

What Is Political Science?

The definition of politics varies from one author to another. Politics has different meanings depending on the context, making each person view politics in a different manner. Politics can be viewed as a subject, but it can also be viewed as the way to run a government, some even view politics as a science, art, power, hatred and so much more.

Politics has many different meanings and definitions that it can be described as hatred. In *What is Politics?* It states, "To make matters worse, politics is usually thought of as a 'dirty' word: it conjures up images of trouble, disruption and even violence on the one hand, and deceit, manipulation and lies on the other." In other words, politics can be seen as hatred, it can be seen as violence since politics causes many issues that in the past have been solved through violence, war, and deception. There are many authors who have described politics as a means of hatred. In *What is Politics?* Henry Adams described politics as the systematic organization of hatred because the issues that politics causes are solved through hate, war, and lies instead of peace and understanding causing politics to turn into power.

Power can be a meaning of Politics. Many authors have seen politics as a means of power. The Power that one can obtain through politics. Whether they have seen it in the past or seen it today. As described in *Political Science: Discipline*, "When defining politics in terms of power, we follow many before us. "Power" is, by now, well known to be a fraught conceptual field. Respectful though we are of its complexities, we decline to let our selves get bogged down in them. Dahl's (1957) old neo-Weberian definition still serves well enough. In those terms, X has power over Y insofar as: (i) X is able, in one way or another, to get Y to do something (ii) that is more to X's liking, and (iii) which Y would not otherwise have done." In other words, through politics, one can get another person to do something that they would not have done if it

were not for them. The way that power shows in politics is not through who has more physical power but who has more power over a government. For example, the United States has the most powerful military in the world because they spend the most when it comes to their military, so a small country that does not have a strong military, like Bhutan will follow the definition that Dahl has described in *Political Science: The Discipline*. The thought of power as a meaning of politics can even be seen as public.

Throughout history and even today we see politics in everyday life, whether it is at our work, school, or family it is something that we see constantly because politics can even be described and seen in public affairs. The view of politics as public affairs is mostly seen through John Locke. John Locke's view of politics is quite simple, and his ideas have influenced and are even seen in the Declaration of Independence. According to *What is Politics?* "In Politics, Aristotle declared that 'man is by nature a political animal,' by which he meant that it is only within a political community that human beings can live the 'good life.' From this view-point, then, politics is an ethical activity concerned with creating a 'just society'." Locks' idea of politics throws out Dahl's idea of politics as power since Locks' idea of politics is, in other words, describing politics as a life that not only people of power are part of but ordinary people who do not have much to do with the government. His definition makes every person political.

In conclusion, there are many ways one can view politics. People may view politics as a science, art, power, hatred, or like Locke they can view it living a 'good life.' At the end of the day, politics is an aspect of life that one cannot avoid. We are surrounded by it no matter where or who we might be, if we have the power that a president has, or if we are a common worker.