

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CLASS - 11

**Chapter : Introduction to
Political Science**

MEANING OF POLITICAL SCIENCE: TRADITIONAL VIEW

The traditional or classical study of Political Science began in Ancient Greece. Aristotle was the first person to present a theory of state, which at that time used to be called 'Polis'. The term 'Polis' was used in ancient Greece for describing a 'City-State' i.e. a small state. Aristotle used the name 'Politics' for designating his discussion of the 'Polis'. He observed the working of 158 Greek City States and presented his theory of the organization and functions of Polis. Under the influence of Aristotle the term Politics came to be popularly used for identifying the subject concerned with the study of Polis i.e. the State.

Some Traditional Definitions OF Political Science

Political Science is that part of social science which treats of the foundations of the State and the principles of Government." (-Paul Janet)

The historical investigation of what the State has been, an analytical study of what the State is and a political-ethical discussion of what the State ought to be." – (Gettell)

Political Science begins and ends with the state." – (Garner)

Political Science deals with the State and Government." (P. Jenks)

In simple words, in its traditional form Political Science is defined as a social science which involves the study of the organisation and activities of state and the principles and ideals which underlie its political organisation and activities.

Points of difference between Politics & Political Science: Traditional View

1. Politics is concerned with the day to day actual activities of the Government. Political Science seeks to study and explain the theory of the fundamental principles, origin, nature, scope and powers of the State and Government.
2. Politics means the actual behaviour of politics i.e. those political activities which actually take place in

society. Against it, Political Science is that social science which studies State and Government.

3. Politics is a practical activity, whereas Political Science involves an academic exercise involving the study of the State and Government.

4. Politics differs from state to state and within each state from time to time. The principles of Political Science are universal. Politics in India and Britain is different but the theory of Political Science is the same in both the countries.

5. Whereas each one of us is involved in politics in one way or the other, Political Science is studied only by the students of this social discipline. Politicians are engaged in politics whereas teachers and students of Political Science study the State and Government.

6. The difference between Politics and Political Science is reflected by the fact that a politician can take part in politics without studying Political Science and a student of Political Science may or may not take an active part in Politics. Very often person having knowledge of Political Science fails to act successfully in politics.

Modern View: No Difference between Politics & Political Science

In contemporary times, this view of the difference between Politics and Political Science is not accepted by modern Political Scientists.

Almost all modern political scientists accept the view that there is little substance in making a distinction between Politics and Political Science. Political Science studies Politics and hence can be called Politics. State and Government are the two main institutions of political life of man which are the main objects of study in Politics. Hence Political Science as the science of Politics and it can be called Politics.

MEANING OF POLITICAL SCIENCE: MODERN VIEW

Since the coming of Behavioural Revolution in Politics, several modern political scientists prefer to use the term Politics instead of Political Science. They define Politics as the science of political relations and activities. Political relations are defined as all such relations and activities which are characterised by power to a significant extent. They do not accept any distinction between Politics and

Some Modern Definitions Of Political Science:

Politics is the exercise of power in society." As a subject of study, Politics means the study of power-relations in society.

–(HJ. Price)

Politics is the process of shaping and sharing of power in society." Its study involves the study of power and the powerful and influence and the influential. Politics involves the study of Who gets: What When and How?-(Harold Lasswell and Kaplan)

"Politics is the study of political aspects of organised human society." Politics is struggle for power and influence –(Catlin)

Politics ie. Political System is "any persistent pattern of human relations involving to a significant extent power, rule authority or control."

-(Robert Dahl)