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- **** Meaning Of Politics ****

What is Politics?

Overview

- Why should we study politics?
 - Defining Politics
 - Politics as but only one means to an end (but an important one)
 - Definition of a political predicament
 - An answer to the question:
Is politics good or bad?

Definitions

- Politics involves making common decisions for a group of people.
- It is the activity by which differing interests within a given unit of rule are conciliated by giving them a share in power in proportion to their importance to the welfare and survival of the whole community.

What is Politics?

Man is a political animal

- Aristotle

- If this is true, then politics is not only prevalent in our lives, but inevitable.
- We must understand politics to meaningfully participate in it.

“Who gets what, when and how.”

- Politics arises...

...because of the need to make decisions...

...in the face of diversity...

...and in the context of complexity.

The Conciliation of Interests

- Politics is a **complex activity**.
- When interests are **uniform**, there are **no politics**.
- “The **unique character** of political activity lies...in its **publicity**.”
- People **cannot opt out** of politics.
- Politics presupposes an **established order**.

Is politics the only way to conciliate interests?

- Certainly, there are many ways to reconcile differences.
- Politics is a particular way of reconciling differences.
 - Tolerance, respect, support and compromise are the language of politics.
 - Politics itself admits differences.

When to resort to politics?

A Political Predicament arises when:

- 1.) A given set of persons require **a common policy**.
- 2.) These people submit **mutually exclusive alternatives**.

Is politics good or bad?

- More often than not, politics is viewed with derision.
- However, as politics entails the conciliation of diverse interests, its natural object is the common good.

Aristotle: “Politics is the Master Science.”

Summary

- Politics is the conciliation of diverse interests in society
- Politics is a particular way of reconciling differences: it is a civilizing activity.
- Political predicaments arise when decisions have to be made and alternative solutions are mutually exclusive.

Summary

- Politics is meant to achieve the **common good**.
- Politics: Aristotle's **Master Science**.

- *end* -

Thank you!

For your Attention

Any questions?

