about to protect these rights. It is for this reason that the study of a country’s constitution and its Government, is compulsory in the Western States.

(3) Knowledge about Types of Government : The study of political science is about different forms of government as well as comparative study of it. By this type of study we get an idea about that which type of government is better. At present, it is generally accepted fact that of different forms of government, democracy is the best possible one. Since in this form of government the ultimate power is with the people, the study of Political Science becomes necessary.

(4) Knowledge about organs of Government : Three organs of government : legislature, executive and judiciary are studied deeply through the study of political science. Being a good citizen,

the information of this type is inevitable, because through it, we have the information like what is the function of the government and which are the functions of each organs of the state which we follow.

(5) Knowledge of Decentralization of Power : By the study of political science we have an idea about the local government bodies, its duty and the scope of power. Not only so, but we may know the relations between center and these organs. The study of political science enables us to participate in Panchayats, Municipalities, Corporation etc. local government institutions. And only because of this, local government institutions are identified as the 'training school of democracy'.

(6) Participation in decision making Process : In democracy, Participation of each and every citizen is desirable. So all those who are affected by these decisions have to participate in decision-making process is inevitable. Thus, the study of Political Science is necessary for effective Participation in decision making process.

(7) Knowing about Various Processes of Political Power : Political Science systematically studies politics and the processes related to political power around organized life. It is politics that takes binding decisions as to how scarce resources should be distributed among different segment of the society and these decisions affect us all in one way or other. It is necessary for us to know as to how these decisions are taken. This makes the study of political science necessary.

(8) To become informed about International Affairs : Every State has to maintain relations with other states which give rise to international politics. Political science explains the international politics by giving information about international laws, international institutions, global trend etc. International Politics is abundant with political as well as different problems. To explain and to solve these problems, the study of political science becomes inevitable.

(9) Knowing basic Values : Freedom and liberty equality, fraternity, justice etc. are basic values of man's social life. This knowledge can be acquired only through the study of political science. Therefore, the study of Political Science is necessary.

Thus, the study of Political Science simply cannot be underestimated. Since political science in a broader sense, prepares human for such good life, its study becomes necessary. After all a good citizen is the best wealth of any State. Study of political science helps an individual to become a good citizen. So everyone should study the Political Science.

Relationship of Political Science with other Social Sciences

Being a social science, political science has relations with other social sciences. Various tendencies of human being are associated with different social sciences and therefore, to understand proper meaning of political science, it is necessary to know its relationship with other social sciences. We will study in which manner political science is associated with other social science specially with economics, sociology geography, psychology and history.

Political Science and Economics : Political Science is related with functions of state, its problems and objectives where as Economics is the science of means and wealth, so it studies with the resources, distribution, their exchange and their consumption. In fact, the relationship between these two is accepted from ancient age.

The relationship between these two sciences become more strong specially after Industrial Revolution. Since last few years the influence of economics on political science has increased. The relationship between these two sciences may be shown as bellow :

- (i) In political science, the State and in Economics the means and wealth are the center point, with a ultimate objective of public welfare. If there is peace and proper administrative system in the state, than there is the development of trade and commerce, industries and economical activities in State. Preliminary work of the State is only to keep peace and proper administration.
- (ii) The state has to take care that, there should not prevailed economic dissatisfaction among people. Economic dissatisfaction give rise to revolution and violent revolution is also possible and because of it the stability of the state is also imperiled.
- (iii) Many states had suffered from economic problems during the time period after the Second World War period and so Government started intervention in the field of production, distribution and exchange. At present, the Government owned the price control policy and the import export policy. Thus, today most of the problems have become economic problems and state has to get ready ever to solve it. The State machinery is depended upon the economic machinery. The state which has strong economy, possess more power. For example, because of strong economy, USA became powerful in the world.
- (iv) Economic principles are the basics of Political ideologies like Sociology, Communalism etc. and to explain them, the study of economic helps us. We should not forget that only because of economic reasons, the Britain had entered in India.
- (v) How far these two sciences are closely connected is cleared by the quick implementation of economic liberalization since from last few years.

Despite the fact there is a close relationship between Political Science and Economics, their field of study are different. Both the social discipline have contributed significantly to each others growth and development but the subject of the study and thinking are different.

Political Science and Sociology : Being social animal, human's religious, political, economic educational, culture etc. relations are considered as social relations The scope of sociology is very wide and so it covers political science also. The relations between these two can be explained as below :

(i) The study of sociology help us to study Political science, because it gives us the information about the rise and development of the state. Apart from this, we must not forget that when the state system was started, it was known as a social institution rather than political institution.

(ii) History of human life, states that humans' social life has started earlier than his political life. Thus, as per the point of view of time, sociology is ancient than political science human were lived wandered life in starting, they started stable life after to many centuries through discovery of agriculture. Due to this, community life and social life started and after a gap of long time their political life started and was accepted.

(iii) Sociologists consider state as a social institution. Because it has the capacity to guide the society. Also regulate social behavior and practice. Thinkers like Aristotle, Hegal, Karlmarks and Mark Weber has analyzed both in Political and Sociology.

(iv) The close relationship between political science and social science has given birth to a new discipline called 'Political Sociology'. Political Sociology has made significant theoretical contribution to Political Science in terms of concepts like political development, political modernizatoin, political culture etc.

(v) Relationship concerned with marriage, family, property, caste, inheritance etc. are part of the study of sociology. However, decisions regarding all these social questions have to be taken by the state.

(vi) In order to study, nature and function of State, it is necessary to study nature, specialty and function of a society. To study Indian society; its nature, its specialty etc. must be studied. To hold powers and in election, issues like cast or religion connect Political Science with various organs and aspects of the society.

State takes decisions on behalf of the whole society and binding to all and social institutions and forces are influenced by these decisions. Social change in desired direction and formation of desired social arrangement, it is accepted that State power to be used in modern time.

Political Science and Geography : While considering both these sciences, it seems that there is a close relation between them. Population, territories, Government and sovereignty are included in the elements of State so State is associated with definite geographical territory. Definite territory and Government are the physical support of the State. Many thinkers have stated about the political effect of geographical conditions. In which starting from Aristotle to the scholars of modern times are included in it.

In ancient Greece, there were many islands and due to absence of geographical unity, political unity could not established and city states were formed. Because of geographical location, its history and its institution of Switzerland holds special position. It can be said because of geographical formation of Britain, it has become great marine power. Germany is considered as the heart of Europe but it does not have any natural borders and so the leaders and thinkers of Germany had kept though in front to get great military power. In the same manner, America is protected by oceans in East and in West, at southern side also there is a sea.

India has oceans at three sides and in north, because of Himalayan mountain range, good amount of Geographical protection is available. Due to these type of borders sufficient time for defence is made available. In past, in the attacks on Soviet Russia, by Napoleon of France and Hitler of Germany both were defeated. Because of huge territory, by allowing enemy army in interior part of country Russian Army was more comfortable to besiege it.

In other sense, geographical area is considered as an important basic element of the State. The part of beneath of the land surface of state, space above the land and if the state is at seashore, than 12 mile of water territory from the seacoast is included in this area.

The minerals and chemical materials which are found in land area of States have an important position at national and international level. Economic prosperity of many states is depended on such natural wealth. For example, the prosperity of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait is only because of petroleum. The prosperity of the country is also increasing due to minerals and oil well in India. To acquire control over these States many wars took place.

The geographical matters are considered important in international Politics also. The powerful states are always eager to influence or to conquer strategically significant area to increase their area.

Thus, in reference to geography, in recent times Geo politics hold an important position in International Politics. In Geo-Politics the significant point is about land. In other words, it decides political life-specially in inter-state relation. In this manner, the relation between Political Science and geography is very old.

Political Science and Psychology : In modern times, the authors of Political Science have tried to explain many matters of political science with the help of Psychology. Its time to think through psychology. Both these sciences are connected with each other in a good manner. We can understand

the relation between these two as :

(i) As and when democracy is extensively accepted, the importance of study of Psychology has been increasing because in democracy, the public opinion is at important position. Every political party continuously tried to divert the mass psychology in to its favour by using different means of propaganda. Ruling political party formed its program with an eye on public opinion to hold power. Where as opposition party is continuously trying to divert public opinion in to its favour. Thus, for the formation of public opinion, the study of psychology is very useful.

(ii) The help of psychology is also taken for cultivation of the feeling of nationalism. Because, the emotions or feelings play an important role in the psychological unity for the formation of nation. Thus, Psychological concept lies in the base of national unity.

(iii) Whenever, Government formulate new programs or laws, the mass psychology has to be take in to consideration. The power may be lost by avoiding the mass psychology.

(iv) The major reason of revolution is psychological dissatisfaction, because the revolutionaries believe that, the ruling Government is not right and there is no way democratic way to dismissed it, their Psychological unrest inspires them to revolt. The success of leaders is based an other merits as well as on the merit of knowing the mass psychology.

Thus, at present, the psychological study is increasing. It has showed that behind the human behavior, the intelligence as well as mental attitudes are also playing an important role. In his book 'The Human Nature in Politic', Professor Greham Walles said that, apart from intelligence, habits tendencies suggestions, imitations, emotions etc. play an important role in Political behaviour and practice. From all these points, on this basis, it can be said that Political Science and Psychology are supplementary to each other.

Political Science and History : knowledge of history is considered to be necessary for the study of political science History is the collection of events which happened in the past during different time period Through history we may know that, how the state were created, when it was created as well as what was its nature. The authentic information through history helps us to construed definite ideas about state.

As we have discussed earlier, there is no scope for experiments in political science like Physics or Chemistry, and so, precise or perfect principles cannot be selected. In Political Science the subject matter is living human being. As a result, the help of history is necessary to establish principles. For example, the help of history is necessary to take decision about the replacement of government either by violent revolution or by the non-violent electoral system. History states that non-violent system is far better than violent. As a result, it is accepted. So, history becomes a laboratory for the student of political scientist.

History is written on many subjects as if history of language-literature, history of art and Culture, history of discoveries etc. Each of these histories does not touch political science directly. But in fact all these matters occur in State only and final decision related to this are taken by state only. The writings of historians give much information to the student of Political Science. For example, until history of Europe of 19th century does not explain the significance of Anarchism, Individualism, socialism etc. till then it is considered as mere description of fact. In this manner, unless important history of India freedom movement is not understood, it remains meaning less.

Thus, in spite of basic difference between Political Science and History, both are closely connected subjects. The study of history is like raw material for the student of Political Science. The events noted by history are useful directly or indirectly to the student of Political Science. History is the discipline which explains past where as Political Science is concerned with Past, Present and Future. So, in Political Science there is the place for concrete facts as well as the expectations of future. Political Science is concerned with how is the state and how it should be. Whereas history is concerned with how was the State. Thus the study of Political science and history is supplementary to each other. Study area of history is very wide, where as in comporision with history, study area of Political Science is limited.

EXERCISE

1. Answer the following question in detail :

- (1) Discuss in detail the meaning of Political Science
- (2) Explain the nature of Political Science **OR** Explain that Political Science is an art or science.
- (3) Discuss about the purview and Scope of Political Science.
- (4) Discuss in detail about Political Science and Politics.
- (5) Explain the importance of the study of Political Science.

2. Write the Short Note on the following :

- (1) Relation between Political Science and History.
- (2) Relation between Political Science and Economic.
- (3) Relation between Political Science and Sociology.
- (4) Relation between Political Science and Geography.
- (5) Relation between Political Science and Psychology.

3. Answer the following question in brief (five to seven sentences) :

- (1) Why does the human being identify as Social-Political animal?
- (2) Clarify the idea of Political Science in the context of modern time.
- (3) Politics is an art. – Explain it.
- (4) Why should every citizen should study Political Science?
- (5) In which manner Political Science is connected with economics?
- (6) What study do the Political Sociology?
- (7) What is the role of Psychology in the study of Political Science.

4. Answer the following questions in one–two sentences :

- (1) Why human called a social animal?
- (2) Give the short and simple definition of Political Science.
- (3) Why does Political Science not a pure Science?
- (4) Give simple definition of Politics.
- (5) Political Science have relation with which other Social Sciences?
- (6) What is studied by Economics?
- (7) Which are the organs of the Government?

5. Write correct option in the given box :

- (1) Who was the father of Political Science? ☐
(a) Herold Laski (b) Aristotle (c) Karlmarks (d) Jhon Lock
- (2) What does Greece People called to a city or town? ☐
(a) Polity (b) office (c) organization (d) assembly
- (3) What is the name of the famous book of Kautilya? ☐
(a) Kind and Population (b) law
(c) Arthshastra (d) Development
- (4) What is identified as compromise or an adjustment? ☐
(a) History (b) Politics (c) idealism (c) geography
- (5) What is connected with Geo-Politics? ☐
(a) Land (b) Morality (c) psychology (d) sociology
- (6) What is the limit of State Marine Boundary? ☐
(a) 48 miles (b) 36 miles (c) 12 miles (d) 4 miles
- (7) Is Politics a game of tactics? ☐
(a) True (b) false
(c) none from a and b (d) both a and b
- (8) Whose book is – “The human nature in Politics” ☐
(a) Socrates (b) Max Webar
(c) Greham Wales (d) Jean Jack Rousseau

Activity

- Arrange the discussion - Utility of Study of Political Science in the formation of a Citizen.

●