

FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: Political science-I

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NAME OF FACULTY: Dr. Shiv Kumar Tripathi

Lecture-4



Scope of Political Science:

Political science is the most important branch of social science and its chief concern is with the political behaviour of individuals, groups of individuals, agencies, institutions, organisation et al. Since all these are subject to change and they are changing continuously the subject matter of political science is bound to change, so also the scope of Political Science.

Now the interesting fact is that various scholars and political scientists have made sincere attempts to view its scope from their respective angles and perspective resulting in wide variations in the treatment of scope.

A renowned author has analysed the scope of Political Science from four different angles and these are: Politics as the art of government, politics as public affairs, politics as compromise and consensus, politics as power and distribution of resources. But this categorization of scope of political science cannot be treated as final because the emergence of new phenomena and situation will impact the decision making process of government, government and governed relation, attitude of people towards politics and government, people's ideas about the functions of state etc.

Politics as the Art of Government:

A large number of people are unwilling to call politics as a science, (since it is controversial we abandon it for the purpose of present analysis.) The general opinion is that politics is an art and the art is closely related with the management of government.

According to Aristotle a polity is a type of social organisation (and also a political organisation) where political authority was exercised by large number of people whose main concern was to achieve general welfare. Researchers have found that in ancient Greek polity politics took place and in those days politics meant management and administration of Polity.

It is also said that though in Greek city states there was direct democracy but in all affairs people were not found to be directly involved in the functioning of the state. Politics was practised among small number of men and in the process of final decisions only few and experts participated. Scholars have come to know this from the history of Western political thought. Politics meant adoption of decision, enactment of laws, their implementation, administration of justice etc.

The participants were politicians, government servants and some other people who were interested in political affairs. Their acts were combinedly called politics. This Greek tradition passed through ages and in this way politics has come to be known as art of government.

Politics as Public Affairs:

The scope of politics as an art of government is very narrow. In modern time the politics is treated with a very broader outlook and it is seen primarily as public affairs. Its chief concern is to meet the demands of public affairs. The advocates of this conception prefer to divide the affairs of the society into two broad categories— public and private.

Politics as Compromise and Consensus:

This particular aspect of politics is seen as very important because in any state there inhabit different individuals. Within the geographical area of the state there are many institutions, agencies and organizations. Sometimes the purposes of these run counter to those of these state and this gives rise to conflict. In every state there are

Politics Embraces all Social Activities:

One very interesting feature of modern day politics is two quite opposite forces have engulfed the study of this subject. One group believes that state is the true custodian of its citizens' interests and welfare and hence the state should perform those activities which will ensure the above objective.

Politics is viewed in Terms of Power:

Power is always at the heart of whatever the state performs. We have earlier noted that the importance lies in ensuring cooperation among man, institutions, organizations etc. It also settles disputes and tries to arrive at consensus. Needless to say that power remains at the very centre of all these activities.

There are number of exponents of this concept and most renowned of them are Harold Lass well and Kaplan. Both of them viewed politics in term of power. Lass well's famous book: Politics: Who Gets What, When, How? (1936) once created ripples in the academic world of political science. Without power, decision and policy cannot be properly implemented.

MCQ

1. Who said, "Virtue is sufficient for happiness"?

(a) Plato (b) Socrates (c) Xenophon (d) Aristotle

2. was a Classical Greek philosopher, mathematician, writer of philosophical dialogues, and founder of the Academy in Athens, the first institution of higher learning in the Western world:

(a) Plato (b) Aristotle (c) Socrates (d) None of these

3. Plato is the author of:

(a) Republic (b) Social Contract (c) History of Political Thought (d) None of these

4. The idea that "Virtue is knowledge" is attributed to:

(a) Aristotle (b) Plato (c) Montesquieu (d) Socrates

5. 'Political Science begins and ends with the state' is said by:

(a) Aristotle (b) Professor Garner (c) Paul Janet (d) None of these

