

Etymology of Politics

The notion of politics is derived from the Greek word polis meaning a “city-state”, such as Athens or Sparta.



Etymology of Politics

POLIS – city-state, classically understood to imply the highest or most desirable form of social organization. •

POLITY – a society organized through the exercise of political authority, for Aristotle => rule by the many in the interests of all.

POLITES – citizen

POLITIKOS – politician



POLITIKE – politics as the art of citizenship and government

POLITEIA – constitution, rules of politics, political regime

FOUR CATEGORIES OF RESIDENTS OF THE ANCIENT GREEK POLIS

1. Citizens with full legal and political rights:

Adult free men born legitimately of citizen parents. They had the right to vote, be elected into office, bear arms, and the obligation to serve when at war.

2. Citizens with legal rights but no political rights:

Women and underage children, whose political rights and interests were represented by their adult male relatives

3. Foreigners (citizens of other city-states):

Full legal rights, but no political rights. Could not vote, could not be elected to office, could not bear arms and could not serve in war. Subject to taxation.

4. Slaves

Property of their owners, any privileges depend on the owner's will

Some common definitions of politics:

- Politics is the exercise of power
- Politics is the public allocation of values
- Politics is the resolution of conflict
- Politics is the competition among individuals, groups, or states pursuing their interests

"A political system is any persistent pattern of human relationships that involves ... power, rule, or authority."

Robert Dahl

A DEFINITION OF POWER

POWER

A capacity that *A* has to influence the behavior of *B* so that *B* acts in accordance with *A*'s wishes.

DEPENDENCY

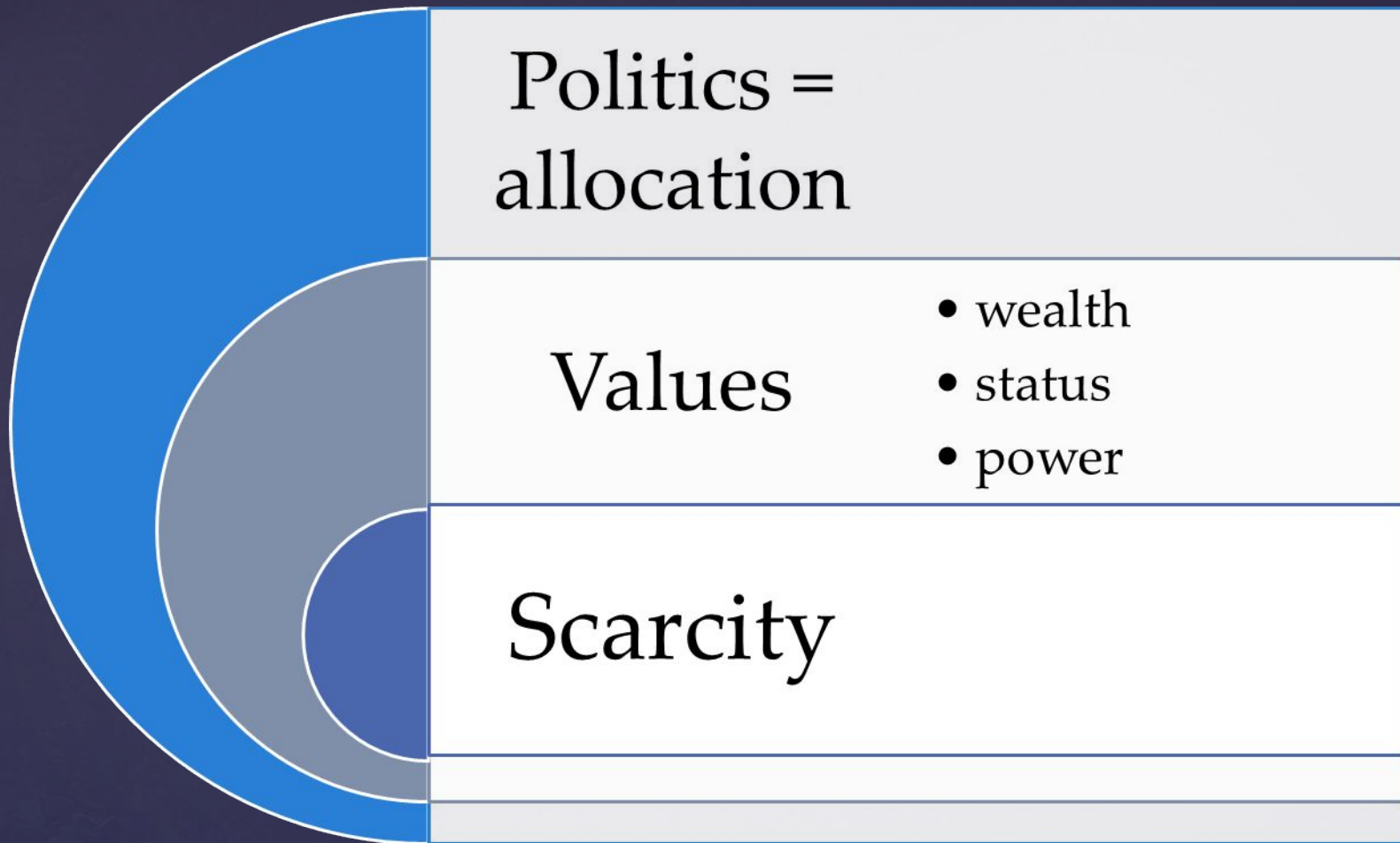
B's relationship to *A* when *A* possesses something that *B* requires.



Politics

is the process of WHO gets WHAT, When
and HOW

Harold Lasswell



Politics is a process of allocating scarce values

Politics is linked to the phenomena of conflict and cooperation

The third conception of politics relates to the way in which decisions are made. Specifically, politics is seen as a particular means of resolving conflict: that is, **by compromise, conciliation and negotiation**, rather than **through force and naked power**.

Politics becomes the process of conflict resolution

□ In this view, the key to politics is a wide dispersal of power. Accepting that conflict is inevitable and social groups possess and compete for power, they must be conciliated; they cannot merely be crushed.

Politics involves two processes



□ making resource allocations for the collectivity

□ inducing members of the collectivity to accept resource allocations as binding.

Brainstorming

Politics is the competition among individuals, groups, or states pursuing their interests

Statement essay writing

