

Political Science

Atilla Yayla



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FOREWORD

P*OLITICAL SCIENCE HAS BEEN WRITTEN TO BE USED IN INTRODUCTION TO* Political Science Courses at universities. The purpose of the book is to promote the interest of students into politics and to provide them with an enjoyable learning process. However it does not mean that those who are not university students can not make benefit of the book. All who are interested in politics, whether as a science, an art or day to day activity, can benefit from the book.

It is both easy and difficult to write such a text book. It is easy, because as an experienced lecturer I have in my mind plenty of knowledge and experiences of many years. It is difficult, because it is a hard task to determine what knowledge to employ and where to put it. In the end this is an introduction book. It can not include all the contents of political science. What a text book needs to do is to include all the information which is anonymous and used in all similar books. But it is of utmost importance to appropriately choose scientific knowledge and to replace them in the right places. In this book, by using my previous experiences, I tried to realize this heavy task. In other words, I tried to properly distribute the information I chose and partly reevaluated among the chapters. Sure I also tried to exceed the traditional limits. In some places I have taken a try to make original contributions to the discipline. Therefore every careful reader would detect and deliver that the book is original in some respects. Left-right spectrum, the categorization of ideologies, and some of my evaluations on political change and revolution would attract the reader's attention in this respect.

I wrote the book not only with an aim to collect the right and sufficient knowledge but also with a consideration that my main readers are students. A good text book should not scare students. It should be student-friendly. It should

inform the student about main concepts and subjects. The rest must be left to the students themselves. It should be economized, i.e. it should not include unnecessary information, but it should not turn out to be a short summary. It should neither underestimate the mental capacity of the students nor forget that the students are on their way to learn. I paid attention to all these aspects. I am hoping that students and other readers would be happy with the book.

I have dealt with all the basic subjects. I have included basic information and referred to the points that the readers should follow if they want to have wider and deeper information. I have departed from now-fashioned page order and have not defined the concepts in separate boxes. I believe that these boxes interrupt the process of reading and make it more difficult to understand the terms by isolating them from their proper contexts. Therefore I have used bold fonts for concepts and I have defined and explained them in their own contexts. I think this style makes it easier to learn these concepts. I have added at the end of each chapter both questions to discuss and subjects to study. Students can improve their ability to think and to debate by dealing with these discussion issues alone on their own or in groups. I think questions to discuss would help students in both course exams and career entry exams.

I wish *Political Science* to be useful for the students and the readers.

Atilla Yayla

April 5, 2015, Kadıköy

CHAPTER ONE

POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLITICS IS SAID TO BE ONE OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL AND THE OLDEST kind of human activities. We must add that politics is one of the most common human activities in our time. Indeed, it is an undeniable fact that the number of areas to which politics is related has increased compared with the past and the field of politics has dramatically expanded. So much so that many issues that were thought to have nothing to do with politics a few centuries ago are at the very center of politics today. That is why it is impossible for an average person to be indifferent to politics in societies we live in. Even if she remains indifferent to politics, politics will not be indifferent to him/her and will affect almost every aspect of her life.

If one looks for events and facts that will confirm this observation, it is enough to take a look at his/her own life and surroundings. How many years should compulsory education be? Should the state monopolize university education or should it leave it to the civil society? Which language or languages should be the working language in education? Should flat-tax system or progressive tax system be applied? Should employees be entitled to the pension in 20 or 30 years? These and many similar questions, right or wrong, are directly related to the politics. In other words, the fact that a citizen removes politics from his/her agenda and his/her area of interests does not mean that he/she can also come out of politics' area of interest. At the very most, it causes him/her to fall prey to people doing politics actively in a sense and be exploited and manipulated by them.

Why and since when politics has been one of the most fundamental human activities? It would be unreasonable to claim that the politics always existed in today's sense and dimension because it is a social activity and it is expected to have emerged concurrently with or after the emergence of human unities in the broadness that can be called society. This view brings the questioning of family-politics relationship into the agenda. People who tend to expand the area of politics to

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