

As you approach this book....

This year, for the first time, we will be studying 'Political Science' as an independent subject. In school you have studied this subject as part of 'History and Civics' or 'History and Political Science'. In Civics you had studied rights and duties of citizens and in Political Science the political system and the Constitution.

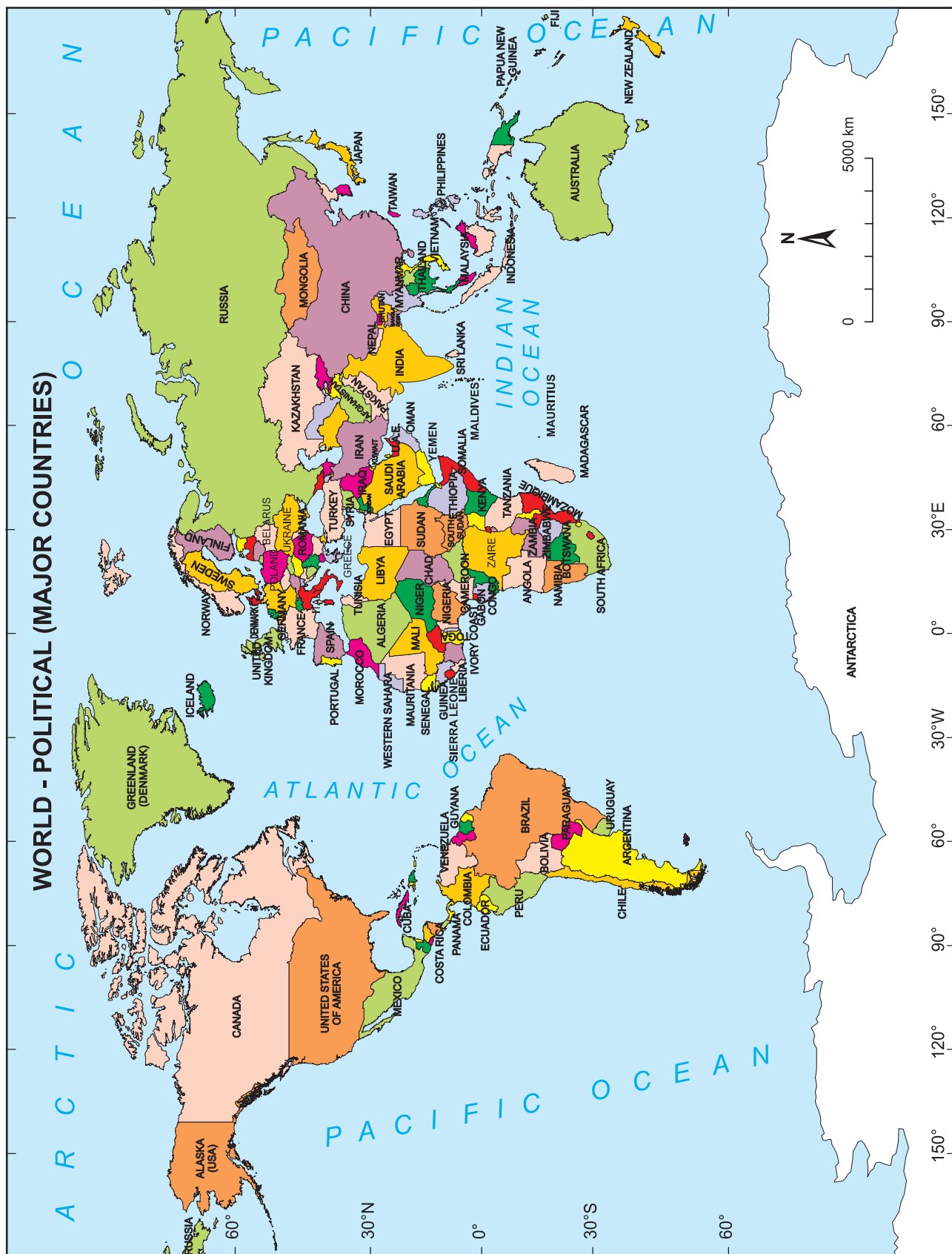
Now when we study Political Science as an independent subject, we need to understand all its dimensions. In the Eleventh and the Twelfth standards, we are proceeding in that direction. The different dimensions of political science will be introduced in the Eleventh Standard. These include: (i) an introduction to some of the key concepts (ii) Comparative government and politics (iii) Public Administration and (iv) International Relations. This book will create a base for the understanding of the subject as a whole.

This book is in four sections. These deal with the four traditional areas of Political Science. Every section has an introduction that introduces you to that area, please make it a point to read it. It will help you to understand the subject better. Each chapter has some activity that asks you to search something. Make it a point to search it and understand it.

In the Twelfth, we would study the new developments that have taken place in these areas. For example, we would look at some of the issues relating to globalisation and humanitarian issues like environment, poverty, etc. In the subject area of government and public administration we would study aspects dealing with good governance and national integration. In international relations we would focus on the world after 1991.

It is expected that in these two years, we go beyond just the introduction and understanding of the various dimensions of the subject. It is expected that you would be able to apply some of these concepts and implement some of your ideas in your life. It will help you to decide the areas in which you may want to do further studies. In case you decide to go in for voluntary work or social activity or appear for various competitive examinations the knowledge of political science would definitely be of help to you. Actually, you may be able to plan what you want to do in your life.

Look at this as a step that helps you to step in the world of tomorrow. Best wishes !



Section I : Political Concepts

Introduction



We talk of our family, society, region, country etc. All of these are institutions, some are social institutions others are political institutions. Political science deals mainly with political institutions. The political institutions are associated with the government. They would include the Parliament, the Ministry, Judiciary, etc. As a citizen of a country we have certain rights and duties towards the country. These are specified by the constitutions and the various laws that are made by the government. We are expected to follow these rules. Even foreigners have to follow rules of the country in which they live.

Some questions like: 'Why should I obey the state?', or, 'What should be the limits of individual liberty?', or, 'where can I seek justice?', are questions that we face as citizens of any country. Various thinkers have tried to answer these and other questions. They have tried to understand the role of the individual and the State (government). These political thinkers have come out with various ideas that have helped us to understand the role of the individual in the society and the State better. For example, when we study

Indian political thinkers, we study the views of Kautilya on State, Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Swaraj or Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's views on Social Justice. We can also study the western thinkers to understand the views of Aristotle on Citizenship, or Locke's theories on Rights, Mill on Liberty, Marx's views about Communism, or John Rawls contribution to the theory of Justice. It is on the basis of the writings of such thinkers and others who have made significant contribution that we can understand such concepts like liberty, equality, justice, democracy, etc. Political concepts involve analytical study of ideas that have been central to political thought.

In this section, we plan to study some important political concepts. These are concepts of liberty, rights, equality and justice. There are also other concepts like nation, nationalism, etc.

The three chapters of this section are as follows:

Chapter I : The State: This chapter discusses the concepts of nation, nationalism, state and government. It tries to understand the linkages between them.

Chapter II : Liberty and Rights: This chapter looks at the two concepts of Liberty and Rights. These deal with the status of the individual in the society.

Chapter III : Equality and Justice: This chapter focuses on Equality and Justice. These concepts are concerned with the social order.

All of these concepts are also discussed in the context of India.