

MEANING AND SCOPE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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- Meaning of Political Science
- political Science comprises of two words 'political' and 'science'.
- The term 'politics' is derived from the Greek word 'polis' which means the 'city-state' (a generalised form of political organization existing in ancient Greece).
- Science is the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation, evidence and experiment


Meaning of Political Science (Cont....)

The great Greek philosopher Aristotle was the first to use the term 'politics' and is therefore regarded as the 'father of Political Science'.

In his famous book, "Politics", Aristotle has asserted: "Man is by nature a political animal and he, who by nature and not by mere accident is without state, is either above humanity or below it".

Definition of Political Science

- Traditional definition: These early definitions of political science dealt generally with state and government.
- Paul Janet, “Political Science is that part of social science which treats the foundations of the State and the principles of government.”
- Dr. Garner, “Political Science begins and ends with the state”

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- Sir John Seeley, “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”
 - Stephen Leacock, “Political Science deals with the Government”

Nature of Political Science

- Political Science is a part of social sciences and therefore is different from that of physical sciences like physics and chemistry.
- So the question which concerns the nature of the subject is whether Political Science is a Science or an Art and how the nature of the discipline has undergone changes in the 20th century.

Scope of Political Science

Political science as a discipline deals with various aspects like:

- Study of state and government- it deals with the nature and formation of the State and tries to understand various forms and functions of the government.
- Study of associations and institutions- in organized way the fundamental problems of political science include, first, an investigation of the origin and the nature of the state, second an inquiry into the nature, history and forms of political institutions and third, deduction, therefore, so far as possible, of laws of political growth and development.



- THANK YOU