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## **INTRODUCTION**

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## **UNIT 1 DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF POLITICAL THEORY**

**3-59**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 1.1 Unit Objectives
- 1.2 Introduction to Political Theory
  - 1.2.1 Evolution of Political Theory
  - 1.2.2 Meaning of Political Theory
  - 1.2.3 Nature and Scope
  - 1.2.4 Traditional and Contemporary Perspectives
  - 1.2.5 Classical Tradition of Political Theory
  - 1.2.6 Limitations of Classical Tradition
  - 1.2.7 Traditional Approaches to Political Theory
- 1.3 Moves towards a Science of Politics: Positivism and Logical Positivism
  - 1.3.1 Positivism
  - 1.3.2 Logical Positivism or Neo-positivism
- 1.4 Behaviouralism and Post-Behaviouralism: An Overview
  - 1.4.1 Behaviouralism
  - 1.4.2 Post-Behaviouralism
- 1.5 Debate on the 'Decline'/'Revival' of Political Theory
- 1.6 Summary
- 1.7 Key Terms
- 1.8 Answers to 'Check Your Progress'
- 1.9 Questions and Exercises
- 1.10 Further Reading

## **UNIT 2 IMPACT OF POSITIVISM ON POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**61-101**

- 2.0 Introduction
- 2.1 Unit Objectives
- 2.2 Use of Rational Actors Models
- 2.3 Public Choice Approach
- 2.4 Influence of General Systems Theory
  - 2.4.1 David Easton's Systems Analysis
- 2.5 Structural-Functionalism
  - 2.5.1 Almond-Powell Model
- 2.6 Communication Model
- 2.7 Summary
- 2.8 Key Terms
- 2.9 Answers to 'Check Your Progress'
- 2.10 Questions and Exercises
- 2.11 Further Reading

## **UNIT 3 CONTEMPORARY LIBERALISM**

**103-160**

- 3.0 Introduction
- 3.1 Unit Objectives

3.2 Contemporary Liberalism

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## INTRODUCTION

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Politics plays a defining role in the society. It not only lays the foundation of our social life but also is the building block of the civil society. It performs the legal and administrative function of the society protecting states from complete anarchy. This title, *Political Theory* presents a comprehensive study of various political theories and their interpretation.

Political theory as a subject teaches us how to live together, collectively. A political theorist attempts to explain or define precisely ideas such as freedom, equality, democracy and justice. Ideas that may have a sound foundation or be backed by reasoned arguments or may even be based on misguided premises.

According to John Dunn (1990) in *Reconceiving the Content and Character of Modern Political Community*, the purpose of political theory is to diagnose practical predicaments and show how best they can be confronted. He also believes that this can be done by developing the following three skills:

- Ascertaining how one gets to know where one is and understanding why things are the way they are
- Deliberating about the kind of world one wishes to live in
- Judging how far, and through what actions, and at what risk, one can hope to move this world as it exists today towards the way one wishes it to be

Study of political theory helps you to differentiate between legitimate functions of government and the arbitrary use of power.

Unit 1 introduces the meaning of political theory, the classical tradition of political theory and the science of politics. It also, delves into the concept of behaviouralism and post-behaviouralism. Unit 2 analyses the role of positivism in political science constituting the application of Rational Actors Model, Public Choice Approach, General System Theory, Structural-Functionalism and communication model. Unit 3 explores the different facets of contemporary liberalism including the perspectives put forth by John Rawls and Robert Nozick. Unit 4 explains the Marxist approach to political theory constituting of a thorough evaluation of the mode of production and nature of state.

This book, *Political Theory*, is written in a self-instructional format and is divided into four units. Each unit begins with an Introduction to the topic followed by an outline of the Unit objectives. The content is then presented in a simple and easy-to-understand manner, and is interspersed with Check Your Progress questions to test the reader's understanding of the topic. A list of Questions and Exercises is also provided at the end of each unit, and includes short-answer as well as long-answer questions. The Summary and Key Terms section are useful tools for students and are meant for effective recapitulation of the text.

## NOTES