

BASIC CONCEPTS FOR POLITICAL ANALYSIS

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Politics:	1. Those parts of human relations that involve power. 2. Who gets what, when, and how. 3. Attempts to improve society.
Power:	The ability to get (other people to do) what you want.
Power resource:	Anything used to achieve power.
Power method:	The way a power resources is used.
Propaganda:	Trying to influence thought and feeling by manipulation, using symbols, emotional appeals, etc.
Persuasion:	Trying to influence thought and feeling by reasoned argument and evidence.
Enabling conditions:	The conditions that make power methods effective.
Freedom:	The ability to participate in making the laws; self-rule (having a share of power).
Liberty:	The absence of restraints on the individual.
Ideology:	A set of doctrines concerning human nature, the good society, and how to achieve it.
Left:	Favoring a greater degree of equality (social, economic, political).
Right:	Favoring a greater degree of inequality, believing that a select few should have power based on birth or merit.
Radical:	Favoring fast, large changes toward equality.
Liberal:	(The narrow, modern definition) favoring slow, gradual changes toward equality.
Classical liberal:	Favoring a system of free markets and competitive individualism.
Conservative:	Favoring slow, gradual changes toward inequality.
Reactionary:	Favoring fast, large changes toward inequality with the connotation of going back to a previous time.
Pacifist:	Opposing the use of violence in politics.
Democracy:	Government by the people.
Direct democracy:	The people make the laws themselves.
Representative democracy:	(Republic)--the people elect representatives who make the laws.
Capitalism:	A system of private ownership of the means of production.
Socialism:	A system of collective ownership or control of the means of production.
Pluralist theory:	A theory of American politics that says that power is dispersed among organized groups who compete to influence policy. Ultimately, in this theory, power rests with the people.
Elite theory:	A theory of American politics that says that power is concentrated in a relatively small, unrepresentative group (such as the leaders of large corporations) who dominate the system.