

Accelerated Learning Programme

ALP SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Glossary for all Units, translated in English



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SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE

Glossary

(Citizen's) society

A (citizen's) society is **individuals** and **groups of individuals** who live together in an area and interact with each other. The **individuals** and **groups** communicate through their languages, religions, joys, fears, dreams, etc. Languages, religions, joys, fears, and dreams are not always common; they differ among individuals, groups, and societies. The members of a (citizen's) society belong to many social groups or social networks and therefore have different identities.

Intercultural society

An intercultural society is a society that is made up of people or groups of people with diverse origins, languages, religions, cultures, desires and needs, who feel free to express their different habits. In an intercultural society, people are subject to the same laws and are all equal in the face of the law. In an intercultural society, people respect different ways of thinking and acting and help the groups that are oppressed.

Digital society

In a digital society, everyday moments (such as communication with one's family and friends, participation in public services, education etc.) are transferred to one or more **digital spaces**. The **digital space** is part of children's everyday life. In a digital space, children can communicate, learn, and travel. In a digital space, children become parts of various **digital groups** that help them become parts of a global society. Access to a digital space (i.e., the internet, knowledge, computers) means access to and participation in a **digital global**. A digital society facilitates the needs of an **intercultural society**. Some basic features of a **digital society** include saving on paper, shortening distances, the opportunity to create a global community. A digital society does not have geographical borders, but it has different types of borders.

Social institutions

Social institutions help with the organization and proper functioning of society. Social institutions help individuals satisfy their needs and desires. Individuals participate in many institutions and have diverse roles. Social institutions are not stable: they change. Some social institutions are: the health system, family, church, the education system, justice, language.

Social problems

Social $\pi\rho\sigma\beta\lambda\eta\mu\alpha\tau\alpha$ influence diverse social institutions and they violates values, such as respect for human life. Most problems originate in social inequality. These problems exist, to a greater or lesser extent, in all the world, and that is why they are called **global**. Some fundamental **social problems** are about **the environment**, **housing**, and **migration**.

Social groups or social networks

Society consists of one or more groups of people. People (might) belong to one or more **social groups** or **social networks**. Every social network has some common features.

Social networks are **groups of people** who create **relations** with each other and **interact**. Social networks help people, in various ways, in their efforts to:

- Construct a "we";
- Socialise;
- Participate in social institutions.

A person might belong in one or more social groups or social networks.

Social networks in digital space

In the digital space. **social networks (social media)** are electronic platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and more. These help people build **relations** with each other and **interact**.

Social movements

Due to social problems, some rights are violated. Social movements are organized and act collectively to fight for these rights. Fighting for rights can happen in many ways: mobilising other people, written or oral protests, industrial action (strike), etc. Depending on what rights a social movement is fighting for, these can be divided into:

- Traditional social movements
- New social movements

Social movements have diverse characteristics: they might last long or less time, they might be small-scale or large-scale, they might be legal or illegal (Giddens 2002).

State

A state is a group of people and regimes. In modern societies globally, a state has three features:

- Its political structure,
- Its social institutions, and
- \circ The citizens' rights and obligations των πολιτών.

However, the state might have a different form in different countries.

Citizen

A citizen is an individual who is recognized by the **state**. A citizen lives in a country, in a town, in a society. He or she has citizen's rights, which means that he or she can elect representatives and be a candidate for public office. Similarly, citizens have obligations, which means that they must respect the laws of the state and be interested in other citizens.

Citizen of the world

Citizens in a modern intercultural and multicultural society is not just interested in the people of the society in which they live. They are also interested in all the people of the world, regardless of whether they live in the same country, the same town or the same society. A citizen of the world cooperates with other people for a better world. The actions that the citizens of the world takes to create a better world might happen in the country where they lives (locally) or in other countries (globally).

Regime

The regime is the way in which **power** is organized and enacted. The regime influences, and is influenced by, the state organisation and the distribution of power. There are

different types of regimes. One of the fundamental ways in which regimes are divided is according to **the number of people** who hold power.

Children's rights

Because of their age, **children** are often treated as individuals who do not have rights or do not exercise them. This is wrong because children can **actively participate** in the society where they live. Just like adults, children are often victims of **discrimination**. The The Convention for the Rights of the Child was signed in 1989. This was based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Children's rights prevent **discrimination** and foster **respect** and **empathy**.

Human rights

Rights are freedoms that belong to everyone. The fundamental features of human rights are **freedom**, **equality** and **dignity**.

Personal rights

Every individual has personal rights; these are about personal freedoms. Personal rights protect people from every form of abuse of authority. Some personal rights include religious freedom, access to security, freedom of information, freedom of expression, the freedom to gather and be associated, and more.

Citizen's rights

Citizen's rights are about the enaction of political power. They refer to everyone's right to **vote** and to be a candidate for **public office**. (Balias 2019).

Social rights

Social rights are about goods that the state offers to **people** to ensure their well-being. Some social rights include **health care, work, housing, protection of childhood**, and **protection of family life**. (Balias 2019).

Cultural rights

Cultural rights do not have a legal standing, and they are not the same for every person. These are rights that valorise (give value to) diversity. They connect to every person's history. Some cultural rights include **participation in cultural life, education in 'mother languages', scientific research, intellectual property and more.** (Stamatopoulou 2008).

Linguistic rights

Every person has the right to use the **language or languages** with which they feel most comfortable. Every person has the **rights to be educated and to communicate** in any language they prefer. Violating the right to use all languages might prevent students from being educated.

The European Union

The European Community was created by Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands. At the time (1950) it was called the European Coal and Steel Community. It became the European Union (EU) in 1994.

The aim of the EU is to preserve democracy, freedom, equality, justice, and **human rights**. The EU plans programs and actions for children. These aim to encourage the active participation of children in the society where they live. EU policies for children are connected to the children's desires and needs, the protection of children from poverty, violence and injustice.

European citizenship

The citizens of the EU member states are called European citizens and have European citizenship. The European citizenship is not a substitute for national citizenship but rather a supplement to it. It is a property of people who live in EU countries, and it gives them additional rights and obligations.

International Organisations

International Organisations are parts of the international community. They aim to preserve **peace**, **democracy**, and **justice**. International organisations design, implement and fund actions, especially for vulnerable social groups, such as migrants, refugees, the homeless, the Roma etc. International organisations may act either as independent entities or as parts of an organisation that cooperates with other organisations or organisations in the European Union.

Non-Government Organisations

Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are organisations that are independent from governmental agencies. Non-Government Organisations are created by **groups of citizens**. They are active locally and internationally. Their fundamental principle is to give help whoever needs it: people, animals, the environment.





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