

Nature and scope of political theory

Knowledge of Political Dynamics

Thus, political theory lays down principles which are to be followed in the conduct of public affairs. One who has no knowledge of politics is at a great disadvantage, and in one's own interests and in the larger interest of the society as a whole, it is advisable to have adequate knowledge of political theory. To know the national and international affairs, the condition of the various institutions, the nature and conduct of the government, the programmes and policies of political parties, pressure groups, lobbies and various other matters, a knowledge of political theory is indispensable.

Creation of Democratic Values

The study of political theory has assumed special importance in modern times in all democratic countries. The success of democracy depends upon the political consciousness of its people. The study of political theory makes people conscious of their rights and duties. It also makes them vigilant. Unless the citizens of a country are vigilant, alert, intelligent and patriotic, there is no possibility of successful working of democracy in that country. It is rightly said that 'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty'.

Creation of Good Citizenship

The study of political theory is valuable for creating good citizenship and securing unity of the nation. It makes citizens conscious of national objectives and goals.

Laski said that good citizenship implies 'the contribution of one's instructed judgement to public good'. It can be developed by the study of political theory. Political theory teaches the lessons and virtues of good citizenship. It preaches the maxim, 'united we prosper, divided we fall'. A nation is destined to suffer, if there is no unity. The study of political theory helps to bring unity among the people. It makes the citizens aware of their rights, responsibilities and duties towards the society.

Lesson of Cooperation and Toleration

Political theory also teaches the lesson of cooperation, adjustment and toleration.

Society cannot prosper without cooperation. Man should learn how to cooperate and adjust him with his fellow-beings. The study of political theory makes people conscious of the social objectives.

Knowledge of Political Theory Indispensable

Thus, the study of political theory has special importance in all countries. Its study helps us to understand the mechanism and constitutional systems of modern government. The principles of government, the domestic and foreign policies of the nation, the legislature, executive and judiciary of different countries, etc., are studied in political science. The principles of liberty, equality and fraternity are also made clear by the study of political science. Hence, the study of political theory has immense practical utility.