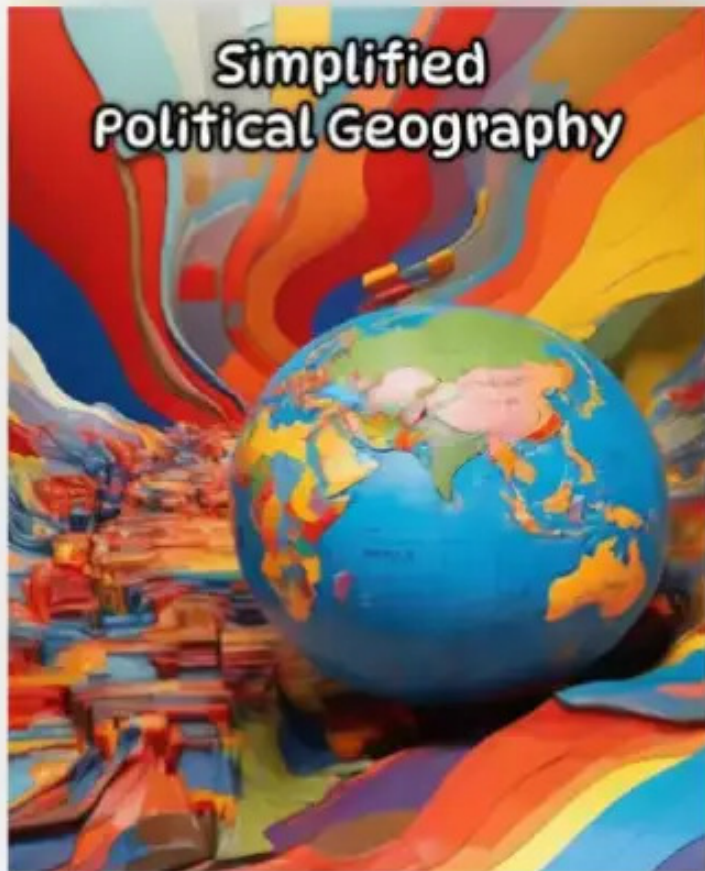


Simplified Political Geography



SIMPLIFIED POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

A COMPREHENSIVE WORK
FOR UPSC CSE & UGC NET
AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS



BASED ON YOUTUBE LECTURES BY
DR. KRISHNANAND



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Krishnanand, Founder and Director at ‘TheGeoecologist’ is highly proficient scholar in the field of research and academics in Geography and environment. He graduated from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi. He was awarded “**best student of the college across all disciplines**” in 2009 and “**Gold medal**” in 2010. He completed his Ph.D from Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. **He has a teaching experience of over a decade in the field of Geography for UPSC, State PCS , UGC NET and other competitive examinations.**

He is an avid field researcher and photographer with two Geographical Documentaries on YouTube Channel- TheGeoecologist, to his credit - **Exploring Ladakh- A Geoecological Perspective and Spiti Valley Project.** His areas of interest include Geomorphology, Geoecology, Geotourism, Environmental Geography, Geodiversity, Geomorphosites, Fossil park, Geoparks, Field Work and Documentary Making in Geography, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) and GPS. **He has published three books and six articles at National and International levels.**

This E-book by Dr. Krishnanand is a Simplified Compilation on Political Geography along with detailed explanations available through his YouTube lectures of the same.



DR.KRISHNANAND



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PREFACE

Political geography is a fascinating field of study that explores the relationship between politics and geography. It is an area of inquiry that examines how the physical world shapes political power, and how political power, in turn, shapes the physical world. This book is an attempt to introduce readers to the essential concepts and theories of political geography.

The purpose of this book is to provide an overview of the major themes and debates within political geography, as well as to explore the ways in which political processes are influenced by geography. By examining the interplay between political power and spatial organization, we can gain a better understanding of how political actors, institutions, and policies are shaped by the physical and social contexts in which they exist.

The chapters in this book cover a range of topics, from the history of political geography to contemporary debates over globalization, migration, and territoriality. We explore the role of geography in shaping the distribution of power, the formation of nation-states, and the dynamics of international relations. We also examine the ways in which political geography intersects with other fields of study, including economics, sociology, and environmental science.

Whether you are a student of political science, geography, or simply interested in understanding the complex relationship between politics and space, this book will provide a valuable introduction to the key concepts and debates within political geography. By examining the interplay between politics and geography, we can gain a deeper understanding of the forces that shape our world, and the possibilities for change that exist within it.

This E-book aims to facilitate the young and budding **UPSC CSE aspirants** as well as geographers and research scholars especially in the field of geographical studies to understand the conceptual framework of the subject matter of **Political Geography**.

Dr. Krishnanand

Chapter 1

Nature, Approaches and Scope of Political Geography



NATURE, APPROACHES & SCOPE OF POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

Political Geography is a discipline that is concerned with **Politics** and **Geography**.

The term '**politics**', is derived from the Greek word '*Polis*' , which means the city state. *Politics* has its roots in the name of Aristotle's classic work, *Politiká*, according to him it was a subject which dealt with all the activities and affairs of the city state and *Ecumene* (inhabited land) .



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Chanakya/Kautilya described three types of **political system** namely rule making, rule application and rule adjudication and has been recognized for his contributions to bringing diplomacy at the helm of state's affairs. In his words he defines diplomacy as, "**A King who understands the true implication of diplomacy conquers the whole world**".

It includes matters concerning :


- ❖ the allocation and transfer of power in decision making,
- ❖ the roles and systems of governance including governments and
- ❖ international organizations, political behaviour and public policies.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY is: studying the **interaction between political activity of people and integral geographical space**, which includes physical, economic, social, cultural, and political spaces.

NATURE OF POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

THE TWO WAY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY AND POLITICS

1. Politics of Geography: The ways in which political geographers have interacted with those in the world of 'real' politics have varied over time.

It could be said that **many geographers**, particularly in the past, saw their role as **supporters of those in power** and their work as serving clear political ends. For example: *Political biases of the likes of Mackinder, Ratzel's, and Bowman and Spykman, Rostow, Perroux ...while others questioning those in power such as Richard Peet, David Harvey..*  TheGeoecologist

Regionalism and sectionalism could provide a good example of how geography shapes politics.

2. Geography of Politics: it analyses how politics (the tactics or operations of the state) shapes geography. **For Example**, USA, has a political system which **democratic rule and territorial organization are linked together** on the concept of territorial representation.

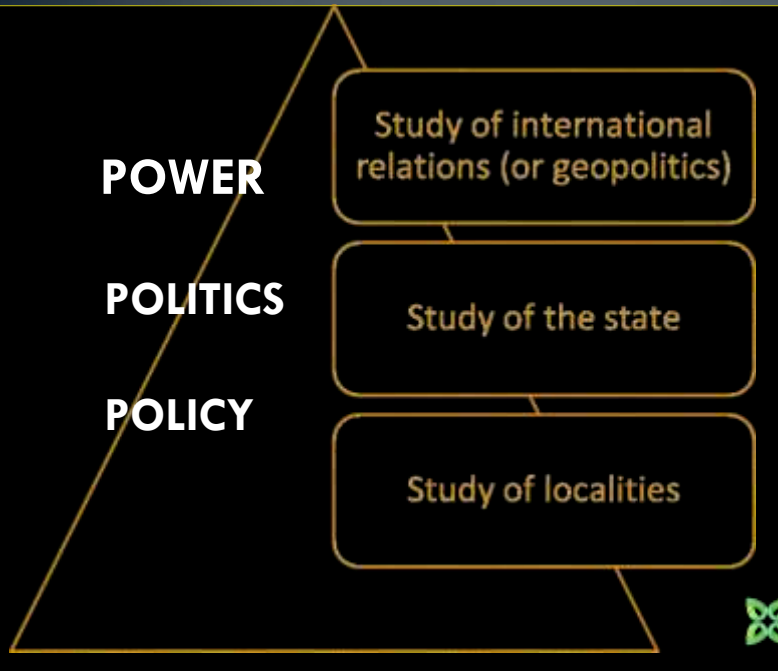
A **democratic rule** is a system in which public policies and officials are directly chosen by popular vote, **whereas territorial organization is a system of government formally structured by area, not by social groups.**

State power, therefore, is applied within geographical units and state representatives are chosen from geographical units.

DEFINING POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

- ❖ The German geographer **Friedrich Ratzel** has been attributed with the first major work to include political geography in its title – *Politische geographie*, published in 1897. Ratzel **compared the state to an organism (organic theory of state)** which needed further living space or *lebensraum* in order to expand.
- ❖ In 1922, **Whittlesey** proposed a definition of political geography as a “**study of areal differentiation based on political phenomena**” This definition is partial due to avoiding the positive relations.
- ❖ Again, it had been rightly observed by **Carl Sauer in 1927**. He branded contemporary political geography as the “**wayward child of geographical science**”.
- ❖ But the reasonable definition came from **Hartshorne (1935)** who defined political geography as the **science of political areas/study of state as a characteristic of areas in relation to other characteristics of areas**. He has also figured **four approaches** in the study of this discipline.
- ❖ According to **Goblet (1955)**, political geography is the **study of political territorial units, borders and administrative subdivisions**.
- ❖ Later we can find definitions from **Alexander (1963)**; he said that political geography is about the study of political territorial units, borders and administrative subdivisions.
- ❖ **Saul Bernard Cohen** defines political geography as “**the spatial consequences of political process**”. He constituted this definition by considering definitions of the others.
- ❖ To mention recent opinion; **John Agnew** defines political geography as simply “**the study of how politics is informed by geography**”.
- ❖ **Vladimir Kolosov (Ex-President IGU)** defines it as studying the **interaction between political activity of people and integral geographical space**, which includes **physical, economic, social, cultural, and political spaces**.





Political geography is about the interaction of **these entities** in the triangle **of space, place and territory**.

In this triangle, **space (spatial patterns or spatial relations)** is the core entity of geography

SCALES IN POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY