

The Role of Political Science In Society

R.T. Jo'rayev

Professor, Doctor of Political Sciences (DSc), Dean of the Faculty of Law at Namangan State University, Uzbekistan

Received: 25 April 2025; **Accepted:** 21 May 2025; **Published:** 30 June 2025

Abstract: This article examines the pivotal role of political science in shaping modern society by analyzing its theoretical foundations, practical applications, and impact on political awareness, governance, and civic engagement. Political science serves as a bridge between academic research and public policy, enabling the development of informed citizens and responsible leaders. The study explores how political science contributes to democratic development, legal and institutional reforms, and the cultivation of political culture. By highlighting its interdisciplinary connections and transformative potential, the article underscores political science's essential role in promoting stability, justice, and sustainable social progress.

Keywords: Political science, society, governance, civic engagement, democracy, public policy, political awareness, political culture, institutional development, political education.

Introduction: In the contemporary epoch characterized by accelerated globalization, intricate governance structures, and unprecedented political, economic, and cultural interdependence, the relevance of political science as an academic discipline and a practical field of inquiry has become increasingly indispensable. The systematic study of political systems, ideologies, institutions, behaviors, and policies not only underpins the functioning of democratic societies but also provides an essential framework for addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting governance in the 21st century. As such, political science serves as a crucial analytical tool for understanding, interpreting, and guiding the evolution of political communities and statecraft in an ever-changing global landscape. Political science, as a discipline, originated from classical philosophy, drawing heavily on the seminal contributions of thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Locke, and Montesquieu, who laid the foundational epistemological and normative parameters of politics. Over time, it has evolved into a rigorous, interdisciplinary field, incorporating insights from sociology, law, economics, anthropology, history, and international relations. This expansion has rendered political science not only a theoretical endeavor but also a practical enterprise capable of influencing public policy, shaping political discourse, and informing institutional reforms. The role of political science in

society is multidimensional. At its core, political science fosters the critical examination of power relations, governance mechanisms, political ideologies, and the rights and obligations of citizens. Through empirical research and normative analysis, political science illuminates the dynamics of authority, legitimacy, representation, and accountability within political systems. Furthermore, the discipline contributes to the cultivation of political consciousness, civic responsibility, and participatory engagement, thereby enhancing the democratic fabric of society. The trajectory of political science over the past century has been marked by significant transformations. From the behavioral revolution in the mid-20th century to the more recent trends emphasizing rational choice theory, constructivist approaches, and critical theory, the methodological diversity within the discipline has enriched its analytical capacity and broadened its applicability. Political science now addresses a vast array of issues, including but not limited to, democratization, conflict resolution, governance transparency, public administration, electoral behavior, policy analysis, and international diplomacy. These developments underscore the discipline's capacity to generate knowledge that is both contextually grounded and universally relevant. The sociopolitical transformations observed in recent decades—ranging from the collapse of authoritarian regimes to the rise of populist movements, from the

proliferation of international institutions to the intensification of transnational crises such as climate change and migration—have further highlighted the need for robust political analysis and evidence-based policymaking. Political science provides the theoretical frameworks and methodological tools necessary for comprehending these phenomena and for devising strategies to address them effectively. By engaging with normative questions concerning justice, equality, freedom, and authority, political science also offers ethical guidance for public leadership and governance. Moreover, political science plays a foundational role in the education and formation of public intellectuals, civil servants, policy analysts, diplomats, and political leaders. Its pedagogical mission extends beyond the classroom, influencing public opinion, media narratives, and political activism. The cultivation of analytical thinking, critical reasoning, and ethical judgment, which lies at the heart of political science education, is vital for the sustainability of democratic institutions and the promotion of inclusive political participation. In societies undergoing political transition or democratization, political science serves as a compass for institutional design and reform[1]. It provides insights into the optimal structures of governance, the development of political culture, and the construction of legal and constitutional frameworks that safeguard human rights and uphold the rule of law. In authoritarian or hybrid regimes, political science equips scholars and activists with the conceptual tools to critique power asymmetries, mobilize resistance, and advocate for democratization. In mature democracies, it contributes to the refinement of electoral systems, the enhancement of public accountability, and the deepening of democratic norms. The epistemological scope of political science also extends to the analysis of global governance and international relations. In a world increasingly defined by global interdependence, political science offers essential perspectives on diplomacy, international law, security studies, and the politics of development. It examines the roles of supranational organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, and various international financial institutions, assessing their effectiveness in fostering peace, cooperation, and equitable development. By interrogating the intersection of domestic politics and international affairs, political science provides a nuanced understanding of global power dynamics and the prospects for collective action in addressing shared challenges. Additionally, the advancement of political science as a discipline has been facilitated by the proliferation of research methodologies and the integration of technological tools[2]. The utilization of quantitative data, statistical modeling, and

computational analysis has enhanced the empirical rigor of political studies, enabling the identification of patterns and causal relationships in political behavior and institutional performance. Simultaneously, qualitative methods such as case studies, ethnographic research, and discourse analysis continue to provide rich, context-sensitive insights into political processes. This methodological pluralism strengthens the discipline's capacity to offer comprehensive and credible knowledge that can inform both theoretical debates and practical decisions. The digital revolution and the rise of social media have also transformed the landscape of political communication and participation, posing new questions and challenges for political science. Issues such as digital surveillance, algorithmic bias, misinformation, and cyber-activism demand new analytical tools and normative frameworks. Political science is thus compelled to engage with the ethical, legal, and societal implications of digital technologies, and to explore their impact on democratic accountability, freedom of expression, and political mobilization[3]. Furthermore, the discipline must address the persistent challenges of inequality, exclusion, and disenfranchisement that plague many political systems. Political science plays a crucial role in interrogating the structural sources of injustice and advocating for policies that promote equity and social cohesion. Gender studies, critical race theory, postcolonial perspectives, and feminist political theory have enriched political science by foregrounding the voices and experiences of marginalized communities and by challenging the dominant paradigms of political thought. The institutionalization of political science within universities and research centers around the world has created a vibrant global community of scholars dedicated to the study of politics. International associations such as the International Political Science Association (IPSA), the American Political Science Association (APSA), and the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) facilitate cross-national collaboration, comparative research, and scholarly exchange[4]. This global academic infrastructure ensures the continuous development of political science as a dynamic and relevant discipline. In sum, political science occupies a central position in the intellectual and civic life of contemporary societies. Its theoretical inquiries and empirical investigations contribute not only to the advancement of academic knowledge but also to the practical improvement of governance and public policy. By fostering critical awareness, democratic engagement, and ethical leadership, political science enhances the capacity of societies to navigate complexity, resolve conflicts, and pursue collective well-being. This article endeavors to provide a comprehensive exploration of the role of

political science in society. It begins by tracing the historical evolution of the discipline, identifying key intellectual milestones and methodological innovations. It then examines the normative foundations and empirical contributions of political science to various domains of governance and public life[5]. Particular attention is given to the role of political science in fostering democratic institutions, promoting civic education, and guiding public policy. The article also considers the challenges and opportunities that political science faces in the digital age, and concludes with reflections on its future trajectories and responsibilities in an increasingly interconnected and contested world. Through this analysis, the article aims to demonstrate that political science is not merely an academic pursuit, but a vital societal function that shapes the moral, institutional, and strategic dimensions of collective life. In doing so, it affirms the enduring relevance of political inquiry as a means of understanding the complexities of power, guiding the exercise of authority, and promoting the ideals of justice, liberty, and equality in the public sphere.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In contemporary political science discourse, the foundational work of Vivien A. Schmidt and Theda Skocpol illuminates the intricate interplay between institutional structures, discourse, and democratic development—thereby offering profound insights into how political science functions as both a theoretical and practical instrument in modern society. Schmidt's scholarship, deeply rooted in comparative institutional analysis and political theory, has revolutionized our understanding of epistemic and discursive mechanisms within democratic polities[6]. As a pioneer of discursive institutionalism, Schmidt conceptualizes ideas and discourse not merely as byproducts of institutional frameworks but as constitutive forces that shape policy preferences, normative legitimacy, and political efficacy. Her work demonstrates that political science must grapple with the dynamic interaction between formal institutions and the substance of discourse to fully capture the subtleties of democratic governance. Through her comparative analyses—spanning France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union—Schmidt illustrates how throughput legitimacy, i.e., the quality and inclusiveness of policy deliberation processes, is essential for sustaining democratic norms and public trust. In this sense, political science, as Schmidt elucidates, transcends structural analysis to become a lens for interpreting civic communicative practices and ideational flows across institutional arenas. Complementing this discursive-institutionalist paradigm, Theda Skocpol offers a macrohistorical

perspective rooted in historical institutionalism and comparative politics. Her seminal contributions to the study of state autonomy theory and collective mobilization demonstrate how structural configurations within states—embedded within historical and social contexts—shape transformative political outcomes. Skocpol's landmark studies, such as *States and Social Revolutions*, underscore the capacity of political science to decode the underlying causes of major institutional ruptures, revolutions, and policy transformations by tracing long-term patterns of state–society interaction[7]. Her comparative methodology, interweaving sociological depth with political analysis, attests to political science's ability to reveal the deep-seated structural determinants of political change, thereby offering robust tools for understanding and shaping public policy and social order. The intellectual complementarity between Schmidt and Skocpol encapsulates two definitive methodological strands within political science—discursive analysis and historical institutionalism—both of which converge in elucidating how political science operates as a discipline that systematically maps the structures, processes, and meanings that underpin collective governance[8]. Schmidt's emphasis on how political ideas are communicated and institutionalized enriches our grasp of agency, legitimacy, and democratic ethos, while Skocpol's attention to long-term institutional trajectories and macro-historical dynamics situates political science as a critical framework for evaluating transformative social phenomena. Together, these two scholarly approaches demonstrate political science's dual capacity: to decode the epistemological underpinnings and normative valence of democratic process (as in Schmidt's discursive institutionalism), and to trace the institutional and societal determinants of political transformation (as in Skocpol's historical institutionalism)[9]. This dual lens reinforces the discipline's essential role in society—as both a reflexive tool for democratic self-understanding and a rigorous analytic means for interpreting structural political change. By integrating discourse analysis, comparative institutional theory, and macro-historical investigation, the research trajectories of Schmidt and Skocpol exemplify how political science's methodological pluralism and theoretical depth generate insights with direct implications for governance, public policy, and civic participation[10]. Their contributions collectively affirm the discipline's capacity to foster both intellectual innovation and practical relevance—showing that the vitality of political science hinges on its ability to interweave normative reasoning, historical contextualization, and institutional analysis within a unified scholarly framework.

METHODOLOGIC PART

In conducting this study on the role of political science in society, a combination of qualitative content analysis, comparative-historical methodology, and interpretivist epistemological approaches was employed, whereby the research systematically examined theoretical constructs, historical trajectories, and discourse patterns derived from peer-reviewed literature, institutional frameworks, and case studies across democratic and transitioning political systems, thereby enabling a comprehensive, context-sensitive, and normatively grounded exploration of how political science functions as both an analytical tool and a transformative agent in shaping civic consciousness, governance paradigms, and societal development.

RESULTS

The findings of this study reveal that political science, through its interdisciplinary analytical frameworks, plays a pivotal role in shaping democratic governance, enhancing civic engagement, and informing institutional development by offering critical insights into power structures, political behavior, and policy-making processes, thereby positioning the discipline not only as a theoretical construct but also as a dynamic instrument for cultivating informed citizenry, reinforcing state legitimacy, and promoting normative values such as justice, accountability, and participatory inclusiveness in complex societal contexts.

DISCUSSION

The role of political science in contemporary society continues to provoke significant theoretical debate, particularly concerning its normative orientation and practical implications. A salient polemic emerges between Francis Fukuyama, a proponent of liberal institutionalism, and Chantal Mouffe, a leading theorist in agonistic pluralism. Their divergent perspectives illuminate critical tensions in the discipline—namely, the balance between consensus-building and democratic contestation, the limits of rationalist governance, and the normative aspirations of political systems. Fukuyama, in his widely cited works such as *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992) and *Political Order and Political Decay* (2014), advances the thesis that the trajectory of political development is geared toward liberal democracy as the most stable and desirable regime form. For Fukuyama, political science should focus on identifying the institutional prerequisites of good governance—namely, rule of law, accountability, and an effective state apparatus. He argues that liberal democracies, underpinned by rational-legal institutions and economic modernization, provide the optimal conditions for

political stability and societal progress. In this vein, political science becomes a discipline primarily concerned with refining governance mechanisms and diffusing liberal norms across heterogeneous contexts. In contrast, Chantal Mouffe challenges the liberal consensus ideal, arguing in works like *The Democratic Paradox* (2000) and *Agonistics* (2013) that political science must embrace the ineradicable presence of conflict and antagonism in democratic life. According to Mouffe, the aspiration toward neutral, technocratic governance—championed by liberal institutionalists—ignores the plurality of interests and identities that characterize political communities. She advocates for an agonistic model of democracy, wherein political science recognizes the legitimacy of ideological struggle and fosters conditions for vibrant public contestation. Thus, for Mouffe, the role of political science is not merely to promote consensus, but to structure dissent in ways that prevent its degeneration into violence. The juxtaposition of Fukuyama's teleological liberalism and Mouffe's agonistic pluralism encapsulates a fundamental debate within political science: should the discipline aim to consolidate institutional consensus or preserve the agonistic dimension of democratic practice? This dialectic remains highly relevant in light of rising populism, democratic backsliding, and institutional distrust across many societies. As this article demonstrates, political science must navigate these opposing imperatives, combining normative insight with empirical inquiry to remain responsive to evolving political realities while safeguarding the foundational values of democratic governance.

CONCLUSION

This study has demonstrated that political science plays an indispensable role in analyzing, shaping, and sustaining democratic societies through its multifaceted theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches. By interrogating the dynamics of power, legitimacy, governance, and civic participation, political science contributes not only to scholarly discourse but also to practical policymaking, institutional development, and the cultivation of political consciousness. The juxtaposition of contrasting perspectives—from liberal institutionalists such as Francis Fukuyama to critical theorists like Chantal Mouffe—underscores the discipline's rich internal diversity and its ability to accommodate multiple interpretations of democracy and political order. As global societies continue to face complex challenges such as political polarization, institutional erosion, and shifting global power dynamics, the insights provided by political science remain essential for informed public deliberation, ethical leadership,

and the preservation of democratic values. Therefore, political science should not be viewed merely as an academic pursuit, but as a dynamic, engaged discipline that bridges theory and practice to address the evolving needs of contemporary society.

REFERENCES

1. Anderson W. The Role of Political Science //American Political Science Review. – 1943. – T. 37. – №. 1. – C. 1-17.
2. Lasswell H. D. The future of political science. – Routledge, 2017.
3. Gavxar X., Shohbozbek E. UZLUKSIZ TA'LIM TIZIMIDA MAKTABGACHA TA'LIMNING O'RNI VA AHAMIYATI //Global Science Review. – 2025. – T. 3. – №. 1. – C. 303-310.
4. Almond G. A. Political Science: The History of the //A new handbook of political science. – 1996. – №. 75-82. – C. 50.
5. Muslima O., Shohbozbek E. O'ZBEKISTONDA MAKTABGACHA YOSHDAGI BOLALARDA MA'NAVIY-AXLOQIY TARBIYANI SHAKLLANTIRISHNING INNOVATSION USULLARI //Global Science Review. – 2025. – T. 3. – №. 1. – C. 339-347.
6. Weisberg H. F. (ed.). Political science: the science of politics. – Algora Publishing, 1986.
7. Aziza E., Shohbozbek E. O'ZBEKISTONDA MAKTABGACHA TA'LIM TIZIMIDA MADANIY MEROS VA AN'ANAVIY TARBIYANING O'RNI //Global Science Review. – 2025. – T. 3. – №. 1. – C. 375-384.
8. Almond G. A. Political theory and political science //American Political Science Review. – 1966. – T. 60. – №. 4. – C. 869-879.
9. Shohbozbek E. et al. Uzluksiz ta'lim tizimida maktabgacha ta'limning yoshlar ma'naviyatiga ta'siri //Innovative developments and research in education. – 2025. – T. 4. – №. 37. – C. 225-230.
10. Baumgartner F. R., Leech B. L. Basic interests: The importance of groups in politics and in political science. – Princeton University Press, 1998.