

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**CHAPTER-13**  
**MEANING AND IMPORTANCE**  
**OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**



**After studying this chapter you learn :**

- Understand the concept of political science.
- Explain the process of development in political science.
- Know and recognise the political thinkers and their contributions.
- Know the importance of political science.

Political science is one of the social sciences dealing with the political activities of man. It deals with the state and government. It studies the origin and nature of state and forms of political institutions. The study of state is the main subject matter of political science.

As a subject of the study of political science began with the Greeks. Though Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Indians and Chinese have mentioned their ideas or thoughts about politics much earlier to Greeks they failed to develop it as a systematic study. Politics was given status of an independent science by Greeks. Greek philosophers like Socrates and his disciple Plato were great political thinkers. Plato in his famous book “Republic” for the first time discussed the nature and functions of state and government. Aristotle, the ancient Greek thinker and the student of Plato is recognized as the ‘Father of Political science’ for his valuable contributions to its growth and development. He wrote the first treatise on political science called “The Politics”. In this famous book Aristotle discussed the origin, development and functions of state Kaoutilya’s work on economics was also had more information about political principles.

Greeks used the term ‘politics’ for the study of state. The term ‘Politics’ is derived from the Greek word ‘polis’ which means ‘city-state’ and therefore a subject which deals with the affairs of city-state and its working was called politics by ancient Greece. However in modern times scholars have preferred to use the term ‘political science’ for this study.

Now a days the word 'Politics' refers to the practical aspect of the problems of the state and government. More exactly, it means the actual political activities taking place in a state. Current problems of the state, election campaigning, political party activities, the day to day happenings in the state legislature or in the union parliament in which the politician takes part, etc comprise politics. Whereas, the discipline of political science is a study of origin and development of the state, the functions of government, rights and duties of citizens etc. Hence the proper title of this subject of study must be 'political science'.

It is the study of the state in the past, present and future, of political organization, political functions and political theories.

Thus we find that the state, government and other problems connected with them fall within the purview of political science.

### **Importance of Political Science**

The knowledge of Political Science is most essential in the present age. The progress and development of a state depends upon the thinking, knowledge and Political involvement of the people.

- Political Science helps to understand the birth and growth of a state. It provides information about the type of Governments and Political activities involved in the functions of the State.
- Political Science provides information about the origin and development of ideas such as Monarchy, freedom, justice, laws, equality, good government, wars and peace etc.
- It provides information about the structure and functions of the state and central governments.
- In the light of the past and the present activities of the government, Political Science helps to plan the future activities of the state. It also helps to establish a modern welfare state.
- Political Science provides knowledge about the Constitution and laws of the state.

- Political Science helps to understand about the organs of the government i.e., Legislature, Executive and Judiciary and their functions.
- Political Science develops Political consciousness among the people. It keeps the government and the people politically alert and active.
- The knowledge of Political Science helps leaders and civil servants to understand and solve the problems of the people effectively.
- The knowledge of political science helps to raise good leadership and good citizens.
- Political Science helps to understand the important Political institutions like political parties, federal system and local bodies.
- Political science deals with ideologies which inspire and influence political involvement of people.
- Political Science provides the knowledge of international relations especially the occurrence of wars among nations and the importance of peace and co-operation.

Thus the study of Political Science helps us to understand the need for a state, good governance of the state, the role of the leaders and people's participation. It helps the people to become good, responsible, cultured, and active citizens. The knowledge of Political science contributes to the establishment of a just, peaceful, progressive and a happy state, which is the dream of millions and millions of people for a long time every where.

## **EXERCISES**

### **I Fill up the blanks:**

- 1 The word Politics was derived from the Greek word \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 'Republic' was the work of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Aristotle wrote a book on political science and it is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Kaoutilya's work relating to political science is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **II Answer the following questions :**

- 5 What is political science?
6. Who began the systematic study of Political Science ?
- 7 Who is called the Father Political Science?
- 8 Give definition of Political Science.
- 9 Mention use of the study of Political Science?

### **III Activities :**

- 10 Prepare an album highlighting the nature of Political system in the early period.
- 11 Discuss the statement of Aristotle given in the book in your classroom with the help of your teacher.
- 12 'The social needs of man led to the rise of the state' – is it so ? Arrange a talk on the topic in your classroom.

### **IV Projects :**

- 13 Imagine that you are a member of ancient Greek city state and discuss any one particular issue of the city state.
- 14 'Dictatorship suppresses the freedom of an individual and democratic institutions'- Collect information and prepare charts.
- 15 Collect information on political ideas found in our epics.

\*\*\*