

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

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McGRAW-HILL SERIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

JOSEPH P. HARRIS, *Consulting Editor*

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PREFACE

This text seeks to provide a broad, comprehensive introduction to political science as a whole. It is designed for college freshmen and sophomores, junior college students, and the lay reader. Its approach is broad and general; the authors have not attempted to treat any topic exhaustively. On the other hand, no field or aspect of political science has been omitted, and it is hoped that the book will serve both as a starting point for more advanced study in political science and also as a source of basic political information for the student who will take only one course in this field.

The authors hope that they have contributed in some degree toward meeting the four objectives of the beginning course as set forth in *Goals for Political Science*, presented in 1951 as a report by the Committee for the Advancement of Teaching of the American Political Science Association. These objectives were: (1) training for citizenship; (2) "the intellectual stimulation of the student, the development of his capacity to think in terms of political concepts, to recognize values, to exercise critical judgment, and to make political decisions"; (3) familiarizing the student with existing political institutions, both American and foreign; and (4) providing a basic knowledge of political science as an essential part of a liberal education.

In the belief that a suitable text constituted the first step toward the realization of these objectives, the authors have sought to provide one sufficiently comprehensive to serve as a workable tool for the instructor. Many years of experience in teaching the introductory course have left no illusions as to the great difficulties which this course presents. Not only must the text cover all of the varied facets of political science, but the instructor must be informed, inspired—and inspirational!

The authors gratefully acknowledge their indebtedness to their mentors, colleagues, and students, whose ideas, criticisms, and questions have been assimilated over the years, thus finding their way—unnoticed—into these pages. If any such ideas appear without the protective covering of quotation marks and footnotes, the authors trust that such lapses of memory will be forgiven. Every effort has been made to acknowledge sources, and

the authors wish to express their appreciation to all those who graciously granted permission to quote.

If the authors appear to praise and defend democracy, such was their intention; it is time that this was done in a textbook. Objectivity has been preserved, but not indifference; the authors have not hesitated to avow their convictions—which they have labeled as such.

Rodee wrote Chapters 1 through 3, 5 through 13, the first part of 18, and 22; Anderson wrote Chapters 14 through 16, 19, and 20; Christol wrote Chapters 4, 17, the latter part of 18, and 21. Rodee edited the entire manuscript to achieve greater uniformity of style and to coordinate the work of all three authors.

CARLTON C. RODEE
TOTTON J. ANDERSON
CARL Q. CHRISTOL

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PART ONE

POLITICAL FUNDAMENTALS

The Nature and Scope of Political Science

DEFINITION

What is “political science”? The authors of this text, when students, asked this same question of the fellow student or academic adviser who had recommended a course in “Polly Sigh.” We had heard of history, law, economics, psychology, sociology, and philosophy; but what *was* “political science”? Today’s student is probably more politically aware—more conscious of the importance of his government and of its impact on his own life and plans—than were his parents during their more placid college days. Selective service, civilian defense in the age of A- and H-bombs, veterans’ benefits, and the daily grist of news concerning Soviet and satellite encroachments have all served to upset the blithe indifference—or downright hostility—with which earlier generations regarded the state and all its works. And even a career in “politics”—that dreadful word, connoting graft and corruption, which has long served to discredit the public service—is no longer shunned like the plague but is actually attracting increasing numbers of college graduates.

But “government” and “politics” are not synonymous with “political science.” Is there a “science” of politics—a body of laws, rules, or principles bringing political phenomena within the range of control and prediction? Can we speak of the “laws” of political behavior, the “principles” underlying the state, the “rules” for establishing and maintaining the most “just” and “efficient” government? In the sense of the exactitude which we attribute (often mistakenly) to such sciences as physics, mathematics, chemistry, zoology, or botany, perhaps “political science” is not a “science.” Actually, however, a science is “a branch of knowledge or study dealing with a body of facts or truths systematically arranged and showing the operation of general laws,” or “systematized knowledge in general”;¹ and such knowledge may be gleaned from observation and tabulation as well as from test tube, telescope, and equation. Unless the term “science” be unjustifiably tortured into the confines of the physical and biological

¹ *The American College Dictionary*, Random House, Inc., New York, 1947, p. 1086.