

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

POLITICAL INSTITUTION

- **Politics** is the social institution through which power is acquired and exercised by some people and groups.
- An institutionalized system through which a society is governed...

Political Institution

- Political institutions are organizations which create, enforce, and apply laws.
- They often mediate conflict; make (governmental) policy on the economy and social systems...

Power and Authority

- **Power** is the ability of persons or groups to achieve their goals despite opposition from others.
- It is the ability to affect the behaviour of others even in the absence of their consent.

Power and Authority

- **Authority** is power that people accept as legitimate rather than coercive.
- It is the established right to make decisions and order on the actions of others.
- When power becomes legitimate it becomes an authority.

Weber's Three Types of Authority

- **Traditional authority** is the type of authority that is inherited such as that of a King, Sultan, religious leaders or any other authoritative figure
- This leader is someone who depends on established tradition or order. While this leader is also a dominant personality, the prevailing order in society gives him the mandate to rule.

Weber's Three Types of Authority

- **Charismatic authority** is the type that is found in an individual who has unique leadership skills or charismatic charm in terms of gaining natural authority. Politicians, soldiers, entertainers
- Charismatic authority points to an individual who possesses certain traits that make a leader extraordinary.
This type of leader is not only capable of but actually possesses the superior power of charisma to rally diverse and conflict-prone people behind him.
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Weber's Three Types of Authority

- Rational–legal authority is the type of authority that is based on a system of rules designed by the whole society which are known as laws.
- Weber thought the best example of legal-rational authority was a bureaucracy (political or economic) or elected officials.

- The obedience of people is not based on the capacity of any leader but on the legitimacy and competence that procedures and laws bestow upon persons in authority.

Weber's Three Types of Authority

Type	Example
Traditional	Patriarchy
Charismatic	Napoleon Mother Teresa
Rational-Legal	Modern British Parliament U.S. presidency

BASIC CONCEPTS

- **The state** is the sovereign political organization of the individuals occupying a definite territory.
- It is a political unit that has sovereignty over an area and the people within it.

Political form in which a single, central sovereign or supreme lawmaking authority governs within a clearly defined territory.

BASIC CONCEPTS

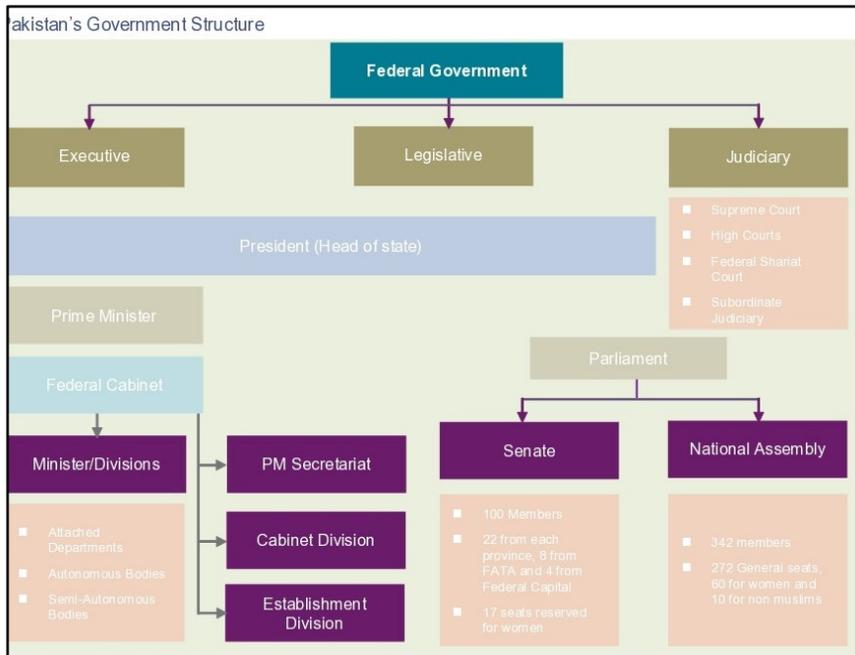
- **Government** is the formal organization that has the legal and political authority to regulate relationships among members of a society and between the society and those outside its borders.
- Government is a narrow concept and it is an element of the State. The State is more or less permanent , but the government is temporary.

STRUCTURE OF POLITICAL INSTITUTION

- The state:
 1. Executive:
 - The Prime minister and advisors
 - The cabinet
 2. Legislative:
 - The senate and the parliament
 3. Judicial
 - Supreme Court
 - High Courts
 4. Military:
 - The armed forces
 5. National security: Police Force, ISI, FIA

Civil politics:

Political parties



FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL INSTITUTION/ STATE

- Maintain law and order
- Plan and direct society
- Handle international relations
- Provision of welfare services
- Defense against foreign danger
- Evaluation of other institutions
- Socialization

Maintain law and order

- The state has the authority to enact and enforce laws. The state prescribes certain forms of behaviour and prohibits certain other behaviours that disrupt the social order; that are clearly specified.
- It is the responsibility of the state that along with making good laws it is also responsible for maintaining law and order, punishing criminals and protecting law abiding citizens.
- The police and courts are established to carry out the responsibility of maintaining law and order.

Plan and direct society

- It is one of the primary functions of the state to formulate policies, initiate laws, and launch programmes.
- The government consists of the legislature, executive and judiciary. The legislature is responsible for enacting laws that govern the behaviour of all individuals and institutions. The executive formulates policies and programmes and administers the country in accordance with the laws. The judiciary interprets the laws and safeguards the rights of all citizens.

Defense against foreign danger

- It is the prime responsibility of the state to protect its citizens against external aggression and threat.
- Modern nation states maintain standing armies and a large portion of national budget is utilized for defence purposes. The soldiers trained and equipped for defence is also employed for maintaining order in case of emergency domestic situations.

Handle international relations

- The state is responsible for developing and maintaining economic, political and cultural links and sign agreements with neighbouring and other countries of the world. Parliamentarians, foreign secretaries and ambassadors are working in this regard.

Provision of welfare services

- Every state is expected to ensure economic stability and general social welfare.
- The state initiates policies and programmes for the welfare of its citizens. Welfare measures would include health, education, employment, public services and retirement benefits.
- Equity, elimination of poverty, promotion of social justice, and cultural development are among main goals established by modern nation states.

Evaluation of other institutions

- Functioning of other institutions are evaluated by political institutions.
- For this purpose , certain codes and standards are set for these institutions.

Political Systems in Global Perspective

- Political institutions emerged when agrarian societies acquired surpluses and developed social inequality.
- When cities developed, the city-state became the center of political power.
- Nation-states emerged as countries acquired the ability to defend their borders.

Nation-states

- Approximately 193 nation-states currently exist throughout the world.
- Today, everyone is born, lives, and dies under the auspices of a nation-state
- Four types of political systems are found in nation-states: monarchy, authoritarianism, totalitarianism, and democracy.

Types of Political Systems

- A **monarchy** is a political system in which power resides in one person or family and is passed from generation to generation through lines of inheritance.
- Monarchy is legitimized by tradition (Weber).
- There are two main types of monarchy:
- **Absolute monarchy** exists when the monarch has;
 - ✓ unrestricted power
 - ✓ no or few legal limitations in political matters.
 - ✓ a hereditary right to rule.

Types of Political Systems

- Brunei, Swaziland, Saudi Arab and Oman absolute power is vested in a single person and the monarch is the head of the state as well as the government.
- Qatar is also an absolute monarchy, but the head of state and head of the government are different persons.
- The UAE is a federal presidential elected monarchy, which is a federation of seven absolute monarchies or the Emirates. The ruler of Abu Dhabi is President or the head of state while the ruler of Dubai is the Prime Minister or the head of the government.

Qaboos Bin Said Al Said ruled Oman from 1970-2020. Haitham bin Tariq Al Said succeeded to the throne after his death, in January 2020.

Types of Political Systems

- Constitutional/ parliamentary monarchy where;
 - ✓ actual authority is with parliament
 - ✓ the constitution may limit the royal family's power
 - ✓ the royal family serves only as a symbol for their country.
 - ✓ The duties of the monarch are ceremonial
- In present-day monarchies such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Spain, and the Netherlands, members of royal families primarily perform ceremonial functions.

Types of Political Systems

- **Totalitarianism** - A political system in which the government dictates the society's values, ideology, rules and form of government..
- It is the form of rule in which the government attempts to maintain 'total' control over society.
- It is the most extreme form of authoritarianism.

Types of Political Systems

- **Italian dictator Benito Mussolini coined the term totalitarian in the early 1920s(all within the state , none outside the state, none against the state).**
- **Totalitarianism is a highly centralized political system that extensively regulates people's lives.**
- **Joseph Stalin (1941-1953) led the former USSR**
- **Mao Zedong(1949-1976) led the china "total" concentration of power, allowing no organized opposition.**

Types of Political Systems

- **Democracy** - The word democracy has its roots in the Greek term demokratia, the individual parts of which are demos ('people') and kratos('rule').
- A political system in which the people hold the ruling power through elected representatives.
- People can change the representatives through elections.
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Types of Political Systems

- Most High Income Nations are not TRULY DEMOCRATIC for Two reasons
 - First, there is the problem of **bureaucracy**. Bureaucrats and all other government employees have powers and run the affairs of government but **they are never elected** by anyone and do not have to answer directly to the people.
 - Second, there is the problem of **economic inequality**. The rich people have far more political power than poor people. All of the most visible voices in today's political debates—from Sharif to Bhutto to Makhdoom to Bilour—are among the country's richest people.

- There are two forms of government;
- Parliamentary
- Presidential
- In a parliamentary system, the political party winning the majority of seats in the parliament forms the government. It selects a person from among its members to be the prime minister who is the head of the government.
- In the Parliamentary system, if the Parliament doesn't like the Prime Minister, they can cast a vote of no confidence and replace him.

- In a presidential system, the head of government, the president, is elected by the voters, either directly or by means of an electoral college.
- In addition, in a presidential system the head of government is elected for a fixed term of office. For example, in the United States the president's term of office is for four years.

- In Parliamentary system the legislative and executive body of government are closely related, while the judiciary is independent of the other two bodies of government. The executive body, i.e. the Cabinet is accountable to the legislative body, i.e. Parliament
- In Presidential system, the legislative, executive and judiciary body of the government are independent of each other.