



Dear Students, in the last chapter the discipline Political Science was introduced to you. Did you question what is Political Science dealing with? If Botany is concerned with the study of plants and sociology the study of society then what Political Science is about? What is the main focus of study of Political Science?



### Introduction

Political Science is the systematic study of State. We all live in State. The world is viewed as an embodiment of many States. State as an idea or a concept is derived from a historical process of political, cultural, religious and economic contexts of a region. Today when the word 'State' is mentioned and used it usually indicate the modern State. The world today comprises of modern States. Modern State is a public order completely different from the pre-modern notion comprising of a body politics consisting of the rulers and the ruled. Hence a proper understanding of what State is and what not is quite essential to students of political science.

### 2.1 Meaning and Definition of State

The State is the most universal and most powerful of all social institutions. The State is a natural institution. **Aristotle** said 'Man (Human) is a social animal and by nature s/he is a political being. To him, to live in the State and to be a man were



### Learning Objectives

- ❖ This explanatory chapter about the State will enable you to understand what are the major concerns of the study of political science especially what is State and its functions.
- ❖ Demonstrate the different views of various thinkers about the State.
- ❖ Introduce you the elements of the State.
- ❖ Facilitate you to identify the linkage between Society, State and Government.
- ❖ Familiarize the concepts of Modern State, Welfare State and Soft State.

identical. The modern term 'state' is derived from the word 'status'. It was **Niccolo Machiavelli** (1469 – 1527) who first used the term 'State' in his writings. The state is necessary because it comes

into existence out of the basic needs of life. It continues to remain for the sake of good life. The aims, desires, and aspirations of human beings are translated into action through the State. Though the State is a necessary institution, no two writers agree on its definition. This



disagreement makes the study of the State more creative and interesting. For instance, we have social Contract theory in political science. The three main thinkers associated with social contract theory are *Thomas Hobbes*, *John Locke* and *Jean Jack Rousseau*. The three thinkers collectively agree that humans need to be controlled by the State. At the same time, they disagree on to what extent the control can be exercised by the State on humans.

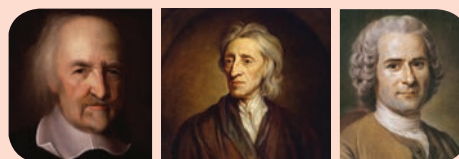
Political Thinkers	Human Nature	State of Nature	Social contract
<b>Hobbes</b>	Man is a wolf unto his fellow man	A state of war	Leviathan
<b>Locke</b>	Man has perfect freedom	Property is not secure	Common wealth
<b>Rousseau</b>	Man is free but immoral	No security or morality	State guided by the general will

## ACTIVITY



### Find Me....

The social Contract Theory of the State was put forth by the three main proponents collectively called contractualists. The three agreed that humans need to be controlled by the State. But to what extent that control should be has been debated in their unique way. Find out who the three are?



## 2.2 Essential Elements of State

The state is a set of institutions which has an unquestionable authority over people. Hence all modern States have their own Constitution that moderates the freedom and privileges of the citizens of the State with the coercive and unquestionable power of the State. Hence Constitution is considered as a limiting

agent on the overwhelming authority of the State.

The *Montevideo* Convention on Rights and Duties of States held in 1933 gave the fundamental understanding of State. A State must have a permanent population, a defined territory and a government that can control the territory and its people and conducts international

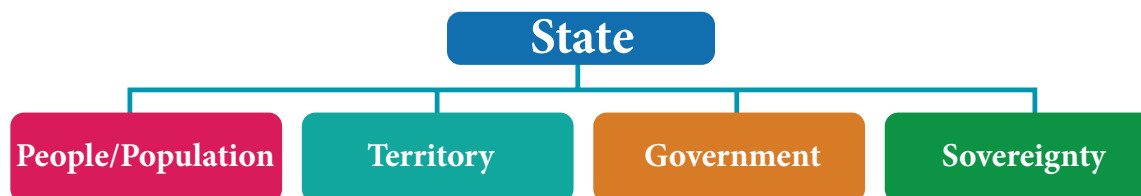
relations with other States. Consequently, the recognition of a State by other States

becomes crucial for the legitimacy of the State from an external point of view.

### Definition of State

- ❖ **Aristotle** defined the State as a “union of families and villages having for its end a perfect and self – sufficing life by which it meant a happy and honorable life”.
- ❖ To **Holland**, the State is “a numerous assemblage of human beings generally occupying a certain territory amongst whom the will of the majority or class is made to prevail against any of their number who oppose it.”

- ❖ **Burgess** defines the State as “a particular portion of mankind viewed as an organised unit.”
- ❖ According to **Garner**, “State is a community of people occupying a definite form of territory free of external control and possessing an organised government to which people show habitual obedience.”



## CENSUS 2011

15th CENSUS of INDIA SINCE 1872

Cost ₹ 22,00Cr

Cost per person ₹ 18.19

No. of census functionaries 0.27Cr

No. of languages in which schedules were canvassed 16

No. of languages in which training manuals were prepared 18

Paper utilised 8,000 MTs

Material moved 10,500 MTs

The population of India at 121.02 cr is almost equal to the combined population of USA, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Japan

2001-2011 is the first decade (with the exception of 1911-1921) which has added lesser population compared to the previous decade

The population has grown by more than 18.1Cr during the decade 2001-2011

Overall sex ratio at the national level has increased by 7 points since Census 2001 to reach 940

### Census 2001

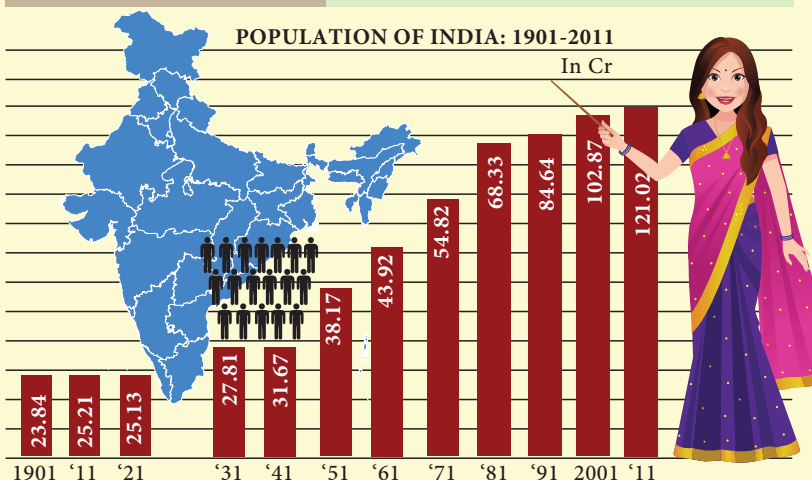
Sex ratio:933

Males 532.2mn (51.74%)  
Females 495.5mn (48.28%)

### Census 2011

Sex ratio:940

Males 623.7mn (51.54%)  
Females 588.5mn (48.48%)



**Census 2011: population pegged at 121.02 cr**

## Population

It is the people who make the State. The population is essential for the State. What should be the size of the population has been a debate by thinkers from ancient time. According to **Plato**, the ideal number would be 5040. According to **Aristotle**, the number should be neither too large nor too small. It should be large enough to be self – sufficient and small enough to be well governed. **Rousseau** determined 10,000 to be an ideal number for a State. Ancient thinkers view on the number was based on the small city – States like Athens and Sparta. The modern States vary in population. India has a population of 121.02 cr people according to 2011 census of India.



According to Plato, the ideal number of State is 5040. The reason is the number 5040 is divisible by numbers from 1 to 12. In the case of 11 the remainder is 2. During the time of emergency the population can be divided in various columns and instructions could be given.

## Territory

People need territory to live and to organize themselves socially and politically. It may be remembered that the territory of the State includes land, water, and air space. The modern States differ in their sizes. The territory is necessary for citizenship. As in the case of population, no definite size with regard to extent of the area of the State can be fixed. There are small and big States. In the words of Prof. Elliott, “Territorial

sovereignty or the superiority of State, overall within its boundaries and complete freedom from external control has been a fundamental principle of the modern State life”.

India has an area of 32,87,263 sq. km. approximately India occupies 2.4% of the global area. The opening article of the Indian Constitution speaks about the Territory of India.

There is a restriction of movement of individuals from one State to another State in the name of territorial sovereignty. But sitting in one country you can communicate to a person to another country using the internet. How do you see this to do with the sovereignty of the States? Examine why social networking websites like Facebook, twitter and YouTube are banned in some countries.

## Government

Government is the working agency of the State. It is the political organization of the State. Indian political scientist **Prof. A. Appadurai** defined government as the agency through which, the will of the State is formulated, expressed and realized. According to **C.F. Strong**, in order to make and enforce laws, the State must have a supreme authority. Government is a fixed structure.

## Sovereignty

The fourth essential element of the State is sovereignty. The word ‘sovereignty’ means supreme and final legal authority above. No legal power can exist beyond sovereignty. The concept of “sovereignty” was developed in conjunction with the rise of the modern State. The term Sovereignty

is derived from the Latin word “superanus” which means “supreme”. In a traditional understanding, the characteristics of sovereignty are absoluteness, permanence, universality, indivisibility, exclusiveness, and inalienability.

The father of the modern theory of sovereignty was **Jean Bodin** (1530 – 1597)

a French political thinker. According to **Harold J. Laski**, “It is by possession of sovereignty that the State is distinguished from all other forms of human association”. Human Association would mean anything from family, society and even voluntary organization similar kinds through which humans identify themselves together.



- ❖ Can there be a Permanent Chief Minister or Permanent Prime Minister in a democracy?
- ❖ Find out the maximum term of office, a person can be elected as President of the United States of America? Why?



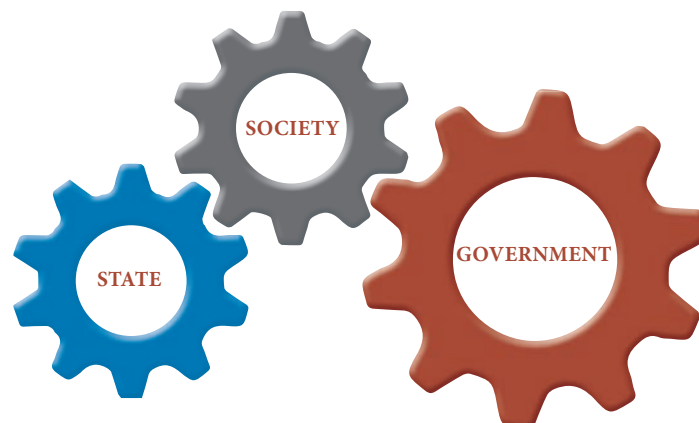
## ACTIVITY



**Look at the newspaper advertisement given by the Government of India. Answer the following questions:**

- ❖ What do you understand by the word ‘State’?
- ❖ List five ways in which you think that the government affects your daily life.
- ❖ Why do you think the State needs to make rules for everyone in the form of laws?

constituted what we call as a society. Individuals for their emotional need that is often reciprocal lived in the family.



Families came together under the umbrella of the community for a greater objective of security. The communities so formed made a higher level of organization called society.

## 2.3 Society, state and Government

### Society, State and Government – How are they interrelated?

Historically when humans evolved from hunters and gatherers to a settled community, they started to produce goods. Group of families constituted a community and a group of communities

When society degenerates, it has a consequent effect on the communities and ultimately upon its constituent families and each and every individual would lead to suffering. Thus, it was, for this reason, humans came together, guided by reason felt the need of the State.



State came into existence out of an imminent need that in the absence of a centralized and a coercive authority human cannot be saved from each other. This control in modern States is done legally through a set of rules and regulations. In a democracy, these rules and regulations are framed by the legislature, enforced by the executive and the judiciary adjudicates the made laws and the implemented laws on the basis of their legality and judiciousness. The function of law making, implementing and interpreting is the function of government.

The society consists of a large number of individuals, families, groups, and institutions. The early political thinkers considered both State and society as one. The state is a part of society but is not a form of society.

The membership of the State and society are the same. But they differ as regards to their purpose. The State exists for one great but single, purpose; society exists for a number of purposes; some great and some small. From the point of view of the organization, the State is a single organization – legal, whereas society comprises within itself many organizations. The State exercises its control over humans by coercion and exact obedience. On the other hand, the society employs a method of voluntary action. The purposes for which society exists makes the persuasive methods necessary. The multiplicity of the organization of society gives ample opportunity to the members to relinquish one association and join another in the event they are subject to any coercion. Thus you must understand a State without a centralized authority of coercive force and a society without the method of persuasion will fall apart.

STATE	SOCIETY
State came into existence after the origin of the society.	Society is prior to the State.
The scope of the State is limited.	The scope of society is much wider
The state has fixed territory.	Society has no fixed territory.
The state is a political organization.	Society is a social organization.
The State has the power to enforce laws.	Society has no power to enforce laws.

STATE	GOVERNMENT
The state consists of population, territory, government and sovereignty.	Government is part of the State.
The state possesses original powers.	Powers of the government are derived from the State.
The state is permanent and continues forever.	Government is temporary. Governments can be replaced with peoples will
State is abstract and invisible	Government is concrete and is visible.

## State and Government

Government is often used with the 'State' as a synonym. But both the government and the State are two different entities. There are differences between the State and the government. They are explained in the table given below.

### Modern State

Before examining the functions of Modern State, you must understand what is Modernity? What is called as a Modern State?

Modernity in historical term means the period of questioning the tradition or rejecting the age-old set of beliefs, practices and socio-cultural norms. Modernity laid the foundations of the prioritization of individualism, freedom, equality, fostering of scientific temper in every walk of life and thus modernity led humans from agrarianism towards industrialization, urbanization, and secularization. This intellectual shift drastically influenced the understanding of the society, State and government. For instance, the efforts of Raja Ram Mohan Roy to reform the Indian society are directly linked with the influence of western modernity on Indian thinkers. In Political science, modernity impacted on the concepts of State, liberty, equality, justice and so on. The rational foundation of modern State is often argued to be the treaty of Westphalia signed in the year 1648.

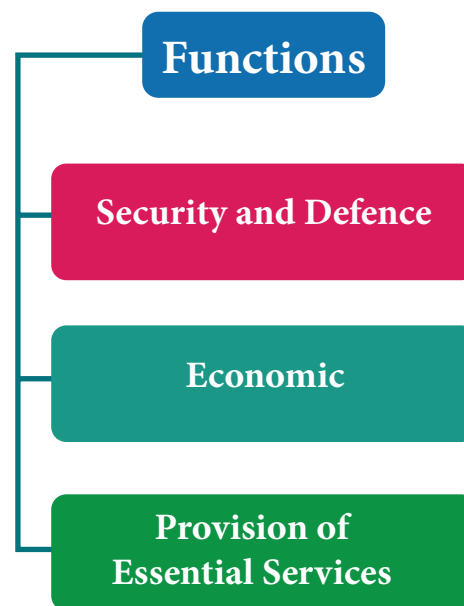
The idea of modern State was exported throughout the world during the nineteenth century by the process of European Colonization. The South Asian States that became independent from colonial control after second world war can be brought under

the umbrella of post-colonial States and can be compared with the post-colonial States of the other parts of the world to assess their relative merits and drawbacks for improving their governance systems.

### 2.4 Functions of Modern State

The modern State is a developed State. The State should strive to keep its people secure and safe. The State should ensure that its borders are sealed and protected. The market needs to be integrated into the society by a well-knit macroeconomic structure. 'Citizen first' should be the motto of all the activities of the State. The sole principle of governance of modern State is whether the action of the State leads to the promotion of the welfare of its people. Accordingly, the State engages itself as a provider of essential services.

It is largely accepted that the modern State focuses on three main functions.



#### Security and Defense

The States of today's world consider the meaning of security from multiple

standpoints. Terms like Human Security have emerged to put citizens first. Inspired by the philosopher Immanuel Kant's idea of perpetual peace, the States of the world came together as 'league of nations' and later as the 'United Nations Organisation and have been debating the terms security and defence in terms of promoting peace.

### Economic functions

The modern state is supposed to intervene in the economic functions of the political system. The State needs to support the people, make them realize their potential for their betterment. Protecting consumers, weaker sections, investing in areas where there is no profit are those included in the economic functions of the modern state.

### Provision of Essential Services

From 'cradle to grave' modern state is supposed to care for its citizens. The fundamental needs such as food, clean drinking water, providing education, healthcare, and social security for the population are the responsibilities of the modern state. You can find the number of schemes and projects of Government of

India and the various state governments to be in this direction. The noon meal scheme and the nutrition's meal schemes in all Government schools initiated by the Government of Tamil Nadu and adopted in different parts of the country is one such example.

The modern State strived for the welfare of its people and hence another concept came into existence called 'Welfare State'.

## 2.5 Concept of Welfare State

Have you ever noticed that the Directive principles of the State policy of the Indian Constitution have been placarding the western European idea of the Welfare State? Have you ever thought why the propelling mechanisms of socio-economic development have been kept in Part IV of the Constitution as an advisory to the State whereas the guarantee of political and civil rights has been made as a non-negotiable guarantee as Fundamental Right? What is the reason? Why could economic rights figure as the part of Fundamental right in the constitution?

### ACTIVITY



- ❖ Examine the relevance of MGNREGA, Right to Education Act, The National Food Security Act. Are these rights, legal rights or fundamental right?
- ❖ Discuss about the contributions of J.S. Mill and H.J.Laski towards the concept of welfare state.



It is a reality that the abundance of resources with a minimal population has been the main reason for the successful functioning of welfare State model. The Scandinavian countries are excellent examples of welfare State. Though the Constitution of India strives for a welfare State the non-abundance of resources and a huge population has been the impediment in realizing the goals of the Welfare State.

The concept of welfare State has its origin in Western Europe after the Second World War. The main idea of welfare State is that the government of welfare State plays a vital role in human development. The role of the welfare State extends to the protection and promotion of the well being of its citizens. The economic and social well being of the citizens is based on (1) The principle of equality of opportunity (2) Equitable distribution of wealth (3) Public responsibility for those who cannot afford themselves the minimal provisions for leading a good life.

India before independence was a Colonial State under British rule. Indians were subjects of the English crown. Once India attained Independence, we had our Constitution that has been deeply inspired by the western model of welfare State.

## 2.6 Concept of Soft State

Nobel Laureate Karl Gunnar Myrdal identified what he called as societal indiscipline in the Asian States when compared to the western countries. He identified this societal indiscipline as the characteristics of soft State. Social indiscipline, corruption, and weak law enforcement are the main characteristics of a soft State.

- ❖ In western countries, the gender of the unborn baby (fetus) is disclosed as part of the standard procedure and it is usual that the expecting mother knows the gender of the unborn baby.
- ❖ Why in India the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 prohibits the communication of gender of the foetus to the pregnant woman or to her relatives by words, signs or any other method?

The post-colonial developing States are generally categorized as soft States where their institutions of governance are not fully developed. Our inability to adhere to standards and to enforce law and maintain discipline makes our country as a soft State. A soft State cannot advance further in refining its democratic values.

### ACTIVITY



Find the difference between soft state and soft power, now relate these concepts with independent India.

As a student identify the list of social indiscipline and the ways of correcting them from your view.

## 2.7 Concept of Over Developed State

Almost all the States of South Asia are modern democracies. Yet, what makes them lag behind the western countries in development? When the institutions of governance such as the Parliament, the bureaucracy, and the planning machinery



are imported and customized during colonial times, why is it that development is a slow process in these countries? Hamza Alawi, explains the case of the governability crisis of Pakistan and Bangladesh using the concept of Over Developed State

Overdeveloped State is an explanation offered to the ineffectiveness of the functioning of post-colonial States that operate with the similar structure of bureaucratic governance before and after their independence. Despite political liberation, the transformative approach did not percolate down the administrative structure of the States after they emerged free from the colonial yoke. The colonial powers of western Europe maintained double standards in designing the polity of the colonized States. When their respective States recognized political life, liberty and economic freedom of its citizens and in total the State was like a pet for its people, on the contrast the States were over centralized with unquestionable power in the colonized States. Such an arrangement was congenial to the colonizers to have unfretted siphoning of wealth from their colonies. This massive exploitation was effectively engineered by the bureaucracy that continued the colonial legacy even after independence with no or little change in the attitude of the political class that replaced the colonial masters.

When the State gets increasingly modernized when the society and its economy are lagging behind without modernization the State and the society grossly mismatched each other. This creates a divide between the people and the State's apparatus. What is good

for people are not decided by them in a representative democracy but by an influential few. In the case of Pakistan and Bangladesh, Hamza Alawai coins the word 'military bureaucracy oligarchy' that is similar to the license raj of India and over-centralization as a continuation of colonial legacy that has been constantly addressed by the government of India.

## 2.8 Concept of post-colonial State

Post-colonial State is the name of new nation States that have emerged out of the process of decolonization after the Second World War. Post-colonial State is used synonymously with developmental State. The post-colonial State has the features of colonial State as far as the political institutions are concerned but there is only a shift in the objective of these institutions.

In general, post-colonial States exhibit a high degree of poverty, political instability and the crisis of governance. The mismatch between the society with its traditional power structure overlapping with modern States has largely resulted in such a situation.

It is obvious that the Colonial powers that ventured into newer worlds destroyed the main parts of native traditions and cultures and further constantly replaced them with their own ones. This cultural import led to conflicts as and when they became independent as they suddenly faced the challenge of developing a new national identity and self-confidence. This is one of the aspects why the sharp divide of the ruler and ruled remained in post-colonial States whereby the State actors tend to behave with an upper hand.



## Glossary



**State:** A nation or territory considered as an organized political community under one government.

**Government:** The group of people who officially control a country

**Social Contract Theory:** The theory that advocates that persons' moral and/or political obligations are dependent upon a contract or agreement among them to form the society in which they live.

**Society:** A large group of people who live together in an organized way, making decisions about how to do things and sharing the work that needs to be done. All the people in a country, or in several similar countries, can be referred to as a society

**Individualism:** A social theory favoring freedom of action for individuals over collective or state control.

**Scandinavia:** Scandinavia is a group of countries in northern Europe. It always includes Denmark, Norway and Sweden



## Evaluation

### I. Choose the correct answer

#### 1. Name the Political Thinker who first used the word State

- a) Niccolo Machiavelli    b) Plato    c) Aristotle    d) Locke

#### 2. Who authored the book 'Leviathan'?

- a) Hobbes    b) Locke    c) Rousseau    d) Morgenthau

#### 3. Which is the main component of State that determine citizenship status

- a) Territory    b) Government    c) Sovereignty    d) Population

#### 4. Which of the following is regarded as the Limiting authority of the State's Authority

- a) Constitution    b) Religion    c) Judgement    d) People

#### 5. "Territorial sovereignty or the superiority of State, overall within its boundaries and complete freedom from external control has been a fundamental principle of the modern State life" is stated by

- a) Elliot    b) Bodin    c) Austin    d) Machiavelli

#### 6. Who of the following is regarded as the father of Modern Theory of Sovereignty?

- a) Jean Bodin    b) Hugo Gotius    c) Austin    d) Machiavelli

#### 7. Which of the following is not the states function of Modern State

- a) Security and Defence    b) Economic Functions  
c) Provision of Essential Services    d) Religions duties





**8. Which flagship programme of Government of Tamil Nadu followed by all other states in India**

- a) The Noon Meal Scheme
- b) Rain Harvesting
- c) Gold for marriage
- d) Bicycle for school children

**9. The idea of Welfare State in the Indian Constituion is contained in**

- a) Part IV
- b) part III
- c) Part I
- d) Part II

## **II. Answer the following questions very shortly**

1. What is the objective of Political Science as a discipline?
2. Mention a feature of modern state.
3. Name the thinkers associated with Contractual Theory.
4. What are the essential elements of State?
5. Mention the characteristics of sovereignty.
6. What are the functions of Legislature, Executive and Judiciary in a modern democracy?
7. What are post-colonial states?
8. What are the factors responsible for the emergence of 'Soft State'.

## **III. Answer the following questions shortly**

1. Compare and contrast the ideas of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.
2. What are the factors that contribute to make a State?
3. Distinguish State from Society.
4. What are the differences between State and Government?
5. Write a short note on Modernity.
6. What are the functions of 'Modern State'?
7. Differentiate colonial from postcolonial state.

## **IV. Answer the following questions in detail**

1. Describe the functions of Modern State.
2. Discuss the idea of Welfare State.
3. Demonstrate the factors responsible Overdeveloped State.

### **Reference books**



1. **Introduction to Political Science**, R. G Gettel, Ginn and Company, New York.
2. **Political Theory: An Introduction**, Rajesh Bhargava & Ashok Acharya, Pearson, New Delhi .
3. **Political Science: An Introduction**, Michael G. Roskin et al, Pearson, New Delhi.