



Concept of the Week (PSIR Optional)

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Important Terms and Terminologies of PSIR

State

- The state can, most simply, be defined as a political association that establishes sovereign jurisdiction within defined territorial borders and exercises authority via a set of permanent institutions over a certain population.
- States however can be divided into numerous kinds depending on their ideology:
 - Minimal states or 'night-watchman' states, advocated by classical liberals and the New Right
 - Developmental states, found, for example, in the 'tiger' economies of East and Southeast Asia.
 - Social-democratic states, the ideal of both modern liberals and democratic socialists, intervene widely in economic and social life to promote growth and development.
 - Collectivized states, found in orthodox communist countries with centrally planned economies.

Ideology

- Ideology is one of the most contested of political terms. The term was coined by Destruct de Tracy to describe a new 'science of ideas', literally an 'idea-ology'.
- It is now used most widely in a social-scientific sense to refer to a more or less coherent set of ideas that provide the basis for some kind of organized political action. In this sense all ideologies therefore:
 - Firstly, offer an account or critique of the existing order, usually in the form of a 'world view'.
 - Secondly, provide the model of a desired future, a vision of the 'good society'.
 - Thirdly, outline how political change can and should be brought about.

Teleology

- It is an explanation by reference to some purpose, end, goal, or function. Human conduct, insofar as it is rational, is generally explained with reference to ends or goals pursued or alleged to be pursued

Inductivism

- Inductivism is the traditional, scientific method to develop scientific theories. It is described as a systematic method where one's experiences and observations, including what are learned from others, are synthesized to come up with a general truth-bottom up logic.

Deductivism

- It is the process of reasoning from one or more general statements (premises) to reach a logical conclusion- top down logic.

Positivism

- Positivism is the doctrine that the social sciences should adhere strictly to the methods of the natural sciences. The term was introduced by Claud-Henri Saint-Simon.
- Positivism did much in the twentieth century to weaken the status of political philosophy and to underpin the emergence of political science. Normative concepts and theories were discarded as nonsense, on the grounds that they were 'metaphysical' and did not deal with what is externally measurable.
- One of the chief legacies of positivism was the emergence of behaviouralist and the attempt to develop a value-free science of politics. However, the influence of positivism on philosophy and political analysis declined significantly in the second half of the twentieth century.

Behaviouralism

- Behaviouralism is the belief that social theories should be constructed only on the basis of observable behaviour. The behavioural approach to political analysis developed out of positivism, adopting its assertion that scientific knowledge can be developed only on the basis of explanatory theories that are verifiable or falsifiable.
- Behavioural analysis typically involves the collection of quantifiable data through research surveys, statistical analysis and the construction of empirical theories that have predictive capacity.
- The so-called 'behavioural revolution' of the 1950s made behaviouralism the dominant force in US political science and a powerful influence elsewhere.
- Political analysts such as David Easton argued that politics could adopt the methodology of the natural sciences through the use of quantitative research methods in areas such as voting behaviour and the behaviour of legislators, lobbyists and municipal politicians.



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- **8 AM** - Anthropology
- **12 PM** - PSIR (Important terms and concepts of Political Science & International Relations live)
- **4 PM** - Sociology (Live)
- **8 PM** - Essay (How to get 140+ in an Essay live)

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