

Political Theory: An Introduction

Human beings are unique in two respects:

- They possess reason.
- The ability to reflect on their actions.

What is POLITICS:

- Politics is the study of power or the struggle for power.
- No society can exist without some form of political organisation and collective decision making.
- A number of social institutions such as family, tribes and economic institutions, have emerged to help people fulfill their needs and aspirations.



Such institutions help us find ways of living together acknowledging our obligations to each other.

- How governments are formed & how they function is thus an important focus of politics.



- But politics is not confined to the affairs of government.
- In fact what governments do is relevant because it affects the lives of people in many different ways like their economic policy, foreign policy etc.
- Since the actions of the government affect us deeply, people take a lively interest in what govt. do.
- When people disagree with the policies of the govt., we protest & organise demonstrations to persuade the govt. to change the existing laws.
- So, finally, politics arises from the fact that we have different vision of what is just & desirable for us and our society.