**Political Geography**

Political geography has been defined in different ways. Some authors have defined it as a study of relationship between man’s political activities and physical environment. Others have stated that it is study of the political area still others are of view that it is the study of the areal differentiation of political phenomena of the earth’s surface.

**Meaning**

Political geography as the study of relationship: Political Geography was first conceived as the study of relationship of state with the physical condition. Walter Fitzerland has defined political geography as the study of the extent to which the nature of states together with their organization and interrelation is influenced by, an adjusted to the condition of the physical environment.

According to A. E Moodie, ‘The major objective of political geography is to analyze interstate relationship and internal adaptation to environmental condition. Wiger says : The aim of political geography is to determine how political organization are influenced by an adjustment to physiographical condition and how these factors affect international relationship

So we can say that political geography tries to analyze the relationship between the state and physical environment and external relationship between one state and the other state. Since these relationships are subject to continue change, political geography is the study of changing relationship between the political man and the physical earth.

Political geography is an important branch of human geography. It is concerned with the study of areal/spatial variation of political phenomena and their characteristics. In other words, its studies the location of different countries of the world, their shape, the essential elements of boundaries and frontiers from a evolution of structure of state, the policies relating to the structure of the state, population of the state, man’s activities relating to the state, etc from geographical view point.

While the Human geography is concerned with the geographical or natural region, the political geography deals with the artificially created or manmade area i.e. the political area or the state. Human geography is the science of natural areas whereas the political geography is the science of political area or more specifically it is the geographical study of state in terms of its various geographical elements such as location, size, shape, climate, resource, population etc. S.Volkensburg has said that political geography is concerned with the geography of political units. According to Pearsy and Alexander, political geography consists of description and analysis of politically organized area.

In 1954, Richard Hartshone gave the definition of geography and a political geography is a branch of it. According to him geography is concerned to provide an accurate and orderly description of the variable characteristics of the earth’s surface and political geography is a branch of it. Keeping a relation with geography, political geography provides a systematic description and interpretation of the areal variation and similarities of the political geography provides a systematic description and interpretation of the areal variation and similarities of the political phenomena of the earth. The definition of political geography as propounded by Hartshorne is given below. Political Geography is the study of the areal similarities and differentiation. After him, a no. of dedicated geographers wrote book on political geography and tried to gave new definition of the subject.

**Political geography as the study of areal differentiation**

According to Hartshone(1960) is the study of variation of political phenomenon from place to place and interconnection with varieties of other features of the earth as a home of man. Whittelesly also states that differentiation of political phenomena from place to place over the earth is the essential of political geography. Jackson defines political geography is the study of political phenomena in their areal extent. Political geography are justified in dealing with the state as it possess atleast two features of geographical nature

1. Territorial area
2. Space location.