

Chapter 1 : Politics | Definition of Politics by Merriam-Webster

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Did this victory show, or at least suggest, the superiority of Soviet centrally-planned science to the American market economy? The free market, these critics claimed, could not carry out the vast efforts research now required. Could private enterprise have built the atomic bomb? The Soviets have long since departed, but the fallacies in the arguments for centrally-controlled science live on today. Government spending on science and technology has increased far beyond its level in In this brilliant monograph, Rothbard deftly turns the tables on the supporters of big government. In doing so, he displays his unique combination of mastery of theoretical principles and commanding knowledge of the empirical evidence and scholarly literature on every subject he addresses. He shows that science best advances under the free market: He begins with a fundamental question: The more we spend, the less we have to spend on other things. The decision is best left to the free market: This fact of reality, then, must be faced: The crucial question, then, is: How many people and how much capital are to be funneled into each of the various occupations, including science and technology? One of the great, if often unsung, merits of the free enterprise economy is that it alone can insure a smooth, rational distribution and allocation of productive resources. Through the free price systems, consumers signal laborers, capitalists, and businessmen on which occupations are most urgently needed, and the intricate, automatic workings of the price system convey these messages to everyone, thereby creating an efficient, smoothly working economy. If then, there is a shortage of scientists, market salaries for scientists will significantly rise, relative to other occupations. But since they have not so risen, is there really a shortage for scientists? This question was itself scientifically investigated only recently Even the salaries of clergymen, pharmacists, and school teachers, rose relative to engineers in this period. How, then, can there be a shortage of engineers? Even if there is no shortage of scientists, though, does it not remain the case that in current conditions, advances in scientific knowledge require gargantuan efforts beyond the scope of the free market? Rothbard meets this dogma head on: The day of the individual or small-scale inventor is supposedly over and done with. This common myth has been completely exploded by the researches of John Jewkes, David Sawers, and Richard Stillerman in their highly important recent work. Taking sixty-one of the most important inventions of the twentieth century. Not even the building of the atomic bomb is an exception to the superiority of the free market to governmentally-controlled science. The fundamental atomic discoveries had been made by academic scientists working with simple equipment. One of the greatest of these scientists has commented: And the development of the bomb was, for peacetime purposes, an extremely wasteful process. The alleged great achievements of Soviet science, including the much-vaunted Sputnik, failed to impress Rothbard: We have heard a great deal recently about the alleged glories of Soviet science, and about the necessity of the United States catching up with such wonders as sputniks. What is the real record of Soviet science? That came with the Second Five-Year Plan, in Government control of science, government planning of science, is bound to result in the politicization of science, the substitute of political goals and political criteria for scientific ones. Even pro-Soviet scientists have admitted that Soviet research is inferior to American, that basic, as contrasted to applied, research, is neglected; that there is too much red tape; that little fundamentally creative work has been done; and that science is unduly governed by political considerations—such as the political views of the scientist propounding any given theory. Scientists are shot for taking the view that happens to be in political disfavor. It should, for example, reduce taxes to the greatest extent possible. In this connection, Rothbard in a brilliant paragraph exposes a common fallacy: Contrary to common belief, a tax exemption is not simply equivalent to a government subsidy. For a subsidy mulcts taxpayers in order to give a special grant to the favored party. It thereby adds to the ratio of government activity in the economy, distorts productive resources, and multiplies the dangers of government control and repression. A tax exemption, or any other type of tax reduction, on the one hand, reduces the ratio of government to private action; it frees private energies and allows them to develop unhampered; it reduces the danger of government control and distortion of the

economy. It is a step toward the free market and the free society, just as a government subsidy is a step away from the free society. But the exact circumstances under which it was written have not yet come to light. As readers will soon discover, it contains an astonishing wealth of insights. Los Angeles, July

Chapter 2 : How to improve government's use of science

A major report looking at the future of the sea sets out the opportunities available for the UK to capitalise on its existing strengths in research, technology and the diversity of ocean industries.

Messenger Several prominent scientists have been brought into the government fold in recent years to strengthen decision-making at provincial and federal levels. These researchers are poised to make important contributions to environmental policy and decision-making because they link scientists to deputy ministers and elected leadership. Despite the fanfare around their appointments, we still know little about how much influence they will have within government. This is especially true for some of the environmental challenges we face in Canada, due in part to the large volume of scientific evidence needed for implementing effective policies and decisions. The outcome could be a more resilient environmental governance model that lends accountability to land-use and policy decisions, regardless of the political party in charge. Trust in science Science is sending messages that global threats such as climate change require urgent policy solutions and regulatory action. Canada is not immune to these imminent threats. However, these messages are frequently unheard because science is often subject to political spin, skew, suppression and subjectivity. Events like these lead to public mistrust of government and its ability to consider the available scientific evidence in its policy-making. It also casts doubt upon whether governments are able to deliver robust environmental monitoring programs. The chief scientists aim to combat these types of credibility shortfalls. Understandably, they have sparked optimism and hope for strengthening defensible environmental governance in Canada. A checkered past The common thread between these activities are the high expectations of a chief scientist to promote the strengths of nonpartisan, credible science. However, science advisers have not always had influence. In the United States, a number of factors – including the personalities of individual leaders, staff and scientific authorities – have influenced to what extent and to whose standards they have been effective. How leadership solicits scientific advice also plays a role in their ability to leverage themselves and their important messages. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, seen here at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November , is one of a handful of global leaders with a strong background in science. She earned a doctorate in quantum chemistry. This led, for example, to the closing of the Office of the National Science Advisor by the Harper government in . These can be solved, in part, by encouraging young Canadians to pursue education in science and technology and enhancing the role of scientists in political processes. In contrast, adding more scientific advisers to government could be construed as a hasty bureaucratic fix , which may only distract from investing in resolutions such as those mentioned above. The idea that they are capable of slaying policy dragons developed in the absence of evidence is misguided. This misplaced notion is partly due to the complexity and multiple dimensions of scientific knowledge in the context of environmental policy. Although the federal government has begun to show interest in integrating scientific evidence into its environmental policies , elected leadership at all levels must be in tune with these calls for change. Inciting rigour So how then can these science advisers make more effective contributions? In our experience as young environmental professionals, we have noticed a number of gaps that have yet to be recognized in recent science-policy discussions. First, there is only sporadic discussion of how evidence differs from reviews of scientific evidence for policy and decision guidance. For example, a synthesis of all relevant studies on a particular question can provide more robust evidence than a single study on its own, a process called evidence synthesis or meta-analysis. These exercises push disciplines towards building scientific consensus, which should be used to inform environmental policies. Chief scientists should shoulder these types of activities that are tailored to the needs of specific policies instead of passing along those duties to others who may be susceptible to political spin. Additionally, the people and institutions spearheading environmental science should find ways to put their research findings into use by employing novel and existing methods such as co-operative networks. Networks are an important tool for chief scientists ; however, science networks should also consciously avoid insularity. Finally, chief scientists must build trusting relationships. Trust in science is built, in part, through objective, critical and independent thought.

Unfortunately, there are few examples of trust-building actions by science advisers. For example, is it enough to allow federal scientists to speak freely about their work, as mandated by the federal Chief Science Advisor? Surely federal scientists should be encouraged to make outreach a priority for the purposes of building trust in science, rather than simply granting them the freedom to speak. Despite these recommendations, many provincial and territorial environmental agencies have ministers and deputy ministers without scientific qualifications such as degrees in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. Until ministries have leaders who are committed to science and meaningfully engage with scientific communities, their environmental policies and decisions will likely come up short. Further, few scientists have been elected and appointed to positions of power, seemingly a global phenomenon with few exceptions. Science advisers undoubtedly provide a critical voice for environmental science within government. But we must continue to find new ways to embed science into the political arenas of decision-making and policy development.

Chapter 3 : Scientists for Science-Based Policy

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February 14, Anarchy - a condition of lawlessness or political disorder brought about by the absence of governmental authority. Commonwealth - a nation, state or other political entity founded on law and united by a compact of the people for the common good. Communist - a system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single -- often authoritarian -- party holds power; state controls are imposed with the elimination of private ownership of property or capital while claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people i. Confederacy Confederation - a union by compact or treaty between states, provinces or territories that creates a central government with limited powers; the constituent entities retain supreme authority over all matters except those delegated to the central government. Constitutional - a government by or operating under an authoritative document constitution that sets forth the system of fundamental laws and principles that determines the nature, functions and limits of that government. Constitutional democracy - a form of government in which the sovereign power of the people is spelled out in a governing constitution. Democracy - a form of government in which the supreme power is retained by the people, but which is usually exercised indirectly through a system of representation and delegated authority periodically renewed. Democratic republic - a state in which the supreme power rests in the body of citizens entitled to vote for officers and representatives responsible to them. Dictatorship - a form of government in which a ruler or small clique wield absolute power not restricted by a constitution or laws. Ecclesiastical - a government administrated by a church. Emirate - similar to a monarchy or sultanate, a government in which the supreme power is in the hands of an emir the ruler of a Muslim state ; the emir may be an absolute overlord or a sovereign with constitutionally limited authority. Federal Federation - a form of government in which sovereign power is formally divided -- usually by means of a constitution -- between a central authority and a number of constituent regions states, colonies or provinces so that each region retains some management of its internal affairs; differs from a confederacy in that the central government exerts influence directly upon both individuals as well as upon the regional units. Federal republic - a state in which the powers of the central government are restricted and in which the component parts states, colonies, or provinces retain a degree of self-government; ultimate sovereign power rests with the voters who chose their governmental representatives. Islamic republic - a particular form of government adopted by some Muslim states; although such a state is, in theory, a theocracy, it remains a republic, but its laws are required to be compatible with the laws of Islam. Maoism - the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism developed in China by Mao Zedong Mao Tse-tung , which states that a continuous revolution is necessary if the leaders of a communist state are to keep in touch with the people. Marxism - the political, economic and social principles espoused by 19th century economist Karl Marx; he viewed the struggle of workers as a progression of historical forces that would proceed from a class struggle of the proletariat workers exploited by capitalists business owners , to a socialist "dictatorship of the proletariat," to, finally, a classless society -- Communism. Monarchy - a government in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of a monarch who reigns over a state or territory, usually for life and by hereditary right; the monarch may be either a sole absolute ruler or a sovereign - such as a king, queen or prince - with constitutionally limited authority. Oligarchy - a government in which control is exercised by a small group of individuals whose authority generally is based on wealth or power. Parliamentary democracy - a political system in which the legislature parliament selects the government - a prime minister, premier or chancellor along with the cabinet ministers - according to party strength as expressed in elections; by this system, the government acquires a dual responsibility: Parliamentary government Cabinet-Parliamentary government - a government in which members of an executive branch the cabinet and its leader - a prime minister, premier or chancellor are nominated to their positions by a legislature or parliament, and are directly responsible to it; this type of government can be dissolved at will by the parliament legislature by means of a no-confidence vote or the leader of the cabinet

may dissolve the parliament if it can no longer function. Parliamentary monarchy - a state headed by a monarch who is not actively involved in policy formation or implementation i. Presidential - a system of government where the executive branch exists separately from a legislature to which it is generally not accountable. Socialism - a government in which the means of planning, producing and distributing goods is controlled by a central government that theoretically seeks a more just and equitable distribution of property and labor; in actuality, most socialist governments have ended up being no more than dictatorships over workers by a ruling elite. Sultanate - similar to a monarchy, a government in which the supreme power is in the hands of a sultan the head of a Muslim state ; the sultan may be an absolute ruler or a sovereign with constitutionally limited authority. Totalitarian - a government that seeks to subordinate the individual to the state by controlling not only all political and economic matters, but also the attitudes, values and beliefs of its population.

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Science advisers undoubtedly provide a critical voice for environmental science within government. But we must continue to find new ways to embed science into the political arenas of decision.

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The bottom line is that government is a big player in the nation's science and technology enterprise and will remain so regardless of what is happening right now in Washington. But, the nature of that involvement is changing dramatically.

Chapter 6 : Government | Definition of Government by Merriam-Webster

The science policy of the United States is the responsibility of many organizations throughout the federal blog.quintoapp.com of the large-scale policy is made through the legislative budget process of enacting the yearly federal budget, although there are other legislative issues that directly involve science, such as energy policy, climate change, and stem cell research.

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