

Definitions of State

Lecture: 3

2nd Grade

Political System & Public Policy Dept.

Lecturer: Hawkar S. Alee

MA in Political Science

DEFINITION OF STATE

1. Aristotle(386 BC-348 BC): The state is a union of families and villages having for its ends a perfect and self-sufficing life.

2. Burgess(1844-1931, American Political Scientist): The state is a particular portion(part, fate) of mankind viewed as an organized unit.

3. **Bluntschli(1808-1881, Swiss Jurist & Politician): The state is the politically organised people of a definite territory.**

4. **Garner(1871-1938, American Prof. of Political Science): The state as a concept of political science and public law is community of persons more or less numerous, permanently occupying a definite portion of territory, independently or nearly so, of external control and possessing an organised government to which the great body of inhabitants(populations, people, resident) render(make, cause to become) habitual obedience.**

5. **Cicero**(106 BC-43 BC, Roman Statesman, Lawyer & Scholar):
The commonwealth is the coming together of a considerable(large, great) number of men who are united by a common agreement about law and rights and the desire to participate in mutual advantages(benefits).

6. **Bodin**(1530-1596, French Jurist & Political Philosopher):
A state is an association of families and their common affairs governed by a supreme power and reason(logic, wisdom).

7. **Grotius**(1583-1645, Dutch Theologian, Jurist, Lawyer...):
The state is a perfect association of freemen united for the sake of enjoying the benefits of law and for their mutual advantage.

8. Woodrow Wilson(1856-1924, American Politician):

The state is the people organised for law within a definite territory.

9. R.M. MacIver(1882-1970, American Sociologist):

The state is an association which, acting through law as promulgated(declare, spread, publish) by a government endowed(granted) to this end with coercive power, maintains(keeps) within a community territorially demarcated(mark, draw the line at) by the universal external conditions of social order.

10.Laski(1893-1950, English Political Theorist & Economist): By a state I mean a society of this kind which is integrated by possessing a coercive authority legally supreme over any individual or group which is part of the society. An examination(study, analysis) of any national society will always reveal(cover up, bring to light) within its boundaries not only individuals but also associations of men grouped together to promote all kinds of objects, religious, economic, cultural and political, in which they are interested. Such a society is a state when the way of life to which both individuals and associations must conform is defined by a coercive authority binding upon them all.

Portion = part, fate

Inhabitants = populations, people, resident

Render = make, cause to become

Considerable = large, great

Advantages = benefits

Reason = logic, wisdom

Promulgated = declare, spread, publish

Demarcated = mark, draw the line at

Maintains = keeps

Question

Define the term of State according to five thinkers or scholars?

Thanks