

# Political science: what is the object of study?



First of all, the object of political science is not only the State, that is to say this political and administrative organisation differentiated from the rest of society and having a capacity for direction. Political science is indeed concerned with understanding the conquest

of state power and the conduct of public policies.

Analysing politics is then asking how the President of the Republic has power over the Prime Minister. It is deciphering the various resources (an institutional position, money, knowledge, well-placed relationships) available to certain actors to influence the behaviour of others.

If politics is power; then everything is political. In fact, political science is interested in one power in particular: political power. Political power is the government of societies as a whole. It is the capacity of certain groups to direct life in society, to direct the behaviour of the members of this society as a whole, to promulgate general rules and to ensure their implementation.

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