

# INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

# FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What is politics?
2. What is political science?
3. What is power? What are the different types of power?
4. Is the use of power ethical or unethical?
5. Name some subfields of political science.
6. Name some political ideologies.
7. Why is it important to study political science?







**Politics**

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**Science**

- **Politics** = an activity through which Human beings attempt to improve their lives and create the Good Society.
- Actually, it is an activity through which people make, preserve and amend the general rules under which they live.
- **Science** = Knowledge

*What is the Political Science?*



**MAN IS BY NATURE A  
POLITICAL ANIMAL.**

**ARISTOTLE**

- J.W. Garner- “political science begins and ends with the state.”
- R.N. Gilchrist- “political science deals with state and government”
- Bluntschli- “political science is the science , which is concerned with the state , endeavors to understand and comprehend with the state in its essential nature, various forms, manifestations and development”
- H.J. Laski- “the study of politics concerns itself with the life of men in relation to organized states. ”
- Max Weber- “politics is the struggle for power or the influencing of those in power”



1. social science discipline
2. Concerned with **the study of the state, government, and politics.**
3. Aristotle defined it as **the study of the state.**
4. It deals extensively with;
  1. **the theory and practice of politics,**
  2. **the analysis of political systems and political behavior.**

## *Definition of the Political Science*

- 1. economics,**
- 2. law,**
- 3. sociology,**
- 4. history,**
- 5. anthropology,**
- 6. Public administration,**
- 7. public policy,**
- 9. national politics,**
- 10. international relations,**
- 11. comparative politics,**
- 12. psychology,**
- 13. political organization**
- 14. political theory.**

*Political science intersects with other fields*

## **1. Political behavior**

*(Studies of public opinion, elections, interest groups, and political parties)*

## **2. Political Institutions**

*(Study national governments, Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy and sometimes the courts)*

# ***Eight Sectors of Political Science***

### **3. Public Law**

(The study of legal reasoning and why courts hand down the decisions they do.)

### **4. Public Policy**

(The analysis of the product of politics, the kinds of policies that are laid down.) /

### **Public Administration**

(the implementation of public policy)

## ***Eight Sectors of Political Science***

## **5. State and local Politics**

(The study of all of these but the level of states and localities rather than the country as a whole.)

## **6. Comparative politics, including area studies**

(The science of comparison and teaching of different types of constitutions, political actors, legislature and associated fields all of them from an interstate perspective.)

# ***Eight Sectors of Political Science***

## **7. International Politics**

(The study of politics between states; the making of common decisions for a group of states through wars, diplomacy and so on.)

### **International Relations**

(the interaction between nation-states as well as intergovernmental and transnational organizations.)

## **8. Political theory/ Political philosophy**

(the reasoning for an absolute normative government, laws and similar questions and their distinctive characteristics.)

# ***Eight Sectors of Political Science***

# SUBFIELDS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

- *Comparative Politics* examines politics within other nations, trying to establish generalizations about institutions and political culture and theories of democracy, stability, and policy.
- *International Relations* studies politics among nations, including conflict, diplomacy, international law and organizations, and international political economy.

# SUBFIELDS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

- *Political Theory*, both classic and modern, attempts to define the good polity, often focused on major thinkers.
- *Public Administration* studies how bureaucracies work and how they can be improved.

# SUBFIELDS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

- *Constitutional Law* studies the applications and evolution of the Constitution within the legal system.
- *Public Policy* studies the interface of politics and economics with an eye to developing effective programs.

Political science is methodologically diverse.  
It appropriates many methods originating in social research.

**Approaches** include:

1. positivism,
2. interpretivism,
3. rational choice theory,
4. behavioralism,
5. structuralism,
6. post-structuralism,
7. realism, institutionalism, and
8. pluralism.

## *Approaches of Political Science*

**1. Primary sources**

such as historical documents and official records;

**2. Secondary sources**

such as scholarly journal articles, survey research, statistical analysis, case studies, experimental research and model building.

**Political Science use methods and techniques.**

***Methods and Techniques***

# Political Participation

- Citizen use their right
- such as the right to protest, the right of free speech, the right to vote, to influence or to get involved in political activity.
- Two Types
  - 1) Conventional PP
  - 2) Unconventional PP

- **Conventional PP**
- voting, attending a political meeting, being a member of a political group or a political party.
- **Unconventional PP**
- Examples- protests and demonstrations that are confrontational rather than peaceful.



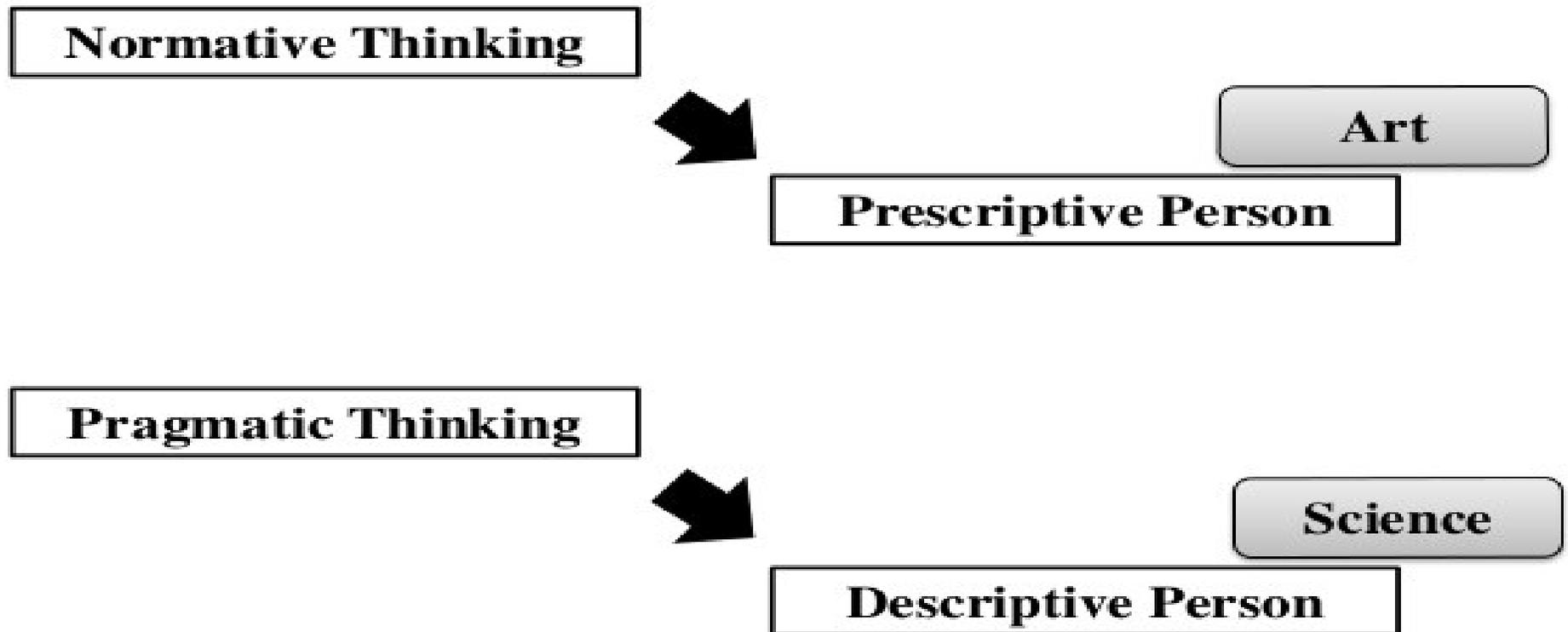
# Political Behavior

- Agitate
- Deliberate
- Educate

## Output

- Activist
- Politician
- Statesman

## 2 Human, 2 Thinking



# Political Animal

- Conservative
- Liberal
- Radical



**Left**



**Right**

**Communism**



**Capitalism**

**Collective Right**



**Individual Right**

**Nationalism**



**Internationalism**

**Radical**

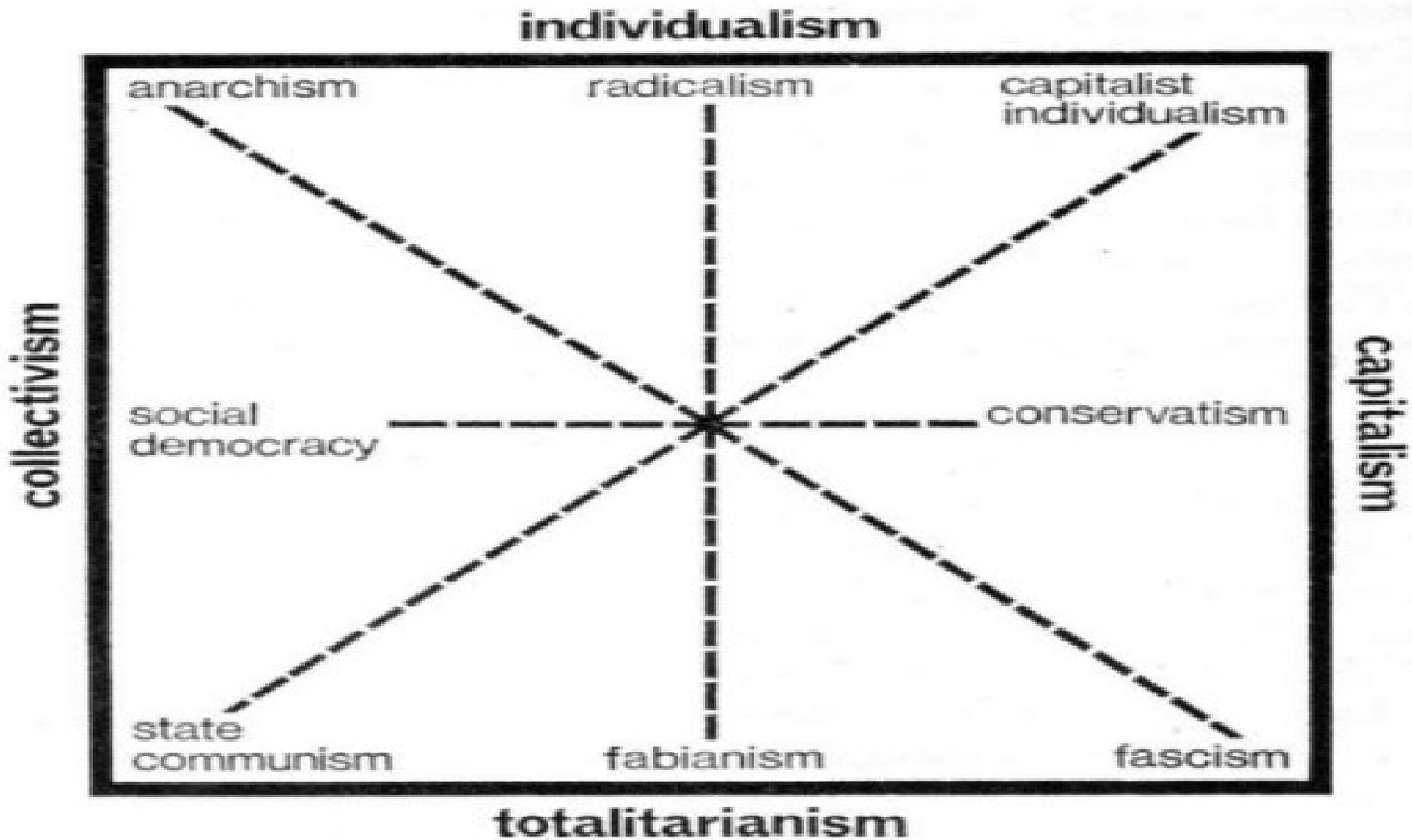


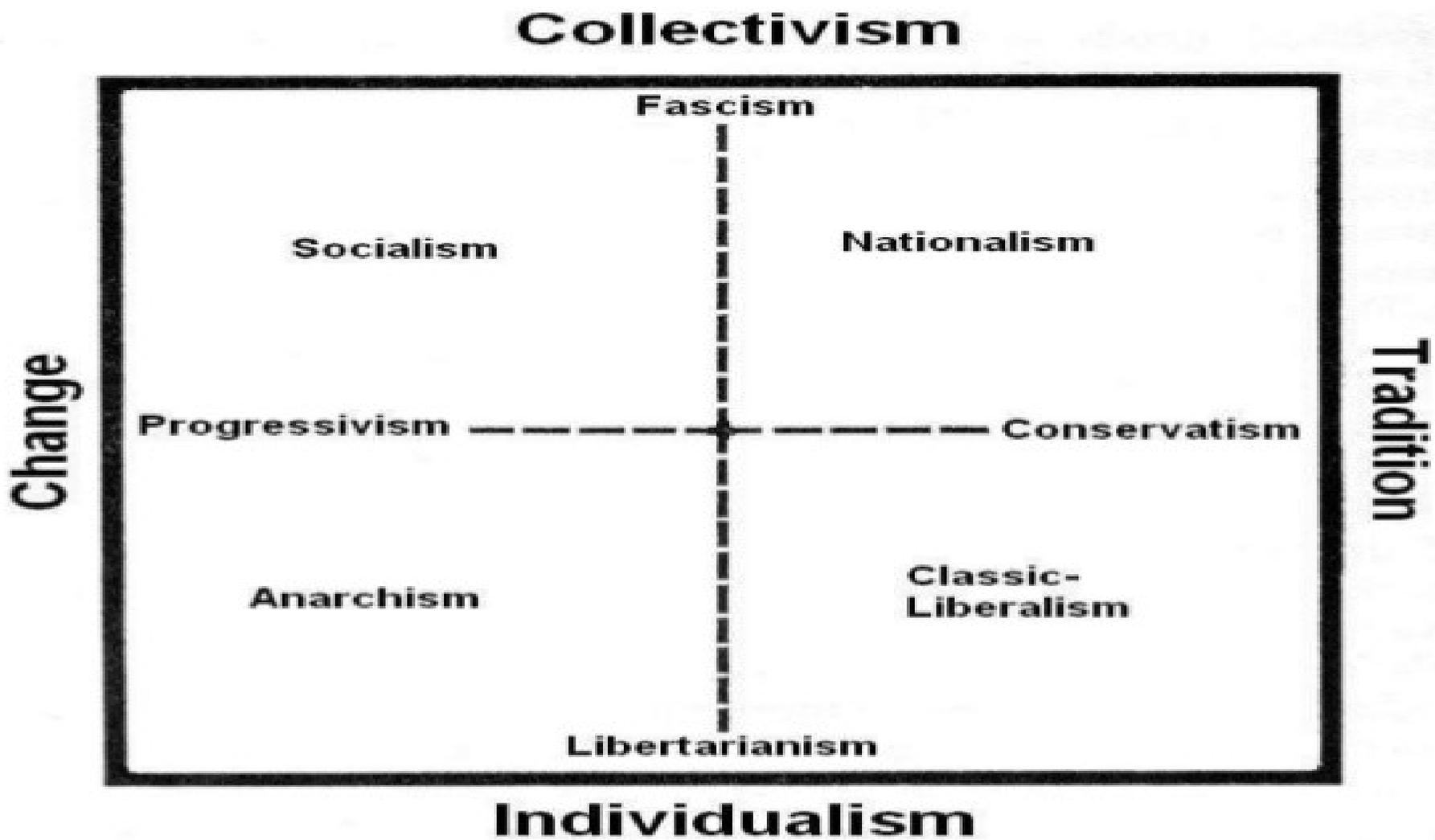
**Conservative**

**Marxism**

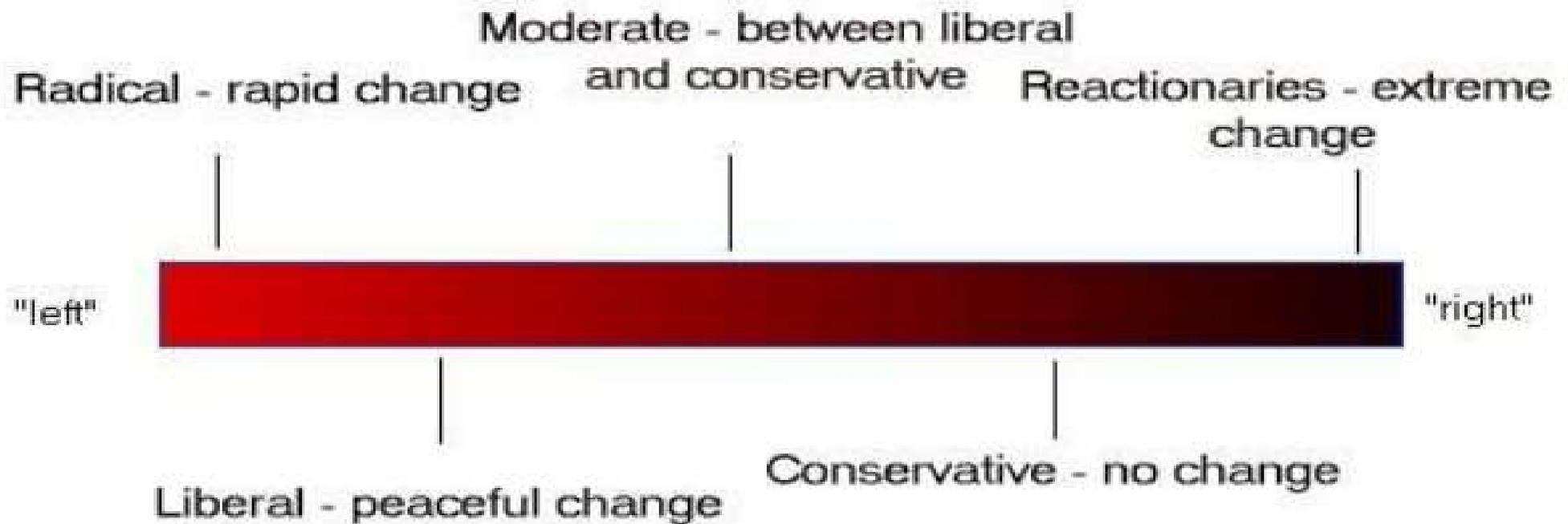


**Liberalism**





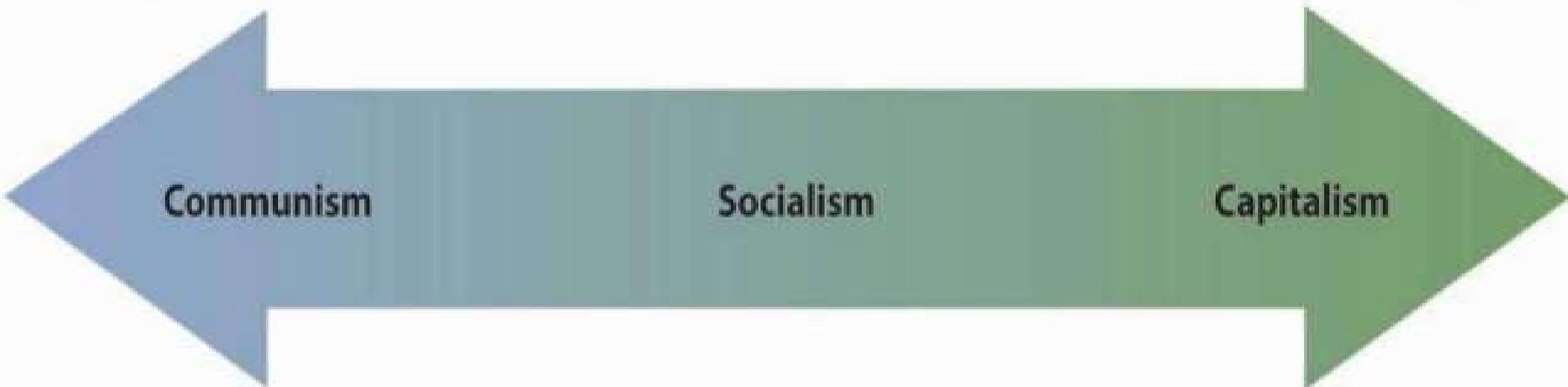
# The Ideological Spectrum



# Economic Specturm

Planned systems

Free market systems



Communism

Socialism

Capitalism

High degree of government control  
High level of social services

Low degree of government control  
Low level of social services

# IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING POLITICAL SCIENCE

- Political science is training in objective and often complex analysis.
- Political science can contribute to good government.

- To solve the political problems, the clear understanding of the origin and development of the state and its nature and role is required.
- The knowledge of the past political thought and principles enable us to understand the present social, political, and administrative problem.
- Politics defines political theory well and describes the meaning of different terms with which everybody comes across in day to day life.
- It makes people consciousness of their rights and duties.
- It educates on ways of protecting liberty and justice.

- Politics makes the people to know about other social sciences.
- The knowledge of politics enables people in a democracy to be vigilant and cautious.
- It contributes to intellectual achievement.
- Political science deals with the world affairs and educates people how internationalism is important in the present world of political tensions.
- It provides past political experiences , that enables the study of the present and think about future well.

- As political theory emphasizes the importance of morality, it develops moral outlook.
- It helps to prepare for an ideal system for the future government.

# **State, Government, Political Party**

- Organ of State
- Classification of State
- Types of Government
- Regime Types
- 4 Types of Political Party
- Constitution
- Army
- Police and Bureaucracy

# Relevance of political science to the study of Law

- The study of law and justice does not treat the affairs of jurisprudence only but is linked to the state as the state is regarded to be maintainer of an effective and equitable system of law and order.
- Law covers the entire behavior of mans social, economic and political actions.
- Previously, law was a branch of political science.
- Both law and political science deal with both state and man, it has its relevance in the study of law due to the following reasons.

- A Study of state
- A study of man
- A study of Government
- A study of political ideas
- A study of political concepts
- A study of constitutions
- A study of International Relations



