

State

Defining The State

- Essential elements of State- **Territory, Population, Government, Sovereignty**
- The state is a **political association** that establishes **sovereign jurisdiction** within defined **territorial borders**, and exercises **authority** through a set of permanent **institutions**.
- These institutions are those that are recognizably '**public**', in that they are responsible for the **collective organization** of communal life, and are funded at the **public's expense**.
- The state thus embraces the various institutions of government, but it also extends to the courts, nationalized industries, social security system, and so forth; it can be identified with the entire 'body politic'.

State

Origin of State

- **Divine Right** - The doctrine that earthly rulers are chosen by God and thus wield unchallengeable authority; a defence for monarchical absolutism.
- **Social Contract Theory**- A social contract is a voluntary agreement made amongst individuals through which an organized society, or state, is brought into existence.

State

Role of the State

- **Minimal State-** The state is merely a protective body, its core function being to provide a framework of peace and social order within which citizens can conduct their lives as they think best.
- A **developmental state** is one that intervenes in economic life with the specific purpose of promoting industrial growth and economic development.
- Whereas developmental states practise interventionism in order to stimulate economic progress, **social-democratic states** intervene with a view to bringing about broader social restructuring, usually in accordance with principles such as fairness, equality and social justice.
- While developmental and social-democratic states intervene in economic life with a view to guiding or supporting a largely private economy, **collectivized states** bring the entirety of economic life under state control.
- The essence of **totalitarian state** is the construction of an all-embracing state, the influence of which penetrates every aspect of human existence. The state brings not only the economy, but also education, culture, religion, family life and so on under direct state control.

Government

Meaning

- Government in its broadest sense, refers to any mechanism through which ordered rule is maintained, its central features being the ability to make collective decisions and the capacity to enforce them.
- However, the term is more commonly understood to describe the formal and institutional processes that operate at the national level to maintain public order and facilitate collective action.
- The core functions of government are, thus, to make law (legislation), implement law (execution) and interpret law (adjudication). In some cases, the political executive alone is referred to as ‘the government’.

Government

Types of Government/ Political System

- Monarchy (Constitutional and Absolute)
- Democracy (Parliamentary and Presidential)
- Communism
- Socialism
- Aristocracy
- Oligarchy
- Military Dictatorship
- Theocracy
- Totalitarianism
- Colonialism

Liberty

Meaning and Interpretation

- the notion of choice,
- the absence of constraints to make and exercise such a choice,
- the existence conditions that enable you to actuate the choice.

