

# **Key Concepts In political science**

**Dr. Shinde P. G.**

**Asst. Prof. In Political Science  
Dayanand College Of Law Latur**



## **UNIT 2**

# **THE STATE AND ITS ELEMENTS**

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- 2.1 Definition
- 2.2 Elements
- 2.3 State and society
- 2.4 State and nation
- 2.5 State and Government.

# Introduction

- State is of fundamental importance.
- We begin our study with the state because it is the basic human organization.
- State is the key-stone of the social arch
- It is the greatest of all human associations.
- The term state is loosely used as synonyms to nation, country, society, the govt., province etc.
- The state is the most universal and powerful all social institutions.

- It is a natural institution.
- Aristotle said man is a social animal and by nature he is a political being.
- Sometimes we speak of state regulation , state management, and state aid etc. strictly we use the word state for government.
- In federal system the term state has been used to designate the federation as a whole and its constitute units.

- In political science by the word state we mean a “politically organized people of a definite territory.”
- So state has to create Healthy condition in order to develop individual personal
- It maintain law and order and harmonious nature of society
- It also protect life, liberty, right of citizens from external control.

# The term state and its derivation

- The Greek used the word “polis” which is nearly to the English term “State” . The Greeks used the word “polis” for “city-states.”
- The term was appropriate because at that time there were ‘city-states’ in Greece.
- The Romans used the term ‘civitas’ which also means the same. but this term they were used for public welfare not as citizenship of a city.
- The Teutons (ancient tribe in Rome)employed the term ‘status’

- Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) who used Italian word 'stato' in his Prince . Then after the words 'state' in English language , 'etate'(French, 1513) 'staat' in German language.
- In 1756 Jean Bodin of France preferred the term republique.
- Hobbes- Leviathan- commonwealth for society and state
- By the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century the term state has its 4 elements.
- In ancient and medieval times the word of state carried out the elements of population, territory, government for the sake of public welfare.
- As Christianity become official religion and authority was given to church as the writers used the term 'respublica christiana' for the state



## INTRODUCTION

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The modern term “**state**” is derived from the word “status”. It was Niccolo Machiavelli ( 1469 – 1527) who first used the term “state” in his writings. His important work is titled as “Prince”.



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## Definitions

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According to **Sidgwick**. “State is a combination or association of persons in the form of government and governed and united together into a politically organized people of a definite territory.”

According to **Garner**, “State is a community of people live in a definite form of territory free of external control and possessing an organized government to which people show habitual agreement.”



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**Prof. Laski defines** “state as a territorial society divided into government and subjects whose relationships are determined by the exercise of supreme coercive power”

- **Aristotle**, "a union of families and villages having for its end a perfect and self-sufficing life by which we mean a happy and honourable life" (Politics)
- **Cicero**, "a numerous society united by a common sense of right and a mutual participation in advantages"
- **Bluntschli**, "The state is politically organized people of a definite territory."

## Phillimore (English lawyer)

- The state is a people permanently occupying a fixed territory bound together by common laws, habits and customs into one body politics, exercising through the medium of an organized government, independent sovereignty and control over all persons and things within its boundaries, capable of making war and peace and of entering into all international relations with the communities of the globe

- **Gabriel Almond and Robert Dahl**, "the political system he explain, is the legitimate, order maintaining or transforming system in the society."
- He used the term 'political system' instead of the state.
- **C.I.Engels**, The state is a product of society at a certain stage of development

- **Dr. Garner, "state is a community of people occupying a definite form of territory free of external control and possession an organized government to which people show habitual obedience"**
- **When society is organized on a political basis and when human beings come together for the common purpose of having a common code of behaviour or respecting a common set of laws, the state is formed**

- State is Abstract (refer to ideas or concepts they have no physical reference ex. Love, freedom, good, democracy, feminism etc.)
- State is concrete (dealing with actual thing i.e. are available to the senses table , spoon, etc)
- In abstract terms the state is an organization with a legal personality, which can be enter into relations with similar such org. in the international field.
- In concrete terms the state is the people , the political organization of land.

- We have quoted above a number of definitions given by eminent scholars.
- Aristotle's definition of the state is incomplete. There are 4 essential elements of the modern state . But his defn. does **not include the 2 essential elements. i.e. territory and sovereignty.**
- Cicero's defn. fails to include 3 essential elements of the state govt., territory, and sovereignty.
- The defn. given by Phillimore seems to be complete. His defn. deals with all the 4 essential elements.

- State has to create Healthy condition in order to develop individual personnel.
- Maintain Law and order and harmonious nature of life, liberty, right citizens from external control.



## THE ELEMENTS OF STATE

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From the above definitions, it is clear that the following are  
the elements of the state :-

Physical bases of the State

1. Population
2. Territory

Political bases of the State

1. Government
2. Sovereignty

# “People”

- ❖ answers the question, “who governs whom?”
- ❖ no specific number requirement.

- **How much people constitute state? No exact answer can be given.**
- **A state is essentially a human organization and population is therefore an indispensable elements of the state.**
- **We cannot think of a state without people. State is the result of mans fundamental need, the need of living together.**
- **Man is a political animal.**
- **There must be a number of families before a state can come into existence.**
- **One or two families or 2 or 3 hundred people cannot make a state.**



## THE ELEMENTS OF STATE

Population

Territory

Government

Sovereignty

### Population

It is the people who make the state. Population is essential for the state. Greek thinkers were of the view that the population should neither be too big nor too small.

**According to Plato** the ideal number would be 5040.

**According to Aristotle**, the number should be neither too large nor too small. It should be large enough to be self-sufficing and small enough to be well governed.



## THE ELEMENTS OF STATE

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Greek thinkers like **Plato and Aristotle** thinking on the number was based on small city – states like **Athens** and **Sparta**. Modern states vary in population. India has a population of 102,70,15,247 people according to 2001 census.

- **There is no hard and fast rule regarding the size of population.**
- **Many modern states have big population.**
- **So it is varies from state to state .**

# Type of people

- People are different types. They are citizens, aliens, and minors.
- They may be divided into rich and poor, educated and uneducated, rulers and ruled, male and female etc.
- Population was a definite asset for a state
- Now it is accepted that the **population should be in proportion to the resources available In the territory.**
- An equilibrium is to be maintained between the territory, resources and the population of a state.

- **If the population are half-starved, illiterate and ignorant , they can not be regarded as an asset to the state.**
- **Aristotle feels that, “a good citizen makes a good state and a bad citizen a bad state”**
- **Honest, hard working and intelligent people are a boon to the state.**
- **State population should be large enough to be self-sufficient and small enough to be well governed.**
- **Economic and technological development of state does not matter of population ex. Japan, England as compared to china and India**

# “Territory”

- ❖ answers the question, “where?”
- ❖ terrestrial, fluvial, maritime and aerial
- ❖ should be permanent and large enough to be self-sufficing



## THE ELEMENTS OF STATE

### Territory

There can be no state without a fixed territory. People need territory to live and organize themselves socially and politically. It may be remembered that the territory of the state includes **land, water and air – space**.

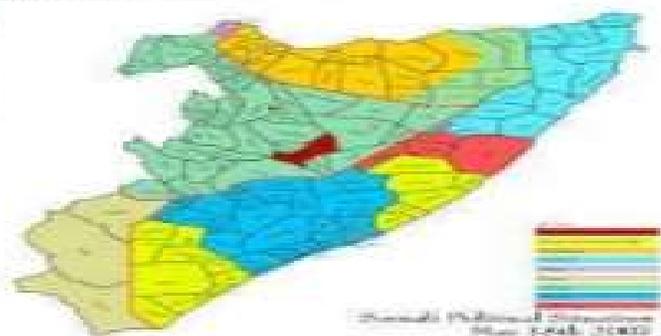
The modern states differ in their sizes. Territory is necessary for citizenship. As in the case of population, no definite size with regard to extent of area of the state can be fixed. There are small and big states.





## THE ELEMENTS OF STATE

**Prof. Elliott** “**territorial sovereignty** or the Superiority of state overall within its boundaries and complete freedom from external control has been a fundamental principle of the modern state life”. India has an area of 32,87,263 sq. km. Approximately India occupies 2.4% of the global area.



- **Bluntschli**, “the state has its personal basis in the land. The people do not become a state until they have acquired territory.”
- Gypsies and nomadic tribes, wandering from one part of the country to the other , could not form a state . Jews were recognized a state only after they settled in Israel in 1948.
- Now a days whether a state is small or big in territory , it becomes powerful provided it has scientific and technological advancement for ex. Countries like Britain, France , Japan etc. have become very powerful though they are very small.

- **So it is essential that a state should have territory there is no limit about its size.**
- **Political thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Montesquieu and Rousseau had expressed their preference in favor of small states.**
- **According to International Law , all states are equal in status and right.**

- **So imbalance between the factors like population and territory of a states creates structural disequilibrium that has its evil effects on nations political integration of the people of a state.**
- **It is not necessary that all parts of a state should be in the form of one unit. For ex. Before 1971 Pakistan had its western and Eastern parts.**
- **The British state has a part of North Ireland**
- **The small states tend to isolate and shut off their inhabitants like Nepal, Bhutan**

- **The territory of a state enables the people constituting it to know the boundaries of the land to which they belong and should love and should be loyal.**
- **It is an object of sentimental attachments, people love and warship their motherland**
- **They are prepared to make supreme sacrifices for its protection.**
- **The large size of a state enables it to have adequate resources to maintain a good standards of living and to promote the welfare of the people in general.**
- **For defense point of view large size is to be favored.**
- **Very small states are economically poor in comparison with the big.**

# Conclude

- **Territory symbolize the sphere of sovereignty of the state**
- **It provides for mutual resources for the sustenance of the population of the state.**
- **It produces a sense of security and immense life of residents.**

# Government

- For the existence of a state government is indispensable
- There can be no state without government
- It is a political organization of the state, through which the collective will of the people is formulated, expressed and executed.
- It implements the will of the community. It protects the people against conditions of insecurity.
- Existence of government that maintains law and order and makes good life.
- The government is the machinery that terminates the condition of anarchy.

- **Without administration the people would be like a chaotic mass of disconnected atoms.**
- **The state operates through the governmental machinery.**
- **It is the agency through which society is politically organized, common policies are determined and by which common affairs are regulated and common interests are promoted.**
- **The form of government may be Monarchical, Aristocratic, Oligarchical, Democratic, Dictatorial, Parliamentary, Presidential**
- **Responsible government**

- According to **Giddings**, 'the government is the chief progressive organization of civil society.'
- The forms of government varies from state to state
- Democratic governments India, The US , Canada, England, France, Japan, Germany , Italy etc.
- The Dictatorships of Communist parties is popular in China and North Korea
- Acc. To **Bluntschli**, 'If there is no government , there is anarchy and the state is at an end.'
- Hence there can be state without government.



## THE ELEMENTS OF STATE

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**Government** : Government is the third element of the state. There can be no state without government. Government is the working agency of the state. It is the political organization of the state.

**Prof. Appadorai** defined **government** as the agency through which the force of the State is formulated, expressed and realized.

According to **C.F. Strong**, in order to make and enforce laws the state must have highest authority. This is called the **Government**.



## THE ELEMENTS OF STATE

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### **Sovereignty :**

The fourth essential element of the state is sovereignty. The word "**sovereignty**" means supreme and final legal authority above and beyond which no legal power exists. Sovereignty has two aspects :

- 1) Internal sovereignty
- 2) External sovereignty

✓ Internal sovereignty means that the State is supreme over all its citizens, and associations.

✓ External sovereignty means that the state is independent and free from foreign or outside control.

- **Sovereignty is regarded as the life and soul of the state.**
- **There can be no state in absence of sovereignty.**
- **It is the highest power of the state that distinguishes it from all other associations of human beings.**
- **In the society there are several social groups pressing different views but the state is the sovereignty, the final adjustment center.**
- **It gives the state the power to use coercive force, in the case of its laws.**
- **Law of the state is binding on all and its violation is visited with suitable punishment.**

- **A sovereign state is legally competent to issue any command which is binding on all citizens and their associations.**
- **Conclusion:-**
- **Sovereignty means the independent authority of a state. It means that it has the power to legislate on any subject and that it is not subject to the control of any state/ external power.**

- According to D. D. Basu , the word 'sovereign' is taken from 5 of the constitution of Ireland.
- The preamble of the constitution of India is a brief introductory statement that , India has its own independent authority and it is not a dominion or dependent state of any other external power.
- The Legislature of India has the powers to enact laws in the country subject to certain limitations IMPOSED BY THE CONSTITUTION.
- Preamble declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic and to secure well-defined objects set forth in the preamble.

- Who are the ultimate sovereign?
- The constitution of India announced the ultimate sovereign to the Indian people. Indian constitution gives the liberty to its residents to choose their representatives.

# International Recognition

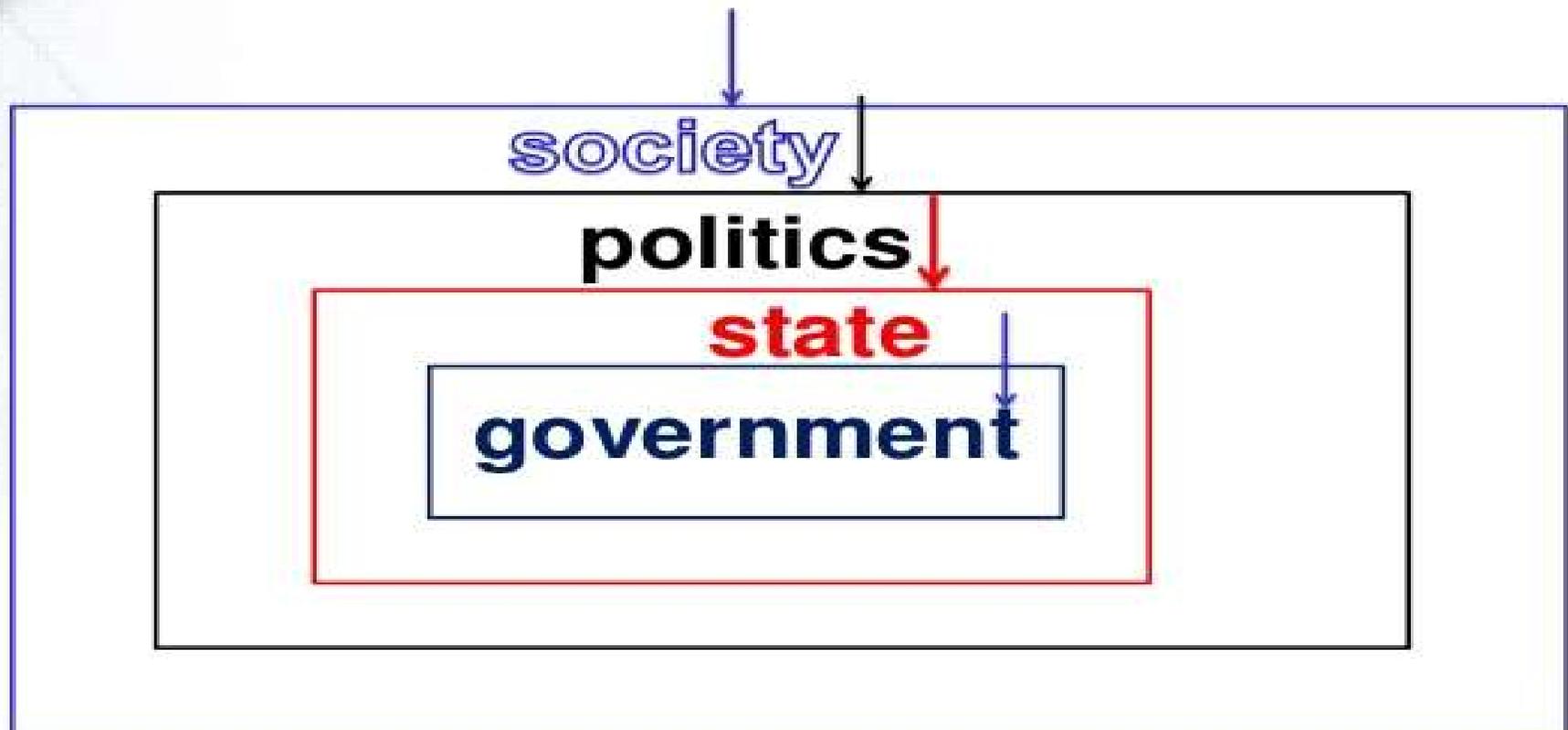
- In modern times relations among nations have grown and many international organizations and institutions have come into being.
- Therefore some scholars have argued that international recognition be an essential element of state.
- The recognition of the sovereign status of a new state by other states is called international recognition.
- Acc. To Oppenheim, 'A state is and becomes an international person by recognition only and exclusively. But there is no agreement on how many countries would have to recognize a new state so that the latter gains statehood in the eyes of international law.'

- Recognition has also a political dimension. China was already a full fledged state for many years before the UN was established in 1945.
- China came under communist rule in 1949. communist China was not recognized by the US for cold war. So communist China, though ruling the mainland , was not allowed to become the member of the UN due to Americas opposition.
- Communist China took its legitimate place in the UN in 1970's only after the establishment of rapprochement between the US and Communist China.
- Absolute sovereignty is not feasible. A state need to abide by international law. Otherwise there will be international anarchy causing serious threats to international peace and security.

# International Recognition

- Some writers are of the view that a state must be recognized by other states.
- The sovereignty of a state will have due value when it is recognized by other states.
- Securing membership in the UNO is also a part of this aspect.
- There are many instances of states not recognized by other states for political reasons.
- However this is not a compulsory feature of the state.
- Some states like China , Israel, continued to be states even though some states had not recognized it for a longtime.
- In the age of 'world citizenship' the sovereignty of a state it have due value when it is permanence

## Chart showing the outermost and the innermost of the State





## Differences between state and society :

### State and Society

The society consists of a large number of individuals, families, group and institutions. The early political thinkers considered both state and society as one. State is a part of society but is not a form of society.

NO	State	Society
1	State came into existence after the origin of the society	Society is prior to the state.
2	The scope of the state is limited.	The scope of society is much wider.
3	State has fixed territory	Society has no fixed territory
4	State is a political organization.	Society is a social organization.
5	The state has power to enforce laws.	Society has no power to enforce laws.

## Differences between State and Society

### **State**

- State is only a political associations. It is a part of society. i.e. it deal with only political aspect of life.
- It is artificial. It is the creation of will and reason.

### **Society**

- The scope of society is wider. It is an association of many association. Ex. Family, state, clubs, political parties and trusts.(not only political but also social, economical, cultural, religious aspect of human life.)
- It is natural and instinctive to human beings.

## State

- It is territorial institution. It is limited to a definite territory.
- The state is sovereign and employs the method of coercion or compulsion to enforce its laws.

## Society

- It is universal. Society does not have territorial limitations. May be national international
- It does not have sovereign authority. It tries to ensure the observance of its rules by persuasion and on appeal to the goodwill of its members. Customs and moral codes are its basis of operation.(socially boycott)

## State

- State is legal organization. It indicates political system.
- It has an agency namely government to enforce its authority.
- State cannot exist without any society.
- It must be organized. Without proper organization state cannot exist.

## Society

- It is a social organization. It indicates social system (race, caste, gender, tribes, family)
- It has no such authority or organization to implement its principles. So customs, tradition
- Society can exist without state.(Estimos, iglu)
- It need not be highly organized. It includes organized and unorganized communities.

## **State**

- State came into existence after the origin of society. State was formed later.

## **Society**

- Society is prior to the state.

It existed when people were not socially organised and wandered from one place to another in the form of tribes. By society was organized people learnt art of cultivation and felt the need of a political institution.



## Differences between State and Government :

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### **State and Government:**

Government is often used with the 'state' as synonym. But both the government and the state are two different entities (unities). There are differences between the **state** and the **government**. They are explained in the table given below

# Differences between State and Government

## State

- The state consists of all the citizens it is broader.
- It has 4 essential elements. Namely.... It is the whole.
- It is a permanent political institution. (it loses authority when a control over its population ex. Mussolini enslaved Ethiopia II WW Hitler conquered Austria , Poland, Belgium)

## Government

- Government is a body of some citizens. It is narrower.
- Govt. is one of the elements of the state . The state operates through govt.
- Govt. is not a permanent org. It is temporary and subject to change. Elections and revolutions can change govt.(glorious , Bolshevik, French Revol.)

## State

- States powers are original, unlimited, fundamental and primary.
- Sovereignty is an essential element of the state. India 1947

## Government

- Govt. has only limited powers delegated by the state.(law making)
- Govt. does not possess sovereignty it acts on behalf of the state. In democracy public is source of all powers. It has been clearly stated in the constitution of India that the people are main source of sovereignty. Electio.

## State

- It cannot be opposed by the people because they have no right to do so.
- It is an abstract institution we cannot see the state.

## Government

- A govt. can be opposed by the people when they suffer from a bad govt. ex. Sati dowry , discriminative laws pass
- It is concrete and definite. It has physical existence and establishment. The machinery of govt. with men and material can be seen

## **State**

- Loyalty of the citizen to their state is compulsory.
- It does not have different forms.
- It is the master because its purposes are served by the govt. it can place and replace the govts.

## **Government**

- In a democracy people have the right to criticize for its acts of omission and commission
- Govt. has many forms such as democratic, dictatorial, parlia.



## **Differences between State and Government :**

<b>No</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Government</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>State consists of population, territory, government and sovereignty.</b>	<b>Government is part of the state</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>State possesses original powers.</b>	<b>Powers of the government are derived from the state</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>State is permanent and continues forever.</b>	<b>Government is temporary It may come and go.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>State is abstract and invisible.</b>	<b>Government is concrete and is visible.</b>

## **State**

- State has fixed territory and its jurisdiction is limited to that area only.
- Membership in a state is compulsory.
- Sovereign, commands all and obeys police, court of law

## **Association**

- Ass. Have no territorial limitations. They may be local, national, international. Ex. Communist party branches all over the world, Redcross
- Voluntary and optional
- Not sovereign. It may have some rules and regulations, but they cannot punish their member for disobedience.

- It is permanent org.
- The citizen is member of only one state.
- The aim of state is general welfare of people.
- The state is an asso. Of asso. supreme

- Temporary
- One can be a member of any number of ass. Political parties
- The ass. Thinks of the welfare of its own members. The ass. Has limited and definite aim.
- There can be many ass. In the state

- State can control the asso.
- It can create and develop asso.
- The basic of state functioning is coercion and compulsion
- State exercises its authority through laws
- The state imposes compulsory taxes

- Ass. Cannot
- Ass. Cannot create the state
- The basic of ass. Is cooperation of members. (if not so expulsion)
- Ass. Frame certain rules and regulations
- Ass. Cannot imposes taxes. But it can collect in the form of contribution and donation

# Nature of State

## • Ancient Period- Ethical:-

- The nature of state in ancient period was ethical
- The state came into existence to make the bare life possible but to continued to exist for the good life of man.
- The Greeks called their states 'polis'.it means a city-state.
- The object of the city-state was to secure good life for all its citizens.
- The Greeks made no difference between state and society.
- Ethics was base for the formation of state and ethical and moral values can be protected the nature of state.

## Medieval period- Religious nature

- The object of state was to protect and promote the faith of the citizens in God.
- The Romans adopted the Greek conception of the state with necessary modifications.
- Growth of Christianity – changed the nature of state
- So the church came to dominated the state with motto “one could not be a good citizen unless one was a good Christian. ”
- So society was enormously under the impact of religion. Religious values rules were the base for formation of state and governing authority of state.

## Modern period- Secular nature

- State was studied not as a part of ethics, not as a part of religion, but for the sake of itself.
- In modern times, state emerged as an autonomous institution.
- The function of state is changing from 'police state' to 'welfare state'.
- With the process of Renaissance, reformation, scientific revolution, industrial revolution, modern nation state system, changing the notion of nature of state from ethics to religion and religion to secular.

# Nature or characteristics of State

- 1. Unity:-
  - Unity is the state of different areas or groups being joined together to form a single country or organization.
  - There is support for economic unity in trade and industry to promote growth and prosperity
  - When there is unity, people are in agreement and act together for a particular purpose.
- 2. Comprehensiveness:-
  - The state of being complete and entire , having everything that is needed.

- 3. Continuity:-
  - Property of a transition between two states of matter as between gas and liquid, during which there are no abrupt changes in physical properties.
- 4. Equality:-
  - The doctrine of equality of states means one thing in legal effect, but it is also must be reflected against the realities imposed by differences in political power.
  - Political equality is in some sense a fiction, because in political terms few states are equals.

# Different Theories of Nature of state

- **The Juristic Theory**
- **Organic nature of state**
- **Individualistic Nature**
- **Anarchist nature**
- **Pluralist nature**
- **Marxist nature**
- **Idealistic nature**

