

POLICED, *a.* Regulated by laws; furnished with a regular system of laws and administration. *Bacon.*

POLICE-OFFICER, *n.* An officer entrusted with the execution of the laws of a city.

POLICY, *n.* [Fr. *police*; L. *politia*; Gr. *πολιτεία*, from *πολις*, city, Sans. *palya*.]

1. *Policy*, in its primary signification, is the same as *polity*, comprehending the fundamental constitution or frame of civil government in a state or kingdom. But by usage, *policy* is now more generally used to denote what is included under *legislation* and *administration*, and may be defined, the art or manner of governing a nation; or that system of measures which the sovereign of a country adapts and pursues, as best adapted to the interests of the nation. Thus we speak of *domestic policy*, or the system of internal regulations in a nation; *foreign policy*, or the measures which respect foreign nations; *commercial policy*, or the measures which respect commerce.

2. Art, prudence, wisdom or dexterity in the management of public affairs; *applied to persons governing*. It has been the *policy* of France to preclude females from the throne. It has been the *policy* of Great Britain to encourage her navy, by keeping her carrying trade in her own hands. In this she manifests sound *policy*. Formerly, England permitted wool to be exported and manufactured in the Low Countries, which was very bad *policy*.

The *policy* of all laws has made some forms necessary in the wording of last wills and testaments. *Blackstone.*

All violent *policy* defeats itself. *Hamilton.*

3. In *common usage*, the art, prudence or wisdom of individuals in the management of their private or social concerns.

4. Stratagem; cunning; dexterity of management.

5. A ticket or warrant for money in the public funds. [It. *polizza*.]

6. [Sp. *poliza*.] *Policy*, in commerce, the writing or instrument by which a contract of indemnity is effected between the insurer and the insured; or the instrument containing the terms or conditions on which a person or company undertakes to indemnify another person or company against losses of property exposed to peculiar hazards, as houses or goods exposed to fire, or ships and goods exposed to destruction on the high seas. This writing is subscribed by the insurer, who is called the underwriter. The terms *policy of insurance*, or *assurance*, are also used for the contract between the insured and the underwriter.

Policies are *valued* or *open*; *valued*, when the property or goods insured are valued at prime cost; *open*, when the goods are not valued, but if lost, their value must be proved. *Park. Blackstone.*

Wagering policies, which insure sums of money, interest or no interest, are illegal. All insurances, interest or no interest, or without further proof of interest than the *policy* itself, are null and void. *Blackstone.*

The word *policy* is used also for the writing which insures against other events, as well as against loss of property.

PO/LING, *n.* In gardening, the operation of dispersing the worm-casts all over the walks, with long ash poles. This destroys the worm-casts and is beneficial to the walks. *Cyc.*

POLING, *ppr.* Furnishing with poles for support.

2. Bearing on poles.

3. Pushing forward with poles, as a boat.

POLISH, *a.* [from Slav. *pole*, a plain, whence *Poland*. See the Verb.]

Pertaining to Poland, a level country on the south of Russia and the Baltic.

POLISH, *v. t.* [Fr. *polir*, *polissant*; Arm. *pollicza*; It. *polire* or *pulire*; Sp. *polir*, *polir*; L. *polio*; Dan. *polerer*; Sw. *polera*; Russ. *poliryu*; W. *caboli*, with a prefix;

Ar. *جاس* *chafala*, to polish. Qu. its alliance to *file*.]

1. To make smooth and glossy, usually by friction; as, to *polish* glass, marble, metals and the like.

2. To refine; to wear off rudeness, rusticity and coarseness; to make elegant and polite; as, to *polish* life or manners. *Milton.*
The Greeks were *polished* by the Asiatics and Egyptians. *S. S. Smith.*

POLISH, *v. i.* To become smooth; to receive a gloss; to take a smooth and glossy surface.

Steel will *polish* almost as white and bright as silver. *Bacon.*

POLISH, *n.* A smooth glossy surface produced by friction.

Another prism of clearer glass and better *polish* seemed free from veins. *Newton.*

2. Refinement; elegance of manners.

What are these wond'rous civilizing arts,
This Roman *polish*? *Addison.*

POLISHABLE, *a.* Capable of being polished.

POLISHED, *pp.* Made smooth and glossy; refined.

POLISHER, *n.* The person or instrument that polishes. *Addison.*

POLISHING, *ppr.* Making smooth and glossy; refining.

POLISHING, *n.* Smoothness; glossiness; refinement. *Goldsmith.*

POLITE, *a.* [L. *politus*, *polished*, from *polio*, supra.]

1. Literally, smooth, glossy, and used in this sense till within a century.

Rays of light falling on a *polite* surface. *Newton.*

[This application of the word is, I believe, entirely obsolete.]

2. Being polished or elegant in manners; refined in behavior; well bred.

He marries, bows at court and grows *polite*. *Pope.*

3. Courteous; complaisant; obliging.

His manners were warm without insincerity, and *polite* without pomp. *Wirt.*

POLITELY, *adv.* With elegance of manners; genteelly; courteously.

POLITENESS, *n.* Polish or elegance of manners; gentility; good breeding; ease and gracefulness of manners, united with a desire to please others and a careful attention to their wants and wishes.

2. Courteousness; complaisance; obliging attentions.

POLITIC, *a.* [L. *politicus*; Gr. *πολιτικός*, from *πολιτεία*, from *πολις*, a city. This word in its origin is the same as *political*, and was formerly used as synonymous with it. It is so still in the phrase, *body politic*. Burke used *politic* distinction for *political* distinction, but present usage does not warrant this application.]

1. Wise; prudent and sagacious in devising and pursuing measures adapted to promote the public welfare; *applied to persons*; as a *politic* prince.

2. Well devised and adapted to the public prosperity; *applied to things*.

This land was famously enriched

With *politic* grave counsel. *Shak.*

3. Ingenious in devising and pursuing any scheme of personal or national aggrandizement, without regard to the morality of the measure; cunning; artful; sagacious in adapting means to the end, whether good or evil.

I have been *politic* with my friend, smooth with my enemy. *Shak. Pope.*

4. Well devised; adapted to its end, right or wrong.

POLITICAL, *a.* [supra.] Pertaining to policy, or to civil government and its administration. *Political* measures or affairs are measures that respect the government of a nation or state. So we say, *political* power or authority; *political* wisdom; a *political* scheme; *political* opinions. A good prince is the *political* father of his people. The founders of a state and wise senators are also called *political* fathers.

2. Pertaining to a nation or state, or to nations or states, as distinguished from *civil* or *municipal*; as in the phrase, *political* and *civil* rights, the former comprehending rights that belong to a nation, or perhaps to a citizen as an individual of a nation; and the latter comprehending the local rights of a corporation or any member of it.

Speaking of the *political* state of Europe, we are accustomed to say of Sweden, she lost her liberty by the revolution. *Paley.*

3. Public; derived from office or connection with government; as *political* character.

4. Artful; skillful. [See *Politic*.]

5. Treating of politics or government; as a *political* writer. *Paley.*

Political arithmetic, the art of reasoning by figures, or of making arithmetical calculations on matters relating to a nation, its revenues, value of lands and effects, produce of lands or manufactures, population, &c.

Political economy, the administration of the revenues of a nation; or the management and regulation of its resources and productive property and labor. *Political economy* comprehends all the measures by which the property and labor of citizens are directed in the best manner to the success of individual industry and enterprise, and to the public prosperity. *Political economy* is now considered as a *science*.

POLITICALLY, *adv.* With relation to the government of a nation or state.

2. Artfully; with address. *Obs. Knolles.*

POLITICASTER, *n.* A petty politician; a pretender to politics. *L'Estrange.*