



## **Center For Distance and Online Education**

### **Punjabi University, Patiala**

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**Class : B.A (Political Science)**

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**Part-I**

**Unit - I**

**Medium :English**

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#### **LESSON No.**

- 1.1 : Political Science : Meaning, Nature and Scope
- 1.2 : Relationship of Political Science with Economics, History, Sociology
- 1.3 : State : Meaning, Definition, Elements
- 1.4 : Evolutionary: Theory of the Origin of State
- 1.5 : Distinction between State, Government and Society

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**LESSON NO. 1.1**

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**POLITICAL SCIENCE: MEANING, DEFINITION, NATURE  
AND ITS SCOPE**

- 1.1.1 Objectives
- 1.1.2 Introduction
- 1.1.3 Meaning and Definition of Political Science
- 1.1.4 Nature (Characteristics) of Political Science
- 1.1.5 Scope of Political Science
- 1.1.6 Conclusion
- 1.1.7 Self Check Exercise
- 1.1.8 Some Important Books

**1.1.1 Objectives :** In this lesson we will discuss the meaning, definition, nature, scope and significance of political science. After going through this lesson a student will be able to:-

- \_ define political science
- \_ explain its nature
- \_ discuss its scope
- \_ explain the main characteristics of the various stages of its growth

**1.1.2 Introduction :-** Jean Bodin (1530 – 1596) a French political philosopher coined the term “Political Science”. Political science is a branch of social science. The study of Political science is of great significance and importance in the present day “Global village”. The foundations of political thinking were laid by the great Greek philosophers, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Plato was the author of the book “The Republic”. Aristotle the father of political science, firstly used the term 'politics' and converted the subject into an academic discipline. He published his book 'Politics' as a first systematic study of politics.

**1.1.3 Meaning and Definition of Political Science:** - The term 'Political Science' is a combination of two words, viz. Political and Science. The word

'politics' is derived from the Greek word 'Polis' which means the city-state. In ancient Greece, the basic unit of political organization was the city-state. Science is the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation, evidence and experiment. So political science is the branch of knowledge that deals with systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the state and political institutions through scientific analysis. Politics refers to the subject matter of our study, science denotes the methodology or the way of studying the process of politics. The first term seeks to answer the question " what is studied" and the second term refers to "how is it studied". Therefore, the political phenomenon which should be studied in accordance with a definite plan or system is called political science.

**Definitions:** The definitions of Political Science can be divided into two types, namely classical and modern definitions.

(i) Definitions of political science according to classical view of Political Science:

- According to Garner, "Political Science begins and ends with the state".
- Gettell defines political science as a historical investigation of what the state has been analytical study of what the state is and political ethical discussion of what the state ought to be.
- According to Leacock, "Political Science deals with the government only."
- According to McMillan Dictionary, "Political Science deals with the organisation and administration of government."
- Demock define political science as a subject which is concerned with the state and government.

(ii) Modern definitions:

- According to Herbert J. Spiro, "Politics is the process by which a human community as small as two persons or as large as the community of mankind, deals with its problems."
- Edward Banefield defines politics as an activity like negotiation, argument, discussion, application of force, persuasion etc. by which an issue is agitated or settled.
- According to David Easton, "Politics is the study of authoritative allocation of values".
- Harold Laswell defines political science as a study of influence and influential.

**1.1.4 Nature (Characteristics) of Political Science:** - The word 'science' literally means 'knowledge' which is gathering and organizing through systematic way. "Science is knowledge ascertained by observation and experiment, critically tested, systematized and brought under general principles." According to Garner, "Science is a knowledge relating to a particular subject acquired by systematic observation, experience, or study which have been co-ordinated, systematised and classified." Results in the science are based on experience and observation. The chief characteristics of science are universality, exactness, precision and predictability. It is studied by collecting and verifying data, formulating concise and standard principles and making predictions. Science is a systematic body of knowledge based on reason and evidence.

'Art' means 'skill' or 'a way of doing a particular thing in a particular way'. It can be improved by practice, guided by principles.

**Politics is a Science:** Politics is considered as science on the following grounds:--

- Politics can be studied in a systematic manner.

- It is said that experimentation is possible in politics.
- Political science, like other sciences, has absolute and universal laws.
- It is possible to make predictions in politics, but in a limited area.
- There are certain principles and methods on which political thinkers unanimously agree.
- Politics is a subject which has scientific nature.
- At present, politics has attained modernity.
- Aristotle called politics as 'Supreme Science'.

**Politics is not a Science:** James Bryce maintains that “politics can never become a science”. Catlin thinks that there is “no such thing as political science”. Buckle holds that “politics far from being a science is one of the most backward of all the arts”. G. Mosca holds that “political science in its present conditions has not yet genuinely entered upon its scientific state”. Maitland writes, when i see a good set of examination questions headed by the word 'Political Science' I regret not the questions but the title.” Auguste comte rejected to treat it a science on the following three grounds:-

- There is no consensus of opinion among the political thinkers as to its methods, principles and conclusions.
- It is impossible to foretell what is going to happen as Astronomy can tell us. In other words, it lacks the elements which constitute a basis of provision.
- It lacks continuity of development.

Politics is not considered as science on the following grounds:--

- Politics has no absolute and universal laws like physical science or exact sciences.

- It does not observe, the theory of cause and effect, which is the basis of all sciences.
- The subject of politics has not developed in a steady, regular and continuous manner.
- Scientific methods of observation and experimentation cannot be applied to politics because political conditions are ever changing and difficult to be experimented upon.
- The subject matter of politics is related to men in society and man's individuality, behaviour and opinions always go on changing and universal laws and principles cannot be formulated as in other exact science.
- The factors which influenced political conditions cannot be controlled for experimentation.
- In politics, there are no tools of measurement to ascertain results while observing political phenomena.
- The political investigator's biased views or feelings distort the reality which is to be understood in politics. Politics is subjective by nature and objectivity is not possible in politics.
- Political theories lack exactness since human nature and behaviour cannot be accurately studied just like some specimen or objects in a laboratory which are under the complete control of the researcher.
- The methods used in the study of political issues are uncertain, crude and undeveloped and results are not reliable.

**Politics is a Social Science:** It must be admitted that political science is not an exact science, as it falls short of the degree of the perfection and exactness attained by physical sciences. Passions, emotions and prejudices which influence political process defy absolute prediction. But still it is possible to study political science in a systematic and scientific manner.

Politics deals with social phenomenon. It has judiciously chosen different methods for studying different phenomena. For that matter no social science can demand absolute certainty on any social question. This is because the material it has to deal with is human beings, whose actions cannot be predicted with absolute certainty. In this regard the plight of political science is similar to other social science. Politics like economics, ethics, and sociology is a social science having characteristics of positive science.

**Politics is an Art:** An art is a system of rules for the attainment of a given end. Art is the practical application of knowledge for achieving definite end. A science teaches us to know whereas an art teaches us to do. Art is an action which purpose. It lays down precepts or specific solutions for specific problems. Some writers consider politics as an art because it deals with various aspects of life and explains the ways how political affairs are to be conducted. Gettell and Bluntschli say that politics bears the characteristics of art. Buckle regards politics to be “one of the most backward of all the arts”.

Prof. Cossa says, “Science requires art, art requires science, each being complementary to the other.” William Eslinger says, “Science and art need not be antithesis. Art can also be based on science.” Hence, politics is considered as an art as well as social science. Politics gives practical guidelines to the rulers and administrators along with citizens. Politics has been developing as systematic study of human relations in political State.

**1.1.5 Scope of Political Science:** - The term ‘scope’ refers to the subject matter or the boundaries of political science. The international Political Science Association at its Paris conference in 1984 discussed the scope of the subject political science and marked out the subject matter. But, now days, it is very difficult to determine the precise and definite boundaries of political science. It is wide and comprehensive subject and there is no uniformity among political scientists about its scope. It is the study of organizations and activities of the state, both at national and international levels. It also deals

with the distribution of governing power among several agencies by which the actions of the state are determined, expressed, and exercised and with the problems of international life. Yet some of the important subjects in the scope of political science are given below:-

### **1. Political Science is the Study of State and Government.**

In the political science we study about the theoretical, structural and behavioural aspects of organisation and forms of state and government. Bluntschli says "political science is a science which is concerned with the state, endeavours to understand and comprehend the state in its essential nature, various forms, manifestations and development." According to Robson, "the purpose of political science is to throw light on political ideas and political actions so that the government of man may be improved". The government is the agency of the state through which the purpose of the state is realised. It is the most lively and integral part of the state. According to Paul Janet "political science is that part of social science which treats of the foundation of state and the principles of the Government".

### **2. It is the study of Relationship between the Man and State.**

The scope of Political science also includes a study of the nature of relationship between the individual and the state. The process of men with the society is an important aspect of political science. The state guarantees certain rights and liberties to its citizens and at the same time impose certain reasonable restrictions on them. In fact, state exists for the welfare of the people. As an agent of the state, it is the function of the government to try to secure welfare for all who live within the territorial boundary of the state.

Again the government of any state greatly influenced by the thoughts and ideas of that state. Therefore, the study about the state and government is bounded to be inconclusive without the study of the nature of the people who constitute the state. It is in this connection Max Webber has stated that



political science is a descriptive and normative science and describes it as the study of human behaviour in the process of enquiry of justice.

### **3. Study of Political Theory.**

The theories are the results of the thoughts and research of many scholars and exponents of political science. Political scientists formulate various political concepts and establish theories. According to Gettle, "political science is concerned with the historical survey of origin, development of political theories and ideals, the analysis of the fundamental nature of the state, its organization, relation to the individuals that compose it and its relation to other states ". It is the study of the fundamental questions of the state, government, politics, liberty, justice, property, rights, law, the enforcement of legal code by authority etc.

It may be subdivided into political philosophy, legal political theory, the concept of sovereignty and legal controls for the exercise of political power, scientific political theory, consisting of empirical observations of political events etc. So a student of political science must start his study of the subject with the theories.

### **4. Study of Political Institutions.**

Political Science is also concerned with the study of political institutions and associations through with the state acts. It covers the study of the constitutions, comparative government, public administration and local government etc. It also deals with the nature of different political institutions including government, their structure such as legislature, executive and judiciary, its working, its merits and demerits etc. Further it studies about some informal groups like social, economic, educational institutions in a society.

**5. Study of Political Dynamics.**

Political dynamics examines the current forces which exert influence on the government and politics. Along with the change of habits also are bound to occur of men, social system also changes. This explains why the city states of ancient times are replaced by the nation states in the present century. The search for the cause of this kind of changes in the character of the state and government is the study of political dynamics. It covers a wide range and includes the study of political parties, public opinion pressure groups, lobbies, etc. The study of these political dynamics helps to explain the political behaviour of individuals and different groups.

**6. A study of International Relations, International Organizations and International law.**

Political science deals with the matters relating to the maintenance of international relations, the international law and the organization concerned with the maintenance of world peace and security. The human society is now thinking in terms of forming a world government in the near future. International law provides the framework within which the states should enjoy their rights and duties. This has made it necessary to include in the study of political science. It is related to the maintenance of international relations and different organisations connected with the maintenances of peace and security among the states of the world. The subject matter includes international law, international and regional organisations like UNO, European Union, NAM, SAARC and League of Nations, diplomatic relations, treaties and agreements, arms control, human rights, pollution control and global warming, sustainable development etc.

**7. Study of Political Parties and related Organizations**

In a democratic state, political parties play an important role in formation and functioning of government. They are regarded as an unavoidable and central

part for the successful working of democratic political system. Its studies are important for understanding the nature and working of political institutions of a country. The study of political science is also concerned with the study of informal institutions through which the state acts. ie. pressure groups ,interests groups and other related social, economic, educational institutions etc.

### **8. It studies of Past, Present and Future development of State**

The scope of Political Science includes the study of the past, present and future of states and its activities. According to Gettle, " In the historical aspects, Political Science deals with the origin of the state and the development of political theories in the past in dealing with the present it attempts to describe and classify existing political institutions and ideas. Political Science also looks to the future, to improving political organizations and activities in the light of changing conditions and changing ethical standards". so its scope is not restricted to the study of the past and the present alone , but it directs future course of the development of the state. The study is also helpful to improving the political institutions and modifying political activities in order to meet the changing national and international demands.

Broadly speaking, the scope of political science may be divided into three parts: 1) Scope of political science concerning the state; 2) Scope of political science with reference to human rights; 3) Scope of political science in relation to government.

1. Scope of political science concerning the state : Political Science covers in their scope the present form of the state, historical form of the state and ideal form of the state. In political science, we study the present form of the state. Its aims and objectives and the means adopted by the state to achieve its objectives. This aspect of the study of political science has been termed by Gettell as the analytical study of the state. The present form of the state is the

result of its historical development. Political science makes a historical analysis of the origin of the state and the theories of the state. The study of political science has to predict the future of the state that is how it ought to be. According to Gettell political science is a historical investigation of what the state has been an analytical study of what the state is and a politico – ethical discussion of what the state should be.

2. Scope of political science with reference to human rights: The citizens have their civil, political and economic rights. These rights have to be preserved and protected by the State for the welfare of its citizens.

3. Scope of political science in relation to Government : Stephen Leacock said that, political science deals with government. A state cannot exist without government. Government is the working agency of the state. The different forms of government, various organs of government, political parties, local self - government, judiciary, and internationalism are covered by the political science.

**1.1.6 Conclusion :-** In this lesson we have discussed meaning, definition, nature and scope of political science in ancient, and modern times. Political science is a branch of social science. The study of political science is of great significance and importance in the present scenario. Political science is the branch of knowledge that deals with systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the state and political institutions through scientific analysis. Politics refers to the subject matter of our study, science denotes the methodology or the way of studying the process of politics. political science is very significant as it is helpful to understanding study of state Government, provides philosophy regarding political institution, provides past, present and future development of state, it studies political parties and related organizations for the state and is helpful in finding solutions to problems of the modern state of political science.

**Self-Check Exercise-1**

1. What do you mean by Political Science?
2. Discuss any four characteristics of Political Science.
3. Write down the names of the supports of Political Science.
4. Is Political Science is a Science? Comment.

**Self-Check Exercise-2**

1. Mention any four definition of modern Political Science.
2. Discuss the scope of Political Science.
3. Write down the names of the supports of modern Political Science.
4. Which are the main goals of Political Science? Discuss.

**Important Books:**

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| 1. Dr. S.R. Myneni   | : Political Science for Law Students |
| 2. V.D. Mahajan  | : Political Theory                   |
| 3. J.S. Badyal   | : Political Theory                   |
| 4. O.P. Gauba  | : Introduction to Political Theory   |
| 5. N.D. Arora and S.S Awasthy  | : Political Theory                   |
| 6. Andrew Heywood  | : Politics                           |
| 7. <a href="http://jccc-ugcinfonet.in">http://jccc-ugcinfonet.in</a> |                                      |
| 8. <a href="http://www.jstor.org">www.jstor.org</a>                  |                                      |

### **Relationship of Political Science with Other Social Sciences (Sociology, History, Economics)**

- 1.2.1 Objectives of the lesson
- 1.2.2 Introduction
- 1.2.3 Political Science and Sociology
- 1.2.4 Political Science and History
- 1.2.5 Political Science and Economics
- 1.2.6 Political Science and Psychology
- 1.2.7 Political Science and Ethics
- 1.2.8 Summary
- 1.2.9 Self-check Exercise
- 1.2.10 Suggested Readings

#### **1.2.1 Objective of the lesson :**

This lesson aims at acquainting the students with relationship of Political Science with other social sciences. After going through this lesson the student will be in a position to understand the following important aspects of the relationship Political Science with other social science :-

- What is interdisciplinary approach and how it has influenced the study of Political Science ?
- How the study of political science has been influenced by Sociology ?
- How has history influenced the study of Political Science and how history has been influenced by Political Science ?
- In what sense political science and economics are interdependent and how are they different from each other ?
- What is the relationship between Political Science and Psychology and how is the after useful for the study of the former.
- How is Ethics related to Political Science !

#### **1.2.2 Introduction**

With the advancement of scientific knowledge, new approaches and techniques have been evolved for the study of different subjects in social sciences. The emphasis has shifted from traditional to modern approaches. Another important shift has been the emphasis on inter disciplinary approach for the study of individual subjects. In fact, different social sciences study different aspects of human behaviour and are intimately related to one another. Political

Science studies the political behaviour of men, economics their economics activities, history records important, events in life of a nation and Psychologist try to understand how basic human urges influence, the behaviour of man. These different aspects of human behaviour are intimately related. If the insights gained from the study of one aspect of human behaviour are employed for the study of other aspects of his behaviour, meaningful results can be achieved. In the way political science can enrich itself and better understand the political behaviour of man by borrowing from Sociology, History, Economics, Psychology and Ethics. All social sciences are intimately related because they study various aspects of human activities. It is, therefore, imperative to understand the relationship of political science with other social sciences.

### **1.2.3 Political Science and Sociology**

Although sociology is most primary study of society, in the family sciences, it is rather a new-comer. Sociology deals with man in all his social relations. It studies how society has grown and what changes have occurred at different stages and their causes. As Ginsberg points out, Sociology is the study of human interactions and interrelations, their conditions and consequences. Thus conceived, it has intimate connections with Political Science which has for its central theme one agency of social control, the state.

In the early stages of development state was more of a social than political institutions. Sociology thus provides it the student of political science, the information regarding the genesis of political authority and the laws of social control. Similarly, adopted for the problems which governments face are social in nature and the policies adopted for the exploration of social motivations of the relevant group. For this reason, a new sub discipline in the study of Political Science has emerged which is known as **Political Sociology**. The purpose of such study is to view the phenomenon of politics in broader environment of society as it is to view the phenomenon of politics in its broader environment of society as it is one of the determinants of Political behaviour. **Max Weber, V.O. Key, David Easton**, etc. argue for this approach.

Sociology, also acknowledges its debt to Political Science. It derives political knowledge about the structure and operation of the state which forms the highest of all associations and regulates the outstanding, external social behaviour. The two sciences, however, differ in their approach and treatment. Political Science, as it is limited to the study of state, has a narrow area of investigation as compared to Sociology, which has all the agencies of social control within its area. Moreover, as man's social life precedes his political life, so sociology is prior to Political Science. Also Sociology is a generalized study of all human relations while Political Science is a specialized study of political relations of human beings.

### **1.2.4 Political Science and History**

The intimacy of Political Science with History cannot be denied. Opinions, however, differ as to the extent of intimacy between the two studies. Some writers would find the study of History to be indispensable for a proper understanding of Political Science, while others recognize the necessity but not the indispensability of History as a guide to the study of politics.

The intimacy between History and Politics is well brought out in the often quoted couplet of **Seeley**.

**"History without Political Science has no fruit.**

**Political Science without History has no root."**

Political Science is immensely indebted to History for the material it supplies. Institutions grow and nature through a historical process. The information about this growth is recorded in History which is very useful for the Political Science. History provides raw materials to Political Science. Without History, Political Science would collapse into a mere speculative study. It is the task of political philosophy to draw upon the raw materials from History and to weave them into meaningful patterns. Thus to understand the working of parliamentary system in U.K., it will be necessary to refer to the historical background in which the system emerged and developed.

Conversely, History also acknowledges its debt to politics. It is the task of historian to comprehend the political implications of historical events. Without this the historical events from History and to weave them into meaningful patterns. Thus, to understand the working would appear drawn and meaningless. For example, the History of Indian independence is devoid of all logic if we do not sufficiently explain the political significance of various movements during the first half to present century. In the absence of any relation with Political Science, History would lose much of its significance.

In spite of this intimate relation between History and Politics, it should, however, be admitted that each forms an autonomous discipline and possesses an independent area of its own. Hence, it would be an exaggeration to state, as Freeman does, that History is past Politics and Politics is present history. A student of Political Science is not interested in the whole range of History which bounds in variety of materials. He selects only those ranges which have a political bearing. Besides, Political Science unlike History, takes an ethical view of things and deal with the state as it were "the third dimension to Political Science". Lastly, History is more comprehensive because it deals with every aspect of social life, where at Political Science is mainly concerned with the nature of the state and development of Political control.

### **1.2.5 Political Science and Economics**

Economics and Political Science were hardly differentiated to the early stages of



social thinking. **Aristotle** clearly saw the relation between the two and treated Economics as an inextricable part of his political philosophy. **Adam Smith** in his "Wealth of Nation" spoke of two important objects of **Political Economy**. First to provide adequate resources for the people and secondly, to supply the state that Economics and Political Science are two independent but auxiliary social sciences. According to **Karl Marx**, it is in fact, the economic forces and factors, which determine the nature of political system. Even if the deterministic point of view of Marx may not be acceptable, it cannot be denied that economic forces have a great hand in influencing and shaping of the political institutions. In the same manner the political organization of a country influences the economic life of nation. All economic activities are carried on within the state on conditions laid down by the state and the prevailing theories of the state or government profoundly affect the economic life of a country. Thus the problems of capital and labour are political economic life of a country. The topic of Public Finance has to be touched by both Economics and Political Science. In Economics we have to take into account the different principles of taxation while in Political Science we study the process of making financial laws and the extent of control of the legislature over public finance. All this shows a close alliance between Economics and Politics.

But this alliance does not involve a complete merger of one in the other. Both of them have their own distinct fields of investigation along with their own methodologies.

### **1.2.6 Political Science and Psychology**

Psychology is the science of mental attitudes, human behaviour, consciousness, experience, motives etc. All the knowledge's about man is concerned with his mental attitudes, behaviour and social circumstances and aims at the well being of man. Psychology studies sentiments, emotions and instincts of man. In the 20th century. It has been emphasized the scientific study of all social phenomenon must have psychological basis. **Graham Wallas** and **W.H. Rivers** emphasized the relationship of politics and psychology. So with the advent of behaviourism in Politics, Psychology has come closer to politics. **H.D. Laswell** emphasized that every political process and movement has psychological causes. Many studies of public opinion revealed the relationship between the masses and democracy and dictatorship. Laswell analysed the cause of social conflict in psychological tensions and maintained that behind every struggle there is castration complex. He gave the ideas of preventive politics on a psychological basis. Instead of recommending change in society and social environment, **Lasswell**, emphasized that the human brain should be influenced in such a way that it adjusts within the existing social framework so that status quo may remain intact. Instead of suggesting change in the social framework so that

status quo may remain intact. Instead of suggesting change in the social order, the supporters of the psychological approach maintained that man should be controlled and changed. In 1905 a new school of Psychology, named **Behavioural Psychology** began and according to this task of psychology is to study the material behaviour of man in society. Supporters of this view, Iron Pavlow, J.B. Watson and Thorndike emphasised that human behaviour cannot be disassociated from the social circumstances. Human nature and behaviour can be changed by changing the social environment of man. But contemporary behaviour studies in politics are more concerned with political culture and with ways and means to engineer political culture in such a way that it may help in maintaining equilibrium in society. In modern mass societies Goebbles' view that 'repeat a life 100 times and it will become a truth' is well accepted and rape of the masses through mass propaganda is going on in all the crisis-ridden societies. Propaganda has demolished in the 20th century what was built by education in the 19th century. The study of psychology and its use in politics reveals it. The present day need is that of consensus, which can be had by Golibazi (art of pleasing without doing anything) alone and this whole study of 'golibazi' forms the subjects matter of the interdisciplinary study of politics and psychology.

### **Difference between Political Science and Psychology**

1. Psychology is more concerned with human behaviour and its descriptions, while the politics is related with ideals and values of human behaviour.
2. Psychology is a study of attitudes, motives and instincts of man, but politics is concerned mainly with organizations and institutions of society.
3. Psychology studies human activities and behaviour but politics is concerned more with human relations in society.

### **1.2.7 Political Science and Ethics**

Ethics is concerned with 'good' and 'bad' aspects of human behaviour, it condemns the latter and appreciates the former ie goods. Every individual possesses a consciousness which enables him to differentiate between right and wrong, just and unjust and good and bad and they strive to stick to former which is desirable and positive quality and discard the latter, which is negative and thus undesirable. Ethics helps us realize the nature and content of our moral consciousness more clearly. We are know that good and bad acts of individual have social sanction behind them, in the same way the activities, duties, rights and policies of state also have a sanction behind them and the basis of this sanction is moral values and ethical standards of the society in which it operates.

Since ancient times political and social the theorists have tried to integrate their ideas about different facts of man's life with certain ethical standards. **Plato** and **Aristotle**, for example, considered moral aspect of the state even more

important than social and economic aspect. To them state was a supreme association having its end in the realisation of 'good life' ie life based on certain moral and ethical values.

During middle ages theorists like Machiavelli tried to separate ethics from politics. **Machiavelli** discarded the place of values in politics, according to him there was no relation between ethics and politics. He was highly condemned for having such a view point and accused of vulgarising politics. In the modern times we may refer to the names of **Rousseau, Kant, Hegel Green, Bosanquet** and **Gandhi**, who appreciated the normative aspect of man's life in politics and held the view that ethics should be the basis of all political activity.

In an effort to convert the subject of Political Science into a pure science, a large number of recent political theorists known as behaviourlists lists have tried to present a value free Political Theory. Thus political theorists. Like Charles Merriam, Lasswell and Morgenthau, to quote a few, have preferred to make politics free from all ethical considerations. No doubt, this approach has led to the enrichment of the stock of empirical political science, but it was never the less condemned for making political science valueless.

In the post behaviourlist phase the trend towards reaffirmation of values has resurfaced, in adhering to the tradition of integrating with values and norms. It is a well accepted fact now that the basis of all politics and political theory should be ethical values, we can not deny that whatever is wrong ethically cannot be correct politically and political theorists have to keep ethical aspect in mind while expounding their views.

The Laws made by state are always based on the moral values of its people, infact when the well accepted moral and ethical values of a society are given legal sanction, (by the State) they are called laws.

Ethics too is dependent on political science, as the only way of enforcing ethical and moral standards in an organised society is through the laws framed by the state. Individual behaviour is certainly influenced by these laws.

As is clear from whatever we have discussed till now, despite being two different subjects Political Science and Ethics are closely related As Ivor Brown puts it, 'Ethical theory is incomplete without political theory, because man is an associative creature and cannot live fully in isolation; political Theory is idle without ethical theory, because its study and its results depend fundamentally on our Scheme of moral values, our conception of right and wrong.

### **1.2.8 Summary**

In this lesson we have discussed about the relationship of Political science with other social sciences. We have seen that being a social science it is closely related to all other social sciences like Sociology, History, Economics, and Psychology etc. because all of them study different aspects of human activities and man is a

common subject matter in all of them. In the 20th century it has become clear that the study of complex society and its inter-related phenomenon cannot understand society properly through different social sciences as each deals with only one aspect of the society. All the social sciences arrived at a solution on this in the form of inter-disciplinary approach to the study of social phenomenon. In view of this various branches are emerging in politics such as **political sociology, political psychology, political economy, political ethics, political history, Geopolitics** etc. A complex society cannot fruitfully be studied without mutual exchange among various social sciences. But the most important thing is the need of a commonly accepted outlook towards society or the need of a great theory.

### 1.2.9 Self-check Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. What is inter-disciplinary approach ?  

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2. Why is it essential to study other social sciences like sociology, economics, history and psychology for understanding Political Science ?  

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3. Who said "History without Political Science has no fruit Political Science without History has no root."  

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4. What is common between Political Science and Sociology and-how are they different from each other ?  

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5. What is historical approach and how has it influenced the study of Political Science ?  

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6. Describe the common points between political science and economics and also point out two main differences between them ?  

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7. In what way Political Science is indebted to psychology.

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8. Briefly describe the relationship political science with Ethics.

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### 1.2.10 SUGGESTED READINGS

1. S. P. Verma : *Modern Political Theory*
2. J. C. Johari : *Contemporary Political Theory*
3. S. S. Nanda : *Political Theory*
4. O.P Gauba : *Introduction to Political Theory*
5. Andrew Heywood : *Politics*
6. [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)
7. [www.cup.com](http://www.cup.com)

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**LESSON NO. 1.3****DR. RAJINDER KAUR**

Converted into SLM by Dr. Jarnail Singh

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**STATE : MEANING, DEFINITIONS, ELEMENTS**

- 1.3.1 Objectives of the lesson
- 1.3.2 Introduction
- 1.3.3 Meaning of the term 'State'
- 1.3.4 Definition of State
- 1.3.5 Essential Elements of State
- 1.3.6 Some non-essential elements of state

**1.4.1 Objectives of the lesson**

Traditionally, State has been the central theme of political science. The purpose of the present lesson is (a) to clear the meaning of state; (b) to define the state; (c) to discuss its essential elements; and (d) to distinguish state from society and government. After going through this lesson the students should be able to or (a) define the state (b) explain the essential elements and (c) distinguish it from government and society.

**1.3.2 Introduction**

Man is a social being by nature and necessity. Man cannot fully develop his personality in isolation with society. **Aristotle** has rightly stated that, “**A man who lives outside the polis (i.e. State) is either a beast or God**”. We know that society is a community of the people in which they live collectively and strive to satisfy their needs and fulfill their objectives. But, in society if there is cooperation on the one hand, there is conflict on the other.

Man wants a civilized life, which necessitates a permanent organization, which can mould the human character as per the common needs of society. Such organization is state, which is more stronger than social rules and regulations and is capable enough to provide better life to individuals. **Aristotle** has rightly stated that, “**State comes into existence originating in the bare needs of life and continuing in existence for the sake of good life.**”

**1.3.3 Meaning of the term 'State'**

For traditional political Scientist, Political Science is predominantly ‘the science of state. According to **Garner**, “*Political Science begins and ends with the state.*” The English word “State” has been derived from the **Latin word “Status”**. Both in English and Latin status mean to be superior to others. Therefore, etymologically State means to be higher in relation to other human

organization. We also know that the ancient Greeks used to call the State as '**Polis**', which implied to the '**city-state**'. But, this term is not proper for the today's large sized nation states.

#### 1.3.4 Definition of State

After knowing the terminological meaning of the state, we would try to define it. According to **Aristotle**, the state is, "the union of families and villages having for its end a perfect and self sufficing life by which we mean a happy and honourable life." Although Aristotle's definition of state is quite clear about the objective of the state but it reduces state merely to an assembly of villages and families. Modern states include a number of political and other kinds of association.

According to **Bluntschli**, "The State is politically organized people of a definite territory". Bluntschli's definition clearly refers to 'government' and 'population' but lacks in pointing out 'sovereignty'. Similarly, **Hall's definition** refers to population, territory, government and external sovereignty as essential ingredients of states but wrongly excludes the internal sovereignty. And, in Holland's definition one is unable to find the reference of external sovereignty.

After studying the various definitions of state, one finds that Garner's and Gilchrist's definitions are more suitable. In the words of **Garner**, "State is a community of persons, more or less numerous, nearly so, of external control and possessing an organized government to which the great body of inhabitants render habitual obedience".

Similarly according to **Gilchrist**, "A state exists where a number of people living on a definite territory, are unified under a government which in internal matters the organ for expressing their sovereignty and in external matters is independent of other governments". It is evident from the above definitions that in order to constitute a State a community of people, more or less in number should be permanently settled over a definite portion of territory having a government which is independent of external control and is supreme in internal matters.

#### SELF CHECK EXERCISE-I

- a) Give answers to the following questions.
- b) Check your answers with the answers given in the end of this lesson

1. Who said, "State comes into existence originating in the bare needs of life and continues in existence for the sake of goods life."

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2. What was the meaning of 'Polis' for Greeks ?

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3. What was the definition of state according to Aristotle ?

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4. How has Gilchrist defined the State ?

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### 1.3.5 Essential Elements of State

It is quite obvious from the above discussed definitions of the state that basically is state consists of four essential elements. These are : (i) Population; (ii) Territory; (iii) Government and (iv) Sovereignty. No state can come into existence in the absence of even any one of these elements. Now we would be like to discuss these elements in some detail.

**1.3.5.1 Population :** No state can be conceived without population. State is a human institution and has come into being to satisfy human needs. The worth considering question is that how much population is needed for a state ? Plato and Aristotle were in favour of smaller city-states. **Plato** fixed the population of the state at 5040. Later, **Rousseau**, the ardent supporter of direct democracy determined 10,000 to be an ideal number for the states. Time has left city-states for behind.

The modern tendency is however towards states with large population. The European countries including Russia are facing the problem of declining growth. However reverse is the case with India and China. India is unable to control the overgrowing population, which is resulting in widening the disequilibrium between the population and available means of production. China has a system of incentives and disincentives to observe a one-child-family norm and bring the population growth to zero.

It should, however, be pointed out that the size of the population is not criterion of the states. The population of States varies from crores to thousands. **India and China** for example, have population more than 100



crores each, while **Manaco** and **San-marino** have 22 thousand and 16 thousand population respectively. Increase or decrease in population make no difference in statehood.

The population problem should be considered in relation to available resources of a country. While the population must be sufficient to maintain a state organization, yet it should not be greater than territorial and resource limitation of the state.

**1.3.5.2 Territory :** There can be no state without a fixed territory. Territory provides the material basis for the existence of state population. International demands that fixed territory must be condition of statehood. For instance, before 1948 the Jews were scattered in a number of European countries and were unable to constitute a state due to lack of their own territory. However, in 1948 they acquired fixed territory in the name of Israel and thus were able to establish their own state.

The Jurisdiction of a state is fixed only with the demarcation of its territorial boundaries. Land, water and air space within the geographical limits comprise the territory of a state. The territorial sovereignty of a state extends to a certain portion of the sea adjacent to the coast line, the limit of which is determined by the international law. The territorial jurisdiction of a state also comprises the airspace above its territory.

As for the size of territory, like that of population, there is no fixed limitation. A country with smaller area can also become a state. For instance Monaco with only 50sq. miles area is recognized country. On the other hand, there are countries, like **Russia, U.S.A.** and India having their area extending to thousand sq. miles.

In the past, certain advantages were claimed for smaller states. For instance, an intimate relationship between the government and the governed could be best established in such states and the nearness to the seat of authority could enable the people to exercise strict vigil over government. But, the massive development in the communication technology have practically reduced the disadvantages of distance. The modern tendency is towards larger states. Smaller states have to face many difficulties. On the one hand, even their independent existence remain in constant risk and on the other, these states do not possess resources sufficient enough to make them self reliant.

**1.3.5.3 Government :** To constitute a state, the population, living over a definite territory, should be organized from the political and legal points of view. The political organization of the people is known as the government. In other words, government is a mechanism or organization through which

the will of the people is expressed and executed. It is the government through which common policies are determined and by which common affairs are regulated and common interests promoted. Without government people would be a chaotic mass of disconnected atoms with no cohesion and means of collective action.

The government may take any form, it may be unitary or federal, parliament or presidential. For instance, there is parliamentary government in U.K. and India, presidential in U.S.A. Similarly, there is federal government in U.S.A. and India and unitary in U.K. What is important is that the government should be strong enough to be able to promote law and order and promote security of her citizens.

**1.3.5.4 Sovereignty :** Sovereignty is the essence of state. Sovereignty means the supreme power over which there is no other power. The sovereignty resides in the state. It is the power through which state dictates its terms and can punish those who violate its orders. Sovereignty of the state has two aspects internal sovereignty and external sovereignty. **Internal sovereignty** denotes the supreme authority of the state over the individuals and the associations within its boundaries, **External sovereignty** means the independence of the state from all foreign control. In other words, state is free to maintain relationship with other nations as per her own will.

But, in the era of internationalization characterized by the independence of states, the external sovereignty of each state is less complete. The rules of international law and treaty agreements place practical limitations but do not mean lack of sovereignty. Still sovereignty lies with the nation states which are free to conduct their international relations as per the dictates of their national interests.

### **1.3.6 Some Non-essential Elements of State**

Apart from above discussed four essential elements of state, there are certain other elements which are important for the state. It should, however be cleared that in the absence of any of these, a state does not lose its claim of statehood. We still discuss these non-essential but important elements of states as follows :

**1.3.6.1 International Recognition :** Some writers hold international recognition to be equally necessary for the existence of state. According to Oppenheim, "Recognition by other states is essential to achieve complete statehood. By recognition we mean formal recognition of the state existence, as a consequence of which, diplomatic and other relations are established with the new born state. Without this recognition, a state may exist but

it cannot derive full advantage of the membership of the international community.

**1.3.6.2 Stability :** States, as a rule, permanent. If a state is annexed by other state then it ceases to be a state. Its territory and population become that part of other state.

**1.3.6.3 Equality :** A state's position in the international community is unaffected by that fact of her being large or small in population or territory. The international rights and duties of larger or smaller states are alike. If a state lacks the status of equality then it is not a state.

**1.3.6.4 Unity :** It implies that the sovereign of the people living over a definite territory is one. In other words, they are under a single administration and are governed by basically a single law.

In the light of above discussed elements of the state, now we would like to **know whether the following international associations and areas are states or not:-**

- (a) **United Nations (U.N.) :** The U.N. is not a state. It is true that in its structure and organizational form, it is somewhat like the government of a state. It does not have its own population and territory. It also lacks sovereignty. The UN is a voluntary international organisation, which has certain definite objectives. Almost all of the world's independent sovereign national states are its members. The UN decisions are binding on member states only if they are willing to abide by them. It can, however, not be denied that the role of the UN in maintaining world peace and security is very important.
- (b) **Commonwealth Countries :** Commonwealth is a voluntary organization of those countries, which have been under the British in the past. At present, these are independent sovereign states. But, some of these have the dominion state. For example, some people do not recognize Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc. as states since their nominal head is still British Monarch, who appoints the Governor Generals of these countries. However, these countries are states in the proper sense of world. These countries are practically fully independent from any external control and enjoy both internal and as well as external sovereignty.
- (c) **Units of Federal Countries :** The Units of any Federation are not states in the real sense of the world. Units have no sovereignty. For example though India, C.I.S. (Commonwealth of independent States), which is the Federation of former Soviet States, and the U.S.A. the constituting

units are called states yet these are not states. The units of federation are under the supreme power of their union governments. Therefore, despite having their respective population, territory and government, these are not states.

**Self Check Exercise:- II**

1. State the four essential elements of state and which one of these is most important in your opinion ?

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2. How much population is needed for a state ?

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3. In your opinion, how much area is desirable for a state.

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4. Which form of government is desirable to constitute a state ?

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5. What is meant by internal sovereignty and external sovereignty ?

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6. Point out not-essential elements of state ?

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7. Whether international recognition is a pre-condition for the organization of a state.

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8. Why U.N.O. is not a state ?

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9. Why California in U.S.A., Chechnya in C.I.S. and Punjab and Jammu Kashmir in India are not states ?

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**EVOLUTIONARY THEORY OF THE ORIGIN OF THE STATE**

## 1.4.0 Objectives of the Lesson

## 1.4.1 Introduction

## 1.4.2 The Evolutionary Theory — Meaning and Explanation

## 1.4.3 Factors Responsible for the Origin of the State

## 1.4.4 Importance of the Theory

## 1.4.5 Let's Sum Up

## 1.4.6 Self Check Exercise and Answers

## 1.4.7 Suggested Readings

**1.4.0 Objectives :** Dear Students, you have so far read about an important theory (i.e. the Social Contract Theory) trying to explain how state originated. There are other theories as well viz. Matriarchal and Patriarchal Theory and the Force Theory and the Marxist Theory. But none of these theory and the Marxist Theory. But none of these theories can be called correct and universally acceptable as each of them has certain fundamental weaknesses. However there is one theory which is accepted by almost all and that is the Historical/Evolutionary theory. The purpose of this lesson is to explain to you why this theory is the most acceptable and what does this theory say about the origin of the state. After going through this lesson you should be able to :

- \* explain the importance of Historical Evolutionary theory.
- \* understand the content of the theory.
- \* discuss the factors which have contributed to the origin and growth of the state.

**1.4.1 Introduction :** To trace out the origin of state is indeed a difficult task, because history throws no light on it. Where history fails, we resort to speculation. As we have studied in our previous lesson also political thinkers have, through the centuries, taken pains to dig out the secret of the origin of state. As a consequence, we have variety of explanations, commonly named as theories. However the various theories fail to give a satisfying explanation of the origin of the state. The basic flaw with each one of them is that every theory tries to focus only on one factor and then goes on to over emphasise the role of that factor in the origin of the state, whereas the origin of the state is not the result of any single factor of rather it is the result of a number of historical factors which collectively gave rise to the institution of the state. **Garner** says, “**State is neither the handiwork of God; nor**

**the result of any superior physical force; nor the result of any agreement; nor the mere expansion of the family. It is a growth, an evolution.”**

In modern times Historical or Evolutionary theory is considered as the true explanation of the origin of state and now we shall discuss this theory.

#### **1.4.2 Historical/Evolutionary Theory — Meaning and Explanation :**

The Historical and Evolutionary Theory presents comprehensive explanation of the origin of the state as fundamental, social and political phenomenon. It rejects the Divine theory of the origin of state, i.e., God is the creator of the state, Just as much as it rejects the Force Theory, i.e., force is the sole creator of the state. It also rejects the idea propounded by the contractualists, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau that the state is the result of a contract. It does not reject these theories as totally false but on the ground that they were partial in their approach and credited the origin of state to just one particular factor. A true explanation of the origin of state must necessarily take into account all the factors that have contributed to its development. Early sociologists like **Bagehot** and **Spencer** asserted that the state, like society itself, gradually evolved from simple and crude beginnings to the mature stage. Thus Bagehot pointed out three such stages, namely the first stage, which marked the absence of political authority, intermediary stage when rudiments of government appeared and finally when there emerged a fully developed political organisation. Modern sociologists do not subscribe to this point of view. According to them all societies possessed some system of government for regulating the relations of individuals and safeguarding the interests of the groups. Slowly and imperceptibly the state developed from a simple to complex type.

State, therefore, can best be understood as the result of a slow process of historical development in which several factors and forces have, either separately or, collectively, played their part. Someone or the other being more dominant than others at a particular stage in history; though they were all coexistent.

A complete account of the development of the state in different parts of the world would indeed fill many volumes. Nor will this account be the same considering the varied histories of the people of the world. However, it is not difficult to isolate a group of factors and forces that are a common feature of the development of various states, for the purpose of general theory. The Historical Theory combines the elements of all other theories. It does not reject other theories, it just points out that no one fact solely is responsible for the origin of state.

#### **1.4.3 Factors and Forces responsible for the origin and development of the State**

##### **1.4.3.1. Social Nature of Man :**

According to Aristotle Man is a social being. By nature he cannot live in isolation. When man feels the need of living together. The need of state is ingrained in that.

The state came into being for the sake of man's happiness. As **Aristotle** had said, **"The State organised for the sake of life, and it continued to exist for the sake of good life."** So the desire for state is in the nature of man. If the men were not social by nature then neither man would have shared the problems with others nor the state could come into existence.

#### **1.4.3.2. Kinship**

The most important and fundamental force that explains the unity and cohesiveness of any human group is kinship. **Blood relationship** is sole bond of unity among the people living together, Kinship does not explain the origin of the state as such. It merely emphasizes the importances of the anthropological fact of unity of a group of human beings held together by these biological ties, generating among them a common consciousness and common interest and the need for self-preservation. Kinship is manifested in all social organisations. In courts of time kin groups have multiplied through clans and tribes and the kin sentiment has enlarged itself, leading to the recognition of the need for a common authority and obedience to it, for law and order and defence.

The kin sentiment was in recent years developed into a full-fledged theory of racial and biological superiority of the Nazi people by Hitler which acted as a powerful stimulus for his aggressive politics. Modern nationalism can also be described as a transformed expression of the old Kinship sentiment. For example, like the blood relationship, it is the most powerful cementing force.

But this does not mean that the State is the mere enlargement of the family. As Willoughby observes, "It would not be true to say that the state developed out of this small social unit. These two institutions are different in essence. In the family the location of authority is natural (i.e. in the father). In the state it is one choice. Subordination is the principle of the family; equality of the State. Further more, the functions or aims of the state are essentially different from, and even contradictory to those of the family." However kinship everywhere provided the nucleus around which the successive organisation had developed.

#### **1.4.3.3. Religion**

Apart from kinship, the dominating force in all human societies of the past was Religion. In fact the history of all human societies has been the history of the involvement of Religion, both as a unifying force and as principle for organisation of authority. The bonds of kinship were strengthened by common belief and worship. And when the expansion of the family ties from clan to tribe tended to weaken the hold of Kinship Religion was the main directing force both in the social and political life of man. In the former it provided the code of conduct in marriage, in family and other ties; while in the later it provided the sanction for authority and obedience. This was a feature common both to the early primitive societies where Religion took the form of animism and ancestor worship, in the more advanced societies where



religion was based on well defined and well defended dogmas and creed. The theory of Divine Origin of the state and of Kings is one manifestation of the hold of Religion on human thought and practice. In China and India, religion has been the basis of the whole structure of their **civilisation**. The Dharam Shastra and other integrated with it of ancient India have laid out a complete code to guide the affairs of the state and of Individual. In Greece and Rome, despite their paganism (Belief in non-Christianity) and rational philosophy, the role of religion was significant.

The nation that rulers were Priests or voice versa was commonly accepted in the Islamic world as well as in China and Japan right up to recent times. Religion has only recently begun to play a subordinate role in the life of nations; more especially with the advance of science and technology and the rise of secular thining about polities, which in itself is a product of Rationalism. The newly emerged states of Africa still display the powerful influence of the twin force of Kinship and Religion, and their political life can best interpreted in the light of these.

#### **1.4.3.4. Force :**

Along with the unifying influence of religion and kinship, is the role of force. Force was necessary for societies united by Religion and Kinship already, for the mere purpose of defence and protection. But force was the chief instrument in holding a people in obedience, where the state was established by the fact of conquest by stronger nation or tribe of a weaker one. Force was and still is a major factor in the organisation of the state. While we agree with the defenders of the Force Theory about the effective role of force, we disagree in giving it an exaggerated place, unless of course we interpret it in very genral terms. We can see it in the practice of modern states. The democratically advanced states tend to minimise its exercises; while the dictatorial ones do not hesitate to utilise force to the maximum. There recognition of war as a legal institution continues to be an expression of the place of force in international relations.

#### **1.4.3.5 Economic Interest :**

A factor of great importance is the common property in land or in capital that has from the beginning of human society been an invisible but very powerful influence in litegrating the life of a people. All wars known in history, from tribal conquests to the establishments of Empires, have been motivated by the economic factors, Either the preservation and defence of what a human group has laboured to create for itsel for the conquest of the same by another. the emergence of the institution of private property and the continued concern of the state to develop their natural resources has not only contributed to the unity of the state, but has also it times been the casue of wars and First World War. The sanctity and inviabilityof state territories as guaranteed in international law is but a modern expression of the old concern for the protection of the land which a people had inhabited and cultivated for their livings. To their relation of States it is perhaps the most important determining factor.

#### **1.4.3.6. Political Consciousness :**

Last, but not the least, of these factors is the slowly growing awareness among the people regarding the need for preserving and defending the order of their organised life. It is difficult to say when this consciousness grew. It must have been the result of a slow process by which human beings began to be directly conscious of the need for organised life, i.e., of maintaining internal order and of facing external aggression and the necessity of a machinery that would ensure both. It was the result of centuries of struggle that man became fully conscious of his political life, before his instinctive urges were enlightened by a sense of purpose. Political consciousness is both an attribute and a mark of the advance that man had made since the dawn of history. It is this growing awareness that is responsible for much of the progress of man.

These, then have been the plurality of forces that have individually or collectively been responsible for the origin and development of the state. It would be a mistake to think of them as acting separately, though it would be difficult to deny that one or the other of them has played a more conspicuous role any particular time. It would, therefore, also be wrong to think that some of them have ceased to be effective with advance of history whether it is kinship or religion or custom and economic interest, or force, the general consciousness for order, security and preservation, they all have contributed and are continuing to do so in the development of the state.

#### **1.4.4 Importance of the Theory**

Thus the historical theory briefly takes into account all the relevant factors that have promoted the state from the earliest of times without exaggerating the role of any one of them. The Historical **Evolutionary** Theory is more realistic and takes a holistic view of the phenomenon of the origin of the state. State is certainly not an artificial institution created by a mere social contract or a divine institution created by the God. Though the factors of force, economic interests, social bonds all contributed to the creation of the state but only in collaboration with each other. The theory takes account the most important factor of political consciousness without which the state would have never come up and political consciousness without which the state would have never come up and political consciousness gradually and takes years. Hence the theory states that state originated gradually and evolved over a number of years. It is an evolution, adding something or the other gradually. We cannot give an exact date for the origin of the state. Once state came into being it grew from simple to complex like living organisms. Thus the theory is more in tune with the reality and hence **most acceptable explanation of the origin of the state.**

#### **1.4.5 Let us Sum up**

To sum up, evolutionary theory believes that like all human institutions, state also is a growing institution. It is a moving phenomenon that knows no finality. It clearly shows that state is neither the gift of God nor the deliberate work of man. The beginnings of the state

are lost in the shadow of past in which social institutions were unconsciously arising and its development has followed the general laws of evolutionary growth.

#### 1.4.6 Self Check Exercise and its Answers

- (a) What is Garner's statement regarding the criticism of other theories and importance of Historical Theory.

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- (b) Explain briefly what does the Historical Evolutionary theory mean ?

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- (c) Explain any two factors which contributed to the origin of the state

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- (d) Give the importance of the Historical Evolutionary theory. Why is it called the most accepted theory.

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#### Answer to self check Exercise :

- (a) State is neither a handiwork of God; nor the result of any superior physical force; nor the result of any agreement; nor a mere expansion of family. It is a growth and evolution.
- (b) According to this theory, state is the a result of a slow process of development in which several factors and forces, either separately or collectively, played their part. Someone or the other being more dominant than others at a particular stage of history; though they were all coexistent.
- (c) (i) Religion (ii) Economic Interests (you can choose any other two if you like)
- (d) This theory is the most realistic and takes holistic view of the phenomena of the origin of state and tells that state is a result of evolution and growth and many factors contributed to its origin.

#### 1.4.7 Suggested Readings :-

1. O.P Gauba : An Introduction to Political Theory
2. M.P Jain : Political Theory
3. A.C Kapoor : Principles of Political Science.
4. J.C. Johari : Principles of Modern Political Science.
5. Sushila Ramaswamy : Political Theory
6. Andrew Heywood : Political Theory
7. N.D. Arora : State
8. [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)
9. [www.cup.com](http://www.cup.com)
10. [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)

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**LESSON NO. 1.5****Author : Dr. Ravinder Kaur**

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**Distinction between State, Government and Society**

- 1.5.1 Objective
- 1.5.2 Introduction
- 1.5.3 State indicates political while Society indicates Social system
- 1.5.4 Social is prior to state
- 1.5.5 Distinction/Different between State and Government
- 1.5.6 Summary
- 1.5.7 Suggested Readings

**1.5.1 Objectives:** In this lesson, we will discuss the Distinction of State form Government, Society and Association.

**1.5.2 Introduction****Distinction/Difference between State and Society.**

The term state and society have often been interchangeably used. Plato and Aristotle did not make any difference between the two. According to them, there was not other social life without being the member of society. Hegel also held the some view. According to Laski also states and society share the same objectives as both aim at helping the individual to develop his personality. Similatly, the dictators also do not make any distinction between state and society since they claim the right to interfere in every aspect of social life. However, despite some similarities, state and society are different entities. MacIver is of the view that to consider state and 'society' as the same thing is a big illusion that will neither lead to correctly understand society no state. The main points of difference between state and society may be summed up as follows :

**1.5.3 State indicates Political while Society indicates Social system :**

As is evident from above discussion, state is a political where as society is a social organization. State deals with the political order and society deals with the social order. Society deals with the people who live in a socially organised institution of human beings whereas the state deals with the politically organised people. State is a political system whereas society is a social system. The origin of the state can be traced back to the tribe, which was once the political institution, whereas the origin of the society can be traced back to family, which is regarded as the first social institution.

**1.5.4 Social is prior to state :** Society has originated before state. In the primitive age, when state has not yet come into existence, society existed in one form or other. The social economic traditions and conventions of human life came prior to laws of the state. State came into being when people became politically conscious and they established the organisation of government to maintain peace and security in society and began to obey its rules and regulations.

**Society is wider than state :** As against that of society, the sphere of state activity is limited. Society deals with the various aspects of human life including social, political, culture, religious, economic and ethical, etc. Society aims at overall well-being of the individuals whereas state is primarily concerned with the political aspect of human life.

**State Possesses Sovereignty but society does not :** State has supreme power. It can force individuals to obey its decision and orders. Who so even disobey state laws can be punished. But society does not possess any such power. "Society can only persuade the individuals to follow certain rules while distinguishing state from society, Barker states that "The area of society is voluntary co-operation, its energy that of good will, its method that of elasticity, while the state is rather that of mechanical action, its energy force, its method rigidity."

**Territory is essential Basis of State but not of Society :** Territory is one of the essential constituents of State. No state can exist without territory. The state rules supreme over the people living in its territory. But for society territory is not an essential condition. Society is the web of social relationships. The sphere of society may be extended to the whole world and may be limited to the family.

**Organisation is essential for State and not for Society :** Society can be both organised or unorganized. When men lived in families and tribes and even before the dawn of the state when men used to wander from one place to another, society existed though it was not in an organised form. The state or the government organised the society first of all. The state of the government cannot exist without social organization.

**State is only a part of society :** Like other institutions of society, state is also one of its institutions, It is the society that unites all such institutions as family, state, clubs, political parties and trusts, etc. Therefore, we should regard state only as a part of society.

**1.5.5 Distinction/Difference between State and Government :** The terms 'States' and 'Government' are often used interchangeably. But both are

not the same. However, Hobbes employed that terms the state and the government as if they meant the same thing. John Locke attempted first of all to the differentiate the state from government in nineteenth century. In his words, "While the government is a body of some citizens, the state consists of all the citizens. "The main differences between state and government may be discussed as follows.

**Government is only a part of the State :** It has already been discussed that state consists of four essential elements, viz; population, territory, government and sovereignty. State is thus a complete entity and government is one of its essential elements. Undoubtedly, government is very important constituent of the state because State cannot operate without government.

**Government is an agent of State :** In the words of Garner, "Government is the agency or machinery through which the collective will of the people or state may be formulated, expressed and executed". Laski also points out that government, "exists to carry out the purposes of the state. It is not itself the supreme coercive power. It is simply the mechanism of administration which gives effect to the purpose of that power." Thus, government serves as an agent of the state. In other words, it is through the government that the state operates.

**Membership of State is Compulsory and not of Government :** Every person becomes a member of State by virtue of his birth or blood relations. But, it entirely depends upon the will of the person concerned to be or not be the member of the government.

**State has Sovereignty but Government does not :** State possesses the "supreme power. The Government exercises the power that is conferred by the state. Thus, government does not possess sovereignty. For example, in democracy public is regarded as the source of all power. The powers of state as enormous whereas government has limited powers which are generally enshrined in the constitution of country.

**Government changes Frequently but State remains, more or less, permanent :** Government change frequently. A government collapses due to certain legal or political reasons and the other parties get the opportunity to form their own governments. As a consequence, government changes and not the state. Sometimes democracy is replaced by dictatorship. Government changes its form and state continues to exist. However, a state comes to end only when it loses its authority to have a control over its population or its sovereignty is usurped by another state.

**State is uniform throughout but Government has many kinds**

: Population territory, government and sovereignty are indispensable to constitute a state. Any human organization having all the four essential elements will enjoy the status of statehood. However, may have many kinds or types. For example, there is parliamentary government in UK and India and presidential in USA, etc.

**Territory is essential Element of State but not Government :**

A State must have certain fixed territory, A government can function without territory. During the second world war, when certain countries were occupied by the Germany, the governments of these countries continued to function from the territory of other countries.

**State is Abstract but Government is Concrete :** The state does not possess any form and is abstract. It has no practical concern either. So far as the government is concerned, it is practical and has its own practical shape and the will of the state is the people.

**Distinction/Difference between State and Association**

In spite of some similarities, both state and association differ from each other in the following ways :-

First difference is regarding the sovereign status. State is a sovereign association which has the capacity to take all decisions independently. Associations, on the other hand, are of non-sovereign nature.

Associations differ from state in regard to their life. State is a permanent institution. On the other hand, associations are comparatively of low life term.

Associations also differ from state in regard to their membership. Membership of state is compulsory while the membership of associations is voluntarily.

Both, State and Associations also differ from each other in regard to their respective goals and objectives. Aims and objectives of state are wider than that of the aims and objectives of associations.

**1.5.6 Summary**

In this lesson, we have dwelt upon the definition and elements of state and have tried to distinguish it from society and government. Since the time of ancient Greek political scientists, the state has been a very important theme of political science. State denotes a number of people living on a definite territory, unified under a government, which is supreme in internal matters and is independent of any foreign control in external matters. Thus population, territory, government and sovereignty are four

essential elements of state. The size of population and areas of a state does not effect its equal status of statehood. Government is essential for a state. The government may be of any kind. Such government must possess external as well as internal sovereignty. It should be free from any external control and supreme in internal matters. State has certain other elements or features as well, viz, stability, international recognition, equality, unity, etc. But these are not pre-conditions for constituting a state, the united nations, common wealth or units of federal countries can not be regarded as state since they lack sovereignty. State is different from society and Government.

**Self Check Exercise : III**

1. What is meant by Society ?

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2. Point out two differences between state and Society ?

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3. Point out two differences between state and government.

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4. In what sense government is an agency of State ?

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5. How does individual automatically become a member of the state ?

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**Answers to the Self Check Exercises :****Exercise No. 1 (Answers)**

1. These words were said by Aristotle.
2. For Greeks, the meaning of 'Polis' was 'city-State'.
3. According to Aristotle State is "the Union of Families and Villages having for its end a perfect and self-sufficing life by which we mean a happy and



honourable life.

4. According to Gilchrist a state “exists where a number of people living on a definite territory are unified under a government which in internal matters is the organ for expressing their sovereignty and in external matters is independent of other government.”

**Exercise No. 2 (Answer)**

1. Population, Territory, Government and Sovereignty are four essential elements of state. All the four are equally important for the state.
2. No limitation of population can be fixed for a state.
3. Area of a state should be sufficient enough to meet the needs of its populations.
4. Form of government does not matter to constitute a state.
5. Internal sovereignty means that state wields supreme power in respect to internal matters and external sovereignty implies that state is free of external control.
6. Recognition, stability, equality and unity are four non-essential elements of state.
7. Internal recognition is not a pre-condition for the organization of a state.
8. The U.N.O. lacks sovereignty. Therefore it is not a state.
9. California in U.S.A., Chechnya in C.I.S. and Punjab and Jammu-Kashmir in India are not states, as they do not possess sovereignty. They are units of these states, which have federal form of government.

**Exercise No. 3 (Answers)**

1. Two difference between state and society are :
  - (i) State possesses sovereignty, society does not;
  - (ii) States needs organization, society does not.
2. Two difference between state and Government are :
  - (i) State possesses sovereignty not government.
  - (ii) Governments change frequently and state generally is not changed.
3. State is abstract. It is through government alone that state expresses and execute its will.
4. An individual becomes member of state by virtue of his birth or blood relations.

**1.5.7 SUGGESTED READINGS AND WEB SOURCES:-**

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5. O.P. Gauba : An Introduction to Political Theory
6. N.D. Arora : State
7. Andrew Heywood : Politics
8. [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)
9. <http://jccc-ugcinfonet.in>
10. [www.cup.com](http://www.cup.com)