

ITT 1202: Introduction to Global Politics

Introduction to International Politics: Problems
and Questions

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Basic Concepts of Politics

- The word “politics” originates from the Greek word “Polis” which means a city. In other words, politics is the study of a city. i.e., state.
- The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines politics as: “the science dealing with form, organization and administration of a state, or part of one, and with the regulations of its relations with other states.”

Basic Concepts of Politics

- Plato (428-427) & Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) – The Polis existed to seek its common good, civic virtue and moral perfection. They viewed politics as the moral purposes that decision-makers ought to pursue.
- “a way of ruling in divided societies by a process of free discussion and without undue violence” – Bernard Crick, 2000.

Basic Concepts of Politics

- Aristotle – The ways in which officials were selected for governing the state, the manner in which their authority was determined and the nature of ends or interests pursued.
- Robert Dahl – “Any persistent pattern of human relationships that involves, to a significant extent, power, rule or authority.”
- David Easton – “Political acts” = “authoritative allocation of values in a society.”

Identifying Politics

1. Politics everywhere involves conflict which is inherent in the human nature itself. Conflict may arise, in part, from scarcity. It may arise because people differ in their values. What one person consider good may be judged as evil by another.
2. Most political conflict is “group conflict.” Conflicts generally take place among groups rather than among individuals. The size of the group can vary from a single family to the international community.

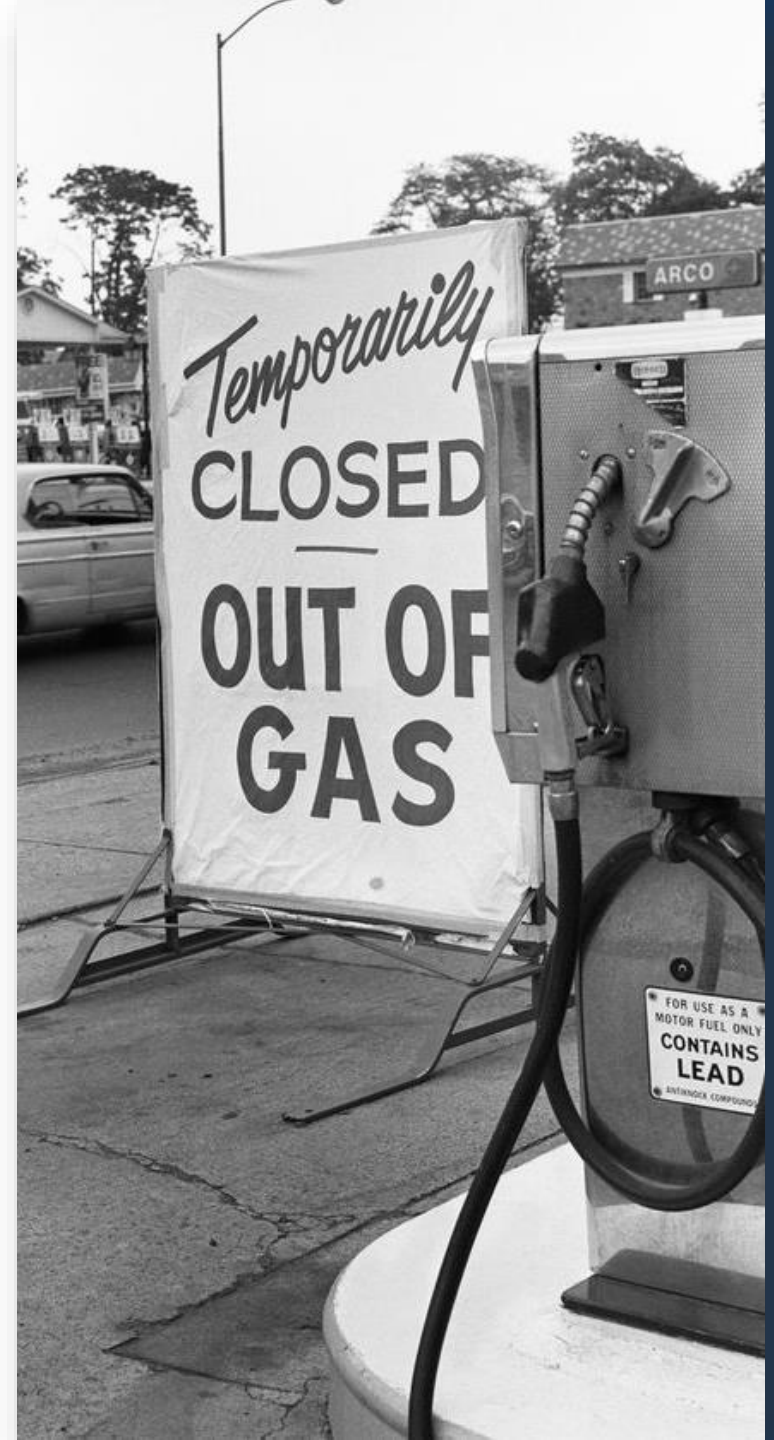
Identifying Politics

3. The study of politics involves understanding how people govern themselves and the consequences of the political process. One important reason for studying politics is to search out conditions under which groups can achieve their goals peacefully and effectively. **Politics is the means by which people debate and resolve the most important value in a society.**



Why Study Politics?

- Why should college student study about politics or global politics?
- The primary objective of politics in college curriculum is not to prepare students for careers in politics.
- The primary objective of political science is “citizenship or global citizenship training.”



Why Study Politics?

- Its aim is to equip students to discharge the obligations of global citizenship. Its aim is to better the condition of human beings by helping them to realize their rights and obligations.
- Through the study of politics, we become more aware of our dependence on the political system or international system and better equipped to determine when to favor and when to oppose change.

Why Study Politics?

- The study enables students to know how governments operate, what interests and forces are behind particular policies, what the results of such policies are likely to be, who their elected representatives are and what they stand for, who makes the decisions, for what reason and in whose interest etc.
- Hence, it is a vital part of any undergraduate's education.
- It helps us learn about our ability to bring positive change!

Fundamental Concepts of Politics

- **Power**

- R. H. Tawney – “the capacity of an individual, or group of individuals, to modify the conduct of other individuals or groups in the manner in which he [the power holder] desires.”
- The importance of power – governments need power to make and enforce rules, maintain peace, security, promote economic and political development of the country etc.

POWER

- Joseph Nye – Hard power refers to the means and instruments of brute force or coercion, primarily military and economic clout. Soft power is attractive rather than coercive: it refers to “the important ability to get others to want what you want.”
- Political power can also flow from wealth, personal charisma, ideology, religion, and many other sources, including the moral standing of a particular individual or group in society.

POWER

- SOURCES OF POWER

- Force – “power flows from the barrel of a gun” (Mao Zedong)
- Wealth – recognized as an effective source of power.
- Expertise – “knowledge is power”
- Position – known as legitimate power, it is based on the follower’s belief that the power-holder has right to influence him and he has an obligation to follow.
- Popular support – known as referent power, it is based on the follower’s identification with the leader.

POWER

- Lord John Acton – “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”
- Most people do not want to give power to any individual, fearing that the power will be abused.
- Greeks believed that a person of reason, who know what was good, would never abuse power and that the irrational person should never be given power.

POWER

- Absolute monarchs were no more corrupt than those whose powers were limited.
- It was argued that if the executive, legislative, and judicial powers are united in the same person, or in the same body, there will be abuse of authority and the system will be tyrannical as was case with absolute monarchy.
- The individuals who are sufficiently powerful to accomplish their tasks do not need to be unethical.

POWER

- **Authority** is closely associated with power; authority is formal or legal as distinguished from personal power.
- Authority can be defined as the **legitimate** exercise of power through established institutions, and according to the rules that are accepted by the people as being right and proper.
- It is power assigned to a position by the popular accepted ground rules for the operation of the political system.

POWER

- It is possible to rule without popular mandate, public approval, or legal justification.
- However, claiming authority is useless if people refuse to accept it (unauthorized ruler).
- Hence, it is better for rulers to have public approval than not to have it.
- Ex – Police officer who arrests criminal exercises legitimate power. On the contrary, a hijacker may have power over the crew and passengers of an airplane but he has no authority.

ORDER

- Order denotes structures, rules, rituals, procedures, and practices that make up the political system embedded in every society (society is an aggregation of individuals who shared common identity).
- The idea that individuals become a cohesive community through an unwritten **social contract** has been fundamental to Western political thought since the seventeenth century. Basic to social contract theory is the notion that the right to rule is based on the consent of the governed.

ORDER

- Government is a human invention by which societies are ruled and binding rules are made.
- Traditionally, republics are those in which **sovereignty** (a government's capacity to assert supreme power successfully in a political state) ultimately resides in the people.
- Governments such as monarchies or tyrannies are those in which sovereignty rests with the rules.

STATE

- In the modern world, the **state** is the sole repository of **sovereignty**
- The central concern of political science is the state – it is the means through which people can meet their necessities of life and can strive for good life.
- Aristotle – “Man is by nature a political being; it is his nature to live in a polis” wherein alone he could attain his highest moral nature.

STATE

- Plato – state existed for the purpose of seeking common good and moral perfection.
- Karl Marx (1818 – 1883) - The state is a product of class contradictions and class struggle and is controlled by the economically dominant class.
- Max Weber (1864 – 1920) – The state is a “human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical violence in a given territory.”

STATE

- Robert Dahl (1961) – Viewed state as a collection of individuals occupying role positions (those of governing authority) and acting as a group to govern.
- Anthony Giddens (1985) – “a political organization whose rule is territorially ordered and which is able to mobilize the means of violence to sustain that rule.”
- In the language of politics, state usually means **country**

Elements of STATE

- State refers to an assemblage of people occupying a definite territory under an organized government and subject to no outside control.
1. Population – it is the people who make the state, without them there can be none. Population must be large enough to make state and sustain it (Vatican 1000 / China 1.3 billion)
 2. Territory – there is no state without a fixed territory and no territory that is no part of some state. The territory of the state is considered to extend to the oceans, air space, and underground (Russia 17 millions sq. km.)

Elements of STATE

3. Government – Max Weber states that a government is a agency that has a “monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory.”
 4. Sovereignty – the state is the supreme decision-making power within geographically delineated frontier and is subject to external authority only by its consent.
- Internal sovereignty – the right of state to make laws applying within its boundaries.
 - External sovereignty – the recognition in international law that a state has jurisdiction (authority) over a territory.

Origin of the STATE

- **Social Contract Theory (Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau)**
- People originally lived in a state of nature.
- This imaginary state of nature was pre-social and hence a condition of perpetual war (Hobbes) or pre-political in the absence of a common recognized authority (Locke and Rousseau).
- “The state of Nature has a law of Nature to govern it” – It was not an organized society.

Origin of the STATE

- Hobbes – in the state of nature, “the life of man” is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” The solution is the creation of an overawing government, that is, a leviathan.
- In other words, to escape from this unsatisfactory and intolerable condition, people entered into a contract with his fellow men.
- As a result of contract, covenant or agreement among people in a civil society was established where the laws of the state prevailed.

Origin of the STATE

- **Historical or Evolution Theory**

1. Human beings are by nature social animals. From the beginning of human history, they lived in society.
2. The state is the product of growth, a slow and steady evolution extending over a long period of time.
3. Family was the earliest form of society, and kinship or blood relationship was the basis of society.

Origin of the STATE

3. In course of time, families expanded into clans, clans into tribes, and tribes into larger society. Religion became the basis of social organization.
4. War and migration also played important role in the formation of state.
5. Finally, it is the political consciousness that played the most important role in building up the state.

NATION-STATE

- Nation – distinctive group of people who share common background: geographical location, history, racial or ethnic characteristics, religion, language, culture, and belief in common political ideas.
- Nation-state – refers to a political institution that combines the concepts of nation with state. It refers to a state inhabited by people who identify themselves as a nation because of sharing culture, history, language, ethnicity or other factors.

NATION-STATE

- The two historical events which marked the beginning of a new period in the formation of states.
- The treaty of Westphalia in 1648 began the era of the territorial state in which people shifted their loyalties from the ideal of a universal Christian commonwealth (Christendom) to the fatherland.
- The French Revolution of 1789 began the era of the national state in which the state became identified with a particular nationality group, and nationalism became the dominant belief system in the world.

International Politics today

- What are the source of terrorism?
- Are democracies peaceful than other forms of government?
- Is globalization inevitable?
- Is the United States a declining power?
- Is the international community obligated to intervene when a country's government is abusing the human rights of its own people?



World's Best Countries To Invest In Or Do Business For 2018



The Best Economies to Start a Business 2018

Economy	Starting a Business Rating	% Change on 2017
1 New Zealand	99.96	0.18 ↓
2 Canada	98.23	0.09 ↓
3 Hong Kong	98.14	0.29 ↑
4 Georgia	97.84	2.12 ↑
5 Jamaica	97.3	0.57 ↑
6 Singapore	96.49	0.04 ↑
7 Australia	96.47	0
8 Ireland	95.91	0.19 ↓
9 South Korea	95.83	0
10 Kosovo	95.67	4.98 ↑
11 Uzbekistan	95.54	4.46 ↑
12 Estonia	95.15	0.05 ↑