



NIŞANTAŞI  
ÜNİVERSİTESİ



# **SIYASET BİLİMİ VE KAMU YÖNETİMİ TERMINOLOJİSİ SÖZLÜĞÜ**



**Ad hominem:** Latin for “to the man”. Attacking the presenter of an argument rather than the argument itself. Aka “playing the man, not the ball”.

**Agitprop:** Less-than-subtle political propaganda disseminated through the media and performing arts. Term derived from the then department of Agitation and Propaganda of the Soviet Union.

**Agora (meydan):** Greek for gathering place or assembly. The town square in ancient Greek city states used for political discussions and decision making as well as other activities such as artistic and spiritual gatherings.

**Absolute majority (mutlak çoğunluk):** (50%+1 vote). A term used to compare the least votes a winning candidate may need in a preferential single member voting system compared with that of first- past-the-post systems of other countries where a “majority” may well be less than 50%. Also a concept used in some parliamentary votes where a simple majority of all members present is not enough.

**Accord (anlaşma):** A diplomatic agreement that does not have the same binding force as a treaty.

**Adjournment (erteleme):** Temporary interruption during a parliamentary session.

**Administrative law (idari hukuk):** That segment of public law that is used to challenge the decisions of government officials and / or delegated legislation. Excluding policy decisions made by people’s elected representatives, where it is deemed electoral popular support authorises the office holder to be unrestrained in their decision making as long as it is within the law, all civil / public servants, from the Prime Minister down can be challenged in court (as long as the plaintiff has standing) on the “reasonableness” of their administrative actions or even on their failure to act. Over time the authority of A.L. has been extended to so called public bodies: NGOs, Quangos and other organisations which otherwise would have discretionary power over the rights of their members.

**Adversarial system (düşmanlık sistemi):** The system of law, as exists in the Anglo-American world, where an issue is argued in court by two opposing sides, the prosecutor or plaintiff, and the defence. Opposite to the inquisitorial system where a judge or panel of judges call evidence and interrogate witnesses, as exists in many European countries.

**Altruism (özgecilik):** The devotion to the interests of others above that of the self. The opposite of egoism. amicus curiae Latin for ‘friend of the court’. A party, generally an advocacy group, who is granted permission by an appellate court to be involved in proceedings even though it was not directly involved in the original case. The motivation for the A.C. is that the final court decision may set an important precedent and their confidence in the existing litigants is less than complete.

**Anarchy (anarşi):** A condition of lawlessness and disorder brought about by the absence of any controlling authority.

**Ancien régime (eski rejim):** The government and social system that was swept away by the French Revolution. An administration and associated government programs that have been superseded.

**Armistice (ateşkes):** Temporary or permanent suspension of hostilities in war by mutual agreement.

**Autocracy (otokrasi):** A form of government where unlimited power is held by one single individual.

**Autonomy (otonomi):** A limited form of independence where, for example, a state or colony can control its own domestic affairs but has no say over its foreign affairs.



**Balance of power (güç dengesi):** The leverage a small party in the legislature possesses, in being able to give, or hold back, voting support to a large, albeit still minority party, to allow it to have a majority on a vote.

**Ballot (oylama):** A method of secret voting, normally in a written form.

**Ballot paper (oylama pusulası):** A paper handed to each voter on election day to be marked, showing the names of the candidates (and sometimes the parties) who are standing for election.

**Banana republic (muz cumhuriyeti):** A small country economically dependent on a single agrarian export commodity (traditionally a banana exporting, maritime state of the West Indies or Central America), with a corrupt government. Term derived by author O. Henry for a short story involving the fictional Republic of Anchuria.

**Benign neglect (iyi huylu ihmal):** A type of laissez-faire policy, where, in response to calls for government funding or regulation to address a recently developed problem, a 'do nothing' approach is alternatively undertaken in the belief that, over time, it will improve, or at least not hurt, the interests of the "neglected" group.

**Bigot (bağnaz, dar görüşlü):** A person who refuses to discuss, consider or listen to, beliefs or theories contrary to his own. Derived from the Middle Ages French term of abuse for religious Normans who would frequently use the term "By God".

**Bill (tasarı):** The name for proposed legislation entered into the house / houses of parliament to be debated upon for approval. If approved at all stages it then becomes an act and thus law.

**Bill of rights (Haklar Kanunu):** Aka Charter of Rights or Declaration of Rights. A list of entrenched fundamental human rights as perceived by the declarer. Whereas a nation's enacted laws are deemed to protect people from the harmful deeds of their fellow citizens, a B.o.R is deemed to protect the citizenry from the excesses of their rulers. Term derived from the 1689 Bill of Rights enacted by the British Parliament after the Glorious Revolution.

**Bourgeois (burjuva):** Marxist term now used to describe middle class professionals living a relatively luxurious life style.

**Brinkmanship (amacı uğruna tehlikeyi göze alma):** Belligerent diplomatic relations where at least one party is prepared to risk all and go to the brink of war/ economic ruin/ or whatever calamitous situation, to get what they want. In modern times the most artful in this practice would be the government of North Korea.

**By-law (hükümet kararnamesi):** Not a law but a government rule or regulation. see 'delegated legislation'.

**By-election (ara seçim):** A local election held to fill a suddenly vacated (single member voting) seat due to death, resignation etc. see also Casual Vacancy

**Cabinet (hükümet-bakanlar kurulu):** The 'board of directors' of executive government. Made up of the President / Prime Minister as chairman and each director as a secretary or minister responsible for the relevant government departments such as defence, environment, trade etc.

**Caliphate (halifelik):** A state ruled by a caliph, who is considered to be the chief Islamic civil and religious ruler, regarded as the successor in line from Muhammad.



**Candidate (aday):** A person who stands for election to political office. In Australia candidates can be nominated by political parties or stand as independents.

**Capitalism (kapitalizm):** An economic system based on the recognition of private property rights, where prices are dictated by supply and demand, and where the means of production and distribution of goods and services derive from privately owned resources, or capital, operating within an unregulated market.

**Casus belli (savaş nedeni):** The alleged justification for acts of war.

**Chartists (Çartistler):** Popular British 19th century working class movement advocating electoral reform. Named after their Peoples' Charter of six demands: universal male suffrage, equal electoral districts, secret ballot, no qualifications to enter parliament, pay for MPs and annual elections. Despite at one stage having three million signatures on a petition to Parliament, the movement eventually disbanded without witnessing any reforms.

**Chain migration (zincir göçü):** Aka serial migration. Term to describe a situation in some countries where the granting of permanent residence to one foreign applicant on whatever grounds (humanitarian, skilled or lottery) will give that new resident rights to bring in their spouse or other family members, which in turn will grant further foreigners rights to enter because of their connections to the previous link, thus creating a seemingly perpetual chain.

**Citizens initiated referendum (yurttaş temelli referandum):** A democratic vehicle for legislative or constitutional enactment which bypasses the legislature. As exists in Switzerland and some states of the USA, if a petition for a certain proposition can raise a specific number of signatures, then the legislature is compelled to put it to the people at a referendum and then to enact it in law if passed.

**Civis Romanus sum (Ben bir Roma vatandaşıyım):** (I am a Roman Citizen). The claim by ancient Romans that wherever so they travel in foreign lands they should be afforded full rights and protection, with the understanding that Roman military might would respond to any violations. Justification used by UK Prime Minister Lord Palmerston in 1850 when blockading Athens to ensure a British citizen there was compensated for the property damage inflicted by a violent Greek mob.

**Client state (bağlı devlet):** A country that is economically or militarily dependent upon another, but not actually controlled politically by the patron state as in the case of a 'puppet state'.

**Closed shop:** A place of work where the union has arranged that the employer will only employ those who are its members.

**Common law (genel hukuk):** The law of the land which comes from neither the statute books nor the constitution but from court law reports. Originally that body of law which was common to all parts of England (not customary or local law) and developed over centuries from the English courts to be adopted and further developed in countries using that system. As compared to democratically maintained law, common law is judge maintained and modified law and is valid unless it conflicts with statute law.

**Commodification (metalaşma):** The action or process of treating a person as a mere commodity rather than someone possessing civil rights such as autonomy.

**Communitarianism (komüniteryanizm):** The concept of collective, rather than individual, ownership of all the nation's assets, as well as the duty by those able, to create and / or manage those assets.



**Comparative advantage (karşılaştırmalı üstünlük):** The ability of a party to produce a particular good or service at a lower marginal or opportunity cost than another. If country A can produce both apples and oranges cheaper than country B, with apples significantly cheaper, it is more efficient for it to concentrate on growing and exporting only apples while importing oranges, even though the oranges imported would not be as cheap as those if home grown.

**Confederalism (konfedarilizm):** A form of federalism where the individual regions that make up the sovereign state exercise a larger degree of autonomy. Often the right to secede and the sole right to raise taxes, the funding of the central government coming from the regions. The pre-Civil War slave states of America united to form the Confederate States of America to maintain states' rights.

**Conservative (muhafazakar):** Often taken as synonymous with right wing with a penchant for censorship and state control to protect against 'immoral' personal behaviour, but technically an attitude of belief in the established order and suspicious of change.

**Constituent (seçmen):** A citizen residing in a particular MP's area or district.

**Constitution (anayasa):** The set of basic rules by which a country or state is governed. Sometimes includes a Bill of Rights. The ultimate set of laws to which all other laws made by contemporary governments are subservient to. The strength and integrity of a constitution is often reflected by the difficulty it is to be changed.

**Constitutional referendum (anayasal referandum):** A proposal to alter the Constitution being put to the public vote. In Australia at a referendum the proposed alteration must be approved by a 'double majority': a national majority of voters in the States and Territories; and a majority of voters in a majority of the States.

**Consumer price index (tüketici fiyat endeksi):** A measurement of inflation by comparing, at regular intervals, the price (taking weighting into account) of a set of basic consumer goods and services purchased by households.

**Consumption tax (türetim vergisi):** A tax levied on goods and services such as sales tax, GST, VAT or an excise tax. A tax on the spending of income rather than the earning of it, so as to include people who might otherwise evade income tax such as those in the black economy or successful with tax avoidance schemes.

**Coup d'état (askeri darbe):** Sudden and often violent internal overthrow of a government.

**Cumulative voting (birikimli oylama):** A type of block voting but where the voter can choose, from the list of (for example) ten candidates running for four seats, his preferred four, or just two or even one. In such decisions, the selected candidates would get one quarter of a vote each, or half a vote, or where only one candidate received the vote, the whole vote.

**Damage control (hasar kontrol):** The concerted defensive mode of response a political player sometimes adopts to offset the negative publicity when an embarrassing "situation" develops, such as a controversial comment, evidence of a scandal, egregious hypercritical actions or abuse of public position.

**Deep state (derin devlet):** State within a state. A situation in a country when a government agency, such as a branch of the armed forces, an intelligence agency, police, or a bureaucratic department, acts (conspiratorially or overtly) independently of civilian democratic leadership.

**Deficit / national debt (cari açık, ulusal borç):** The shortfall in any one year of a nation's income as compared to its expenditure / the total unpaid accumulated debt of the government over time.



**Delegated legislation (yetki devri):** Aka enabling legislation. Rules, regulations, by-laws, ordinances etc made by a government official under the authority of a specific act of parliament which sets out the broad purpose of what is desired, but delegates to that official's office, the authority to create the minutia, the delegated legislation, necessary. Whereas all parliamentary legislation is final and cannot be challenged in court (apart from constitutional inconsistencies) delegated legislation can be challenged in court if it is shown to violate the purpose of the original act.

**Demagogue (demagog):** A leader who gains popularity by appealing to prejudice and basic instincts. Considered manipulative and dangerous.

**Democracy (demokrasi) :** From the Greek 'demos' for the ordinary, common people and 'kratos' for power or strength.

**Descriptive / normative (tanımlayıcı/normatif):** Descriptive, aka positive, statements are alleged factual ones describing reality, while normative statements, based upon what is supposed to be the 'normal' or correct, are those claiming how things should or ought to be, and which actions are good or bad.

**Detente (yumuşama):** A relaxing or easing of tensions between powers.

**Devolution (dejenerleşme):** Transfer of powers from the national or central government to state or local government.

**Direct democracy (doğrudan demokrasi):** Aka participatory democracy. Government by the people in fact rather than merely in principle. The citizenry themselves voting on all issues affecting them. Practised in ancient Greece and (to some degree) in some cantons of Switzerland and the New England states of America. Considered by most to be a highly impractical form of government.

**Disinformation (yanlış bilgilendirme):** Information that is false or misleading deliberately disseminated for strategic gain. Aka black propaganda.

**Dynasty (hanedan):** A sequence of hereditary rulers.

**Dystopia (distopya):** Alternative to Utopia. Nightmare vision of society beyond that of even a failed, dysfunctional state, where the system is actually planned by those in power, creating, most often, a totalitarian society. Fictional examples are Jack London's The Iron Heel, Aldous Huxley's Brave New World and George Orwell's 1984.

**Elector (seçmen):** In practice the name often given by governments to voters in normal elections, or to those who have been appointed to a certain level so as to vote their choice to a higher office. Eg. the American Electoral College to choose the President. Technically, a voter who is successful in helping to get his preferred candidate elected. Term possibly used to disguise the fact that approximately half of all voters in SMV systems end up electing nobody.

**Electorate (seçim bölgesi):** Geographical areas used as a criterion for political representation. Australia is divided into 150 (federal) voting districts or divisions which are known as electorates. One member is elected from each electorate to the House of Representatives. In Parliament the electorate of Menzies will be represented by the Member for Menzies who will have the Seat of Menzies.

**Emigre (göçmen, migrant, immigrant):** One who leaves their home country for political reasons.



**Enlightenment (Aydınlanma):** Aka the Age of Reason. 18th century epoch of intellectual advancement where “humanity was brought into the light of reason out of the darkness of tradition and prejudice”. Originating in the UK but developing fully in continental countries such as France with thinkers such as Spinoza, Voltaire and Rousseau.

**Equity law (hakkaniyet hukuku):** An auxiliary part of common law where the courts not only have authority to modify existing common law to adapt to modern times, but in fact have the power to create original law, overriding existing common law, in circumstances where it is deemed that without it, “unconscionable” conduct would occur.

**Exchange rate (döviz kuru):** The relationship of the values of any two country’s currencies. Any one-off reading is informative when taking into account what each country’s unit of currency will buy in its own domestic market. Also relevant is when the rate changes over time indicating one country’s economy is not doing as well as the other.

**Fabian Society (Fabiyan Toplum):** A movement founded in 1884 by intellectuals Sidney and Beatrice Webb and George Bernard Shaw who believed the only possible way to introduce socialism would be in an incremental way using education and gradual legislative changes. Named after the Roman general Fabius Cunctator (“the delayer”) who possessed the patience to defeat the Carthaginian Hannibal by engaging in a slow war of attrition and harassment.

**False flag (sahte bayrak):** A covert operation, military or otherwise, which attempts to present a different identity of the perpetrators, for propaganda, diplomatic or strategic reasons. The casus belli of the 1939 German invasion of Poland was the attack on the German Gleiwitz radio station by “Polish nationals” who were, in fact, disguised Gestapo officers. Term derives from pirate ships who would fly flags of friendly countries so as to entice target ships.

**Fascism (faşizm):** An authoritarian and nationalist political ideology that embraces strong leadership, singular collective identity and the will to commit violence or wage war to further the interests of the state. Averse to concepts such as individualism, pluralism, multiculturalism or egalitarianism. The name derives from the collective identity, the league connotation of the Italian fascio, or English faggot, for a bound collection of sticks. The symbol originally used by Mussolini was a ‘fascio’ of sticks bound with that connotation of war, an axe.

**Federalism (federalizm):** A system under which governmental powers are divided between the central government and the states or provinces all within the same geographical territory. Opposite to a unitary system as exists in the UK, New Zealand and Japan.

**Fence mending:** A politician returning to his electorate hoping to restore his reputation with the voters.

**The fog of war (savaşın sisi):** The uncertainty in combat military operations where intelligence on the strength and position of the enemy, and even of one’s own, or allied, forces cannot always be kept up to date.

**Franchise (oy hakkı):** The right to vote.

**Free rider (beleşçi, otlakçı):** Someone who unintentionally is able to receive the benefits of government policy without incurring the costs.



**General election (genel seçim):** Either an election that is not local but is for the state or national governments or an election that is the final arbiter after the preliminary ones have been dispensed with. Can be contrasted to council, primary or by-elections.

**Georgism:** Nineteenth century philosophy created by American economist Henry George which advocated that things found in nature, such as land, always remains property of the state. Government revenue is thus raised by rents on land (at an unimproved rate), minerals and fishing licences etc to the degree that hopefully no other taxes might need to be enforced.

**Glad-handler (tipik bir siyasetçi):** An excessively "friendly" person, typically a politician, who greets another effusively but insincerely in an attempt to gain popularity.

**Glasnost (açıklık, şeffaflık):** A policy that commits government to greater accountability and visibility, such as freedom of information laws. Russian for 'publicness'.

**GNP / GDP (Milli Gelir / Gayri Safi Milli Hasıla):** Gross National Product is the total output of goods and services annually produced by a country, whether on or off shore. Gross Domestic Product is the total amount produced on shore, whether by local or foreign entities.

**Groupthink (grup görüşü):** An attitude often existing in academia or the media where there is found to be unanimity in approaches to certain issues, either due to laziness in research, or fear of the consequences of going against the prevailing wisdom.

**Hegemony (hegemonya):** Dominance or leadership of one state or social group over another.

**Honeymoon period (balayı dönemi):** The first few months of a new government during which the incumbent/s are granted a non-belligerent grace period by their political opposition and the media.

**House of representatives (Temsilciler meclisi):** The largest and most influential house of Parliament. Appoints the cabinet and from which the Prime Minister usually comes. Similar to the British House of Commons and known in Australia as the 'People's House' as compared with the Senate being the 'State's House'. Each of the 150 members represents approximately 120,000 people or 80,000 voters.

**Humanism (hümanizma):** Cultural movement during the Renaissance emphasising secularism and classical learning from ancient Greece and Rome; the doctrine that emphasises the human capacity for self-fulfilment without religion.

**Incumbent (görevdeki):** The current holder of a seat in the legislature or of an office of authority.

**Identity politics (kimlik siyasaları):** Political theories or advocacy which, rather than proposing better ways to fight crime, improve the economy or save the environment etc, orientate towards the victimhood, or alleged victimhood, of certain people because of their demographics, ie age, religion, gender, race etc.

**Informal vote (geçersiz oy):** An invalid vote on the ballot paper. Made intentionally or by accident where the voter misunderstands how he/she has to indicate the choice for the desired candidates.

**Interregnum (iki seçim arasındaki dönem):** An interval of normal government, such as between administrations.

**Invisible hand (görünmez el):** The free market theory of 18th century economist Adam Smith that there is an invisible hand to guarantee, that without government, there will always be a supply to placate demand. "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own self interest."



**Isolationism (İzolasyon siyaseti):** A policy of isolating one's country from military alliances or other commitments with all other countries as a best resort to avoiding foreign entanglements. Historically a strong sentiment in the USA. President Woodrow Wilson won a second term in 1916 in promising (falsely) to keep America out of WWI, and the US was conspicuous in not joining the newly formed League of Nations. Prior to WWII aviator Charles Lindberg was prominent in the popular America First Committee which attempted to prevent the US being a participant in that war.

**Jingoism (şovenlik):** A nineteenth and twentieth century term to describe chauvinistic, bellicose expressions of nationalism, especially in warlike pursuits. The term is often associated with US President Teddy Roosevelt.

**Judicial activism (yargısal aktivizm):** A judicial philosophy advocating that courts are allowed to take an active role, not supported by existing law, to remedy alleged wrongs in society.

**Judicial interpretation (hukuki yorum):** The various methods different superior court judges regularly use to interpret constitutional law: literal, original, doctrinal (stare decisis), structural and balancing.

**Junta (cunta):** A clique, faction or cabal, often military, taking power after an overthrow of the government. From the latin 'juncta' for join.

**Jus ad bellum:** The alleged justification a country will use to go to war.

**Keynesianism (Keynesyen siyaset):** Theories of very influential economist of the twentieth century, John Maynard Keynes, who advocated government taxing and spending to keep control on the economy. In times of recession he advocated high government spending on public works as well as intervention into the economy wherever it was thought necessary.

**Laissez-faire (Bırakınız yapınlar):** Fr. for "allow to do". An economic system with total or near total abstinence of state interference.

**Left wing (sol kanat):** see 'right wing / left wing'

**Liberal democracy (liberal demokrasi):** A vague term to reflect democracy controlled by restraints that only allow the seemingly good. I.e. A constitution or common law that protects such institutions as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, a moderately free market, an independent judiciary, the rule of law, separation of powers, minority rights and the notion of the individual.

**Liberalism (siyasal liberalizm-özgürlük, eşitlik):** Loosely described as a modern philosophy which favours change for change's sake, as well as encompassing a compromising and compassionate attitude to personal lifestyle, law and order, foreign affairs and immigration, where policy decisions are often orientated towards those in more straitened circumstances.

**Liberalism (klasik liberalizm):** A philosophy advocating the rights of the individual as against the state or church as espoused by such eighteenth century English writers as John Locke and J.S. Mill. Causes advocated would be Laissez Faire economics, freedom of speech, the rule of law, extension of the franchise, amelioration in penal practices, and changing views on relations between the sexes and the upbringing of children. In modern times Classic Liberals have become either libertarians or small 'l' liberals.

**Libertarianism (libertyatizm):** A political philosophy of self reliance, reason and maximum non-interference by the state in matters of both economic and personal affairs. Straddling both left and right, a libertarian would believe in the right to bear arms, access to IVF or hallucinatory drugs for any adult, a free market capitalist economy and the abolition of censorship.



**Limited war (kısıtlı savař):** A war, often not formally declared, fought to obtain specific political / territorial objectives, rather than to obtain the unconditional surrender of the enemy.

**Lobbyist (lobici):** Someone who acts professionally to serve as a go-between for people or business with a complaint about specific legislation and the relevant government minister/secretary. It is in the interests for politicians to not only keep attuned of the effect of possibly problematic legislation but also to have that communicated in quick and efficient manner by an experienced and knowledgeable operator. The fact that corruption often occurs in the lobbying process does not deny that lobbying is still mostly a legitimate function. Term derived from hotel lobbies where politicians were originally approached by applicants.

**Lumpenproletariat (lumpen-proletarya):** Term for those in society Karl Marx identified as the miscreants, lacking class consciousness and useless to the revolutionary struggle: beggars, prostitutes, gangsters, racketeers, swindlers, petty criminals, tramps, chronic unemployed or unemployable.

**Mace (topuz):** Large, intimidating, medieval, hand held weapon. Appears with the speaker in lower houses and used as a symbol of authority.

**Machiavellian (Makyevalian):** Adjective to describe manipulative and cynical political activity where morals and principles have little account. Somewhat unfairly attributed to Renaissance political theorist Niccolo Machiavelli who wrote for an age where government and diplomacy had more life or death consequences.

**Maiden speech (meclis açış konuşması):** The first ever speech given by an MP in Parliament and traditionally granted the courtesy of no interjections.

**Majority preferential:** Preferential voting in single member electorates.

**Mercantilism (merkantalizm):** A broad, command type, economic doctrine, practised from the 16th to the 18th centuries, which predicated state power in international affairs as the predominate goal. Policies utilised would be: export subsidies; maintaining a positive balance of payments; developing colonies; forbidding trade to be carried in foreign ships; restricting colonies' trade to only the mother country; maintaining a large as possible precious metal reserve; limiting domestic consumption such as with sumptuary laws.

**Mixed economy (karma ekonomi):** An economic system which embraces some aspects of free enterprise together with elements of socialism.

**Monetarism (parasalcılık):** The theory that the economy is controlled by raising or lowering the money supply.

**Monocracy (monokrasi):** Rule by one person (not necessarily anti-democratic).

**Monopoly (monopoli):** A situation where there is only one seller of a good or service due to either protection by legislation or the impracticality of other parties to enter the market.

**Monopsony (tekelcilik):** A single buyer market for goods or services. Opposite to monopoly.

**Moral relativism (ahlaki görecilik):** Loosely described as a philosophical concept whereby an act universally identified as immoral in the home country is however excused when observed in another because of the culture or history of that country.

**NGO (hükümet dışı organizasyonlar):** A non-profit non-government organisation.



**Nihilism (hiççilik):** The belief of a 19th and early 20th century Russian revolutionary party that all religious and moral principles were worth nothing (nihilism) and that in order to remake society, one must first destroy the current one.

**Nomenklatura:** The system of patronage for Party members applied during the existence of the USSR. A list of individuals drawn up by the Communist Party from which were selected candidates for vacant senior positions in the state, party, and other important organizations. From the Latin nomenklatura for 'list of names'.

**Nomination (aday gösterme):** A prerequisite to standing as a political candidate. Made only after the writ for an election has been issued. A financial deposit (which will be returned on the candidate receiving a reasonable number of votes) must also be lodged.

**OECD (Ekonomik İşbirliği ve Kalkınma Organizasyonu):** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Founded in 1961 to stimulate world trade and economic progress, a group of 34 first world countries, committed to democracy and the market economy, who organise mutual plans to maintain taxation conventions and fiscal stability, combat corruption and bribery as well as other endeavours such as annual publications on the world economic outlook.

**Oligarchy (oligarşi):** A form of government where rule is by the few and in their own interest.

**Ombudsman (ombudsmanlık):** A concept, originally Swedish, where parliament appoints a person to act as an official watchdog over bureaucracy on behalf of the public. On its own initiative or from public complaints, the Ombudsman will investigate government officials or departments and report its findings to parliament, whereupon action may be taken. The office of the Ombudsman itself has no power to penalise, although in some jurisdictions the Ombudsman can launch criminal prosecutions. A similar role in South Africa is known as the Public Protector.

**Parliamentary privilege (dokunulmazlık):** The privilege while (physically) in Parliament that allows an MP to say anything without fear of prosecution for slander. Also Parliament itself has the privilege to summon, cross-examine, judge and punish entities that have deemed to offend against it. In Italy P.P. grants an MP immunity from arrest for criminal charges.

**Parliamentary government (parleментар hükümet):** A system of government where ultimate authority is vested in the legislative body. The cabinet, including the chief executive, is from, appointed by and responsible to, the legislature (the Parliament). Alternative to what is known as a presidential system, where both the legislature and executive are independently appointed by the voters.

**Participation rate (katılım oranı):** The share of the potential workforce (15-65, not institutionalised), working or seeking work.

**Pax Romana (Roma Barışı):** "The Roman peace". The two centuries of relative peace and stability enforced by the Roman Empire upon its dominions during the period from approximately 27 BC to 180 AD.

**Perestroika (yeniden yapılandırma):** Term to denote political, bureaucratic or economic restructuring first coined by Mikhail Gorbachev with regards to the former Soviet Union.

**Pericles (Perikles):** Esteemed Athenian leader of ancient Greece who, while advancing the material and cultural aspects of his city state, also did much to enhance democracy.

**Pettyfogging (safsatıcı):** Holding up a debate by quibbling or fussing over trivial, irrelevant matters.



**Platform (parti programı):** The political agenda of a candidate or party.

**Plausible deniability (makul red):** The position a member of the executive or some person in charge of an organisation attempts to maintain, by keeping a distance from the control of certain operations or practices such that, if an operation 'goes south' and attracts unfavourable publicity, there is no evidence linking him or her to the chain of command.

**Plebiscite (plebisit):** A public vote to gauge public opinion on an issue (such as conscription) which does not affect the constitution nor is otherwise legally binding.

**Plutocracy (plütokrasi):** Government controlled by or greatly influenced by, the wealthy.

**Politico (politik):** One interested or engaged in politics.

**Polity (hükümet şekli):** Form or process of civil government; organized society; the state.

**Poll (anket):** A research survey as well as another word for an election.

**Polling place/booth (oy verme kabini):** Numerous centres set up in each division to take the votes of the local people.

**Populace (halk):** The common people.

**Populist democracy (popülist demokrasi):** Ultimate democracy not restricted by a constitution or any other reviewing authority to the passage of legislation or executive orders. The alternative to liberal democracy.

**Populism (popülizm):** Political campaigning orientated towards true democracy (voting for specific benefits, liberties, law and order programs, etc.) rather than representative democracy where one votes for a team of alleged responsible candidates who will, at a measured pace and after due deliberation, institute a program under some general theme (even if specific legislation is mentioned). Populists will promise their agenda despite whatever institutional obstructions may exist, while non-populists will take a more conservative approach respecting the judiciary, the constitution, the bureaucracy and the examples of international approaches to the same issues.

**Populist politician (popülüst siyasetçi):** Cynically speaking, how a losing candidate describes a winning candidate. Otherwise, a politician who offers the people what they want irrespective of how moral, feasible or practical it is for such promises to be carried out.

**Positivist / naturalist law (pozitivist/doğa hukuku):** Two opposing branches of legal philosophy, either of which judges use to aid decision making. Naturalist law theory is that law is the ageless law of nature, deduced by the reasoning process of the interpreter or the teachings of God, and should be followed even where it may conflict with duly constituted legislation. Positivist law theory is simply following the democratically instituted law of the land no matter how rational and just it may, or may not, appear to be.

**Poverty line (yoksulluk sınırı):** Technically the minimal income one needs to cover the basic necessities of a healthy life: fuel, food, clothing, shelter and basic household and personal items. However some economists and other commentators tend to use the term to describe a different concept, Relative Poverty, whereby the line is set as a percentage of the country's median income ( the OECD and the European Union use 60%), immaterial of how much it would fluctuate with the nation's GDP.

**Pragmatism (pragmatizm):** A non-ideological approach to political issues where "the merits of the particular case" may take a higher than normal precedence.



**Presidential system (cumhurbaşkanlığı sistemi):** As opposed to parliamentary government, a constitutional framework where the executive is directly appointed by and responsible to, the people. eg, France, Sth Korea, Philippines & USA.

**Primary election (ön seçim):** Mostly occurring in America, an election where the successful candidate wins no actual office but merely becomes eligible to contest the upcoming official election representing a particular party.

**Primary vote (ön seçim oyu):** The number of first choice votes that a candidate receives in Preferential voting systems.

**Prince (prens):** Term to denote not only the son of an hereditary monarch but also that of a non-hereditary ruler in his or her own right. Developed from the Latin “princeps” for chief, or most distinguished ruler. Machiavelli’s seminal treatise on political philosophy and how to acquire and maintain power was titled “The Prince”.

**Progressive / flat / regressive tax (artan gelir vergisi):** Progressive income tax, as espoused in ‘plank’ 2 of Karl Marx’s The Communist Manifesto, is a graduated tax where the rate increases as the income of the tax payer gets higher. Flat tax is where all tax payers pay the same rate of their income to the state, (eg. 15%). Regressive taxation is where the rate decreases as the income of the payer increases. In all three situations high earners pay more actual tax than low earners, but when progressive tax is utilised what manifests is more effort and resources spent on creating (and combating) tax avoidance schemes.

**Proletariat (proletarya):** Term used in Marxist ideology to describe the working class who don’t own property and whose only value is their labour.

**Promulgate (kamuya resmen ilan etmek):** To disseminate, proclaim and make known to the public.

**Property right (mülkiyet hakkı):** The right to use, control, benefit and exclude others from any tangible or intangible object.

**Proportional representation (orantılı temsil):** A voting system where the whole state is just one electorate and parties win seats in proportion to the total votes they receive in an election. Hybrid systems often exist where the state is divided up into a number of multi-member electorates whereby seats won are approximately proportional to the votes cast.

**Prorogue (meclis tatili):** To temporarily bring parliament to an end (such as for a summer break) as compared with a dissolution which occurs before an election.

**Pro tem (şimdilik):** Abbreviation of the Latin pro tempore, meaning “for the time being”. The phrase to describe a person who temporarily takes the role of an absent superior. Eg. “She is mayor pro tem until the elected mayor returns.”

**Provisional vote (geçici oy):** Votes cast at an election in circumstances where a voter’s name cannot be found on the roll or has already been marked off the roll. They are not counted until a careful check of enrolment records has been made.

**Public choice theory (kamu tercihi teorisi):** The study of politics from an economic perspective. Rather than assuming politicians, civil servants and voters are all motivated by what should be done, the analysis of how all three very often take self-interest into account when making decisions.

**Pundit (alim):** A commentator with knowledge of contemporary politics. Hindi for “learned one”.



**Rapprochement (uzlaşma, barışma):** The renewal or establishment of friendly relations between states which were previously hostile towards each other.

**Realpolitik (reel siyaset):** The politics of realism. Rather than from principle, a self interested approach to politics either from the standpoint of one's party or, in international affairs, from one's country.

**Recession (ekonomik durgunluk, resesyon):** The economic status of a country achieved after two consecutive quarters of a drop in real GNP.

**Referendum (referandum):** A public vote with possibly legally binding consequences.

**Renewable energy (yenilenebilir enerji):** Energy collected from sources such as sunlight, wind, waves and tides, etc. which is automatically renewed by nature; this compared to oil or coal where, once it is consumed, it is gone.

**Repatriation (sınır dışı etme):** The sending back of someone to his country of origin such as an illegal immigrant or prisoner of war.

**Representative democracy (temsili demokrasi):** In modern times what is commonly know as a democracy, even though the people do not directly vote on actual issues and laws but surrender that right to their duly elected representatives.

**Republic (cumhuriyet):** Defined by some sources as simply a democracy, but otherwise loosely described as a form of government where, in word or deed, rule is constrained by institutional frameworks and is not by the selected few. Not an oligarchy but not necessarily a democracy. The Roman Republic was the original precedent for republicanism. Apartheid South Africa, by this definition, was a republic.

**Responsible government (sorumlu hükümet, yönetim):** When government evolved from an independent authoritative monarch in conjunction with a people's parliament to a subservient monarch together with a prime minister and parliament, it was said that government (the executive in the form of the prime minister and cabinet) became responsible to parliament. Now taken to be synonymous with parliamentary government.

**Retrospective legislation (retrospektif mevzuat):** Aka ex post facto laws. Laws defining behaviour upon which one can be held criminally liable or responsible in civil court or otherwise liable for payment (such as taxation), even when that behaviour may have happened before the enactment of said laws. While constitutionally denied in the U.S. as it violates the traditional concept of the rule of law, it is prevalent in autocracies, and still known to occasionally happen in some democracies.

**Right wing / left wing (sağ kanat/sol kanat):** 'on the right' would be loosely described as a political philosophy which favours conservative, pro-market, attitudes with a preference for (some) individual rights over interventionist government, a strict approach to law and order, and a strong defence force and a sense of nationalism. 'on the left' would be, loosely, opposite to the above together with a so called 'womb to tomb' approach to social welfare and an internationalist world view. Terms originated in the French Estates General in 1789 when the nobility who favoured complacency sat on the King's right and those who wanted change and amelioration of the peasant's conditions sat on the left.

**Roll (seçim listesi):** The list of voters eligible to vote at an election.



**Rule of law (hukukun üstünlüğü):** The traditional legal concept, dating back as far as Aristotle, that we live under a set of predetermined rules rather than the arbitrary “wise guidance” of any contemporary judge, King or chief executive. Does not necessarily imply democratic or just rule, but simply stable government where the law is proclaimed, followed, and applied equally to all. Term derived by 19th century British jurist A.C. Dicey.

- All people are subject equally to the privileges and penalties of the law.
- The people are ruled by laws and not by individuals. (both the judiciary and the executive are to act only according to law rather than to their own beliefs of what is justice)
- The law shall be prospective, visible, clear, and relatively stable.
- Due process must be afforded to all those before the law (following the letter and procedures of the law).

**Scrutiny (oyların yeniden sayımı):** The checking and counting of ballot papers to ascertain the result of an election. Political parties are allowed representatives on such occasions.

**Semantic infiltration (semantik sızma):** Concept first highlighted by Daniel Patrick Moynihan where political players succeed in persuading opponents to accept their terms in the discussion of specific subjects, and by extension the policies and beliefs that accompany them. For example: freedom fighters / terrorists; benefits / entitlements; illegal immigrants / asylum seekers.

**Separation of powers (güçler ayrılığı, kuvvetler ayrılığı):** Term derived by Enlightenment philosopher Charles Montesquieu, a traditional concept of liberalism where, for the sake of limiting abuse of power, the three branches of government: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary remain independent. In modern times the best examples are some American states where all branches have tangible power and, because of separate elections, no branch is appointed by nor can be removed by, another branch. Less than perfect examples would be parliamentary systems: the executive directly appointed, and removed, by the legislature, and the judiciary directly appointed by the executive.

**Shadow cabinet (gölge kabine, hükümet):** The ‘would be’ cabinet of the opposition party in Parliament.

**The Social Contract (toplum sözleşmesi):** An 18th century philosophical concept used to attempt to explain the understanding by which people originally left their solitary, wilderness existence and came together under the auspices of government. Theorist Thomas Hobbes first claimed that the contract entailed each individual surrendering all his rights, save that of life, in exchange for the protection of the Crown. A half century later philosopher John Locke modified that to state that not only life, but certain other fundamental rights, albeit not necessarily democratic, were retained by the people and that they were legitimate in overthrowing any state that violated those rights.

**Socialism (sosyalizm):** A method of governance in which the means of planning and producing goods and services are controlled by a central government which also seeks to collect the wealth of the nation and distribute it evenly amongst its citizens.

**Social engineering (toplum mühendisliği):** The practice certain people believe in whereby it is held that it is not enough that governments create for the citizenry an environment where there is an adequate standard of living together with good health care, minimum crime and basic freedoms. Governments, it is claimed, must also engineer that the beliefs, attitudes and practices of the citizenry conform to what is decreed, at the time, to be socially, physiologically and intellectually acceptable.



**Social justice (sosyal adalet):** Mode of expression derived in the 1840s by a Jesuit priest Luigi Taparelli to describe an earlier held concept of a fair and just relationship between the individual and society with regards to the distribution of wealth, social privileges and egalitarianism. Term embraced by, amongst others, US Supreme Court justice Louis Brandeis and philosopher John Rawls in his A Theory of Justice, but dismissed by philosopher Friedrich Hayek as “an empty phrase with no determinable content”.

**State of nature (doğa hali):** The natural condition of humankind living in a primitive environment before governments developed. Existence was a perpetual struggle for sustenance, shelter and protection from the potential harm of others, and life was, to quote English philosopher Thomas Hobbes, “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

**Subsidiarity (yetki ikamesi):** The principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a more local level.

**Sumptuary laws (toprak kanunları):** Laws that attempt to regulate permitted conspicuous consumption, such as food, clothing or dwellings. Used in the middle ages and later, to regulate the balance of trade as well as to help to identify social rank by discriminating against the growing prosperous merchant class.

**Supply side economics (arz yanlı ekonomi):** The economic theory espousing the concept that when the supply side of the economy (the producers) is taxed less and subject to less regulation it creates more profit and the tax on that increased profit, even at a lower rate, is equivalent to or even surpasses the original tax. Apotheosis of SSE is the flat-rate income tax.

**Syndicalism (sendikalizm):** Early twentieth century revolutionary political doctrine whereby the means of production is taken over in a general strike by worker’s unions who then will effectively take over government.

**Tea Party (Çay Partisi):** A grass roots American political movement (not a political party) advocating adherence to the Constitution as well as reining in alleged excessive taxing and spending by the government. Term derived by advocates sending tea bags (symbolising the Boston Tea Party) to congresspersons who had a reputation for supporting large spending bills.

**Theocracy (teokrasi):** Government controlled by the church/priesthood or a proclaimed living god. Examples could be ancient Egypt and modern day Iran.

**Think tank (düşünce kuruluşu):** A non government, non-profit, research institute of scholars / physical scientists generally dedicated to the advocacy of some broad political, economic or social belief.

**Totalitarian (totaliter):** A government that wishes to subordinate the individual to the state by controlling not only all political and economic matters, but also by seeking to control the attitudes, values, and beliefs of its population.

**Trojan horse (truva atı):** An organisation with an innocuous or ‘motherhood statement’ type title used to gain public acceptance so as to introduce programs, funding or legislation of a more partisan nature than one is led to believe.

**Turnout (oy kullanan seçmen oranı):** The percentage of enrolled citizens who actually vote.



**Tyranny of the majority (çoğunluğun tiranlığı):** A concept first coined in the nineteenth century by French writer Alexis de Tocqueville and also embraced by John Stuart Mill, who claimed that even democracies had limitations in that minority rights could be forfeited in the pursuit of popular causes. Possible solutions to such tyranny could be a constitutionally entrenched bill of rights, proportional representation, or a democracy divided up into a federation where peoples of different beliefs and values could gravitate to separate geographical areas that maintained their own distinct laws and practices.

**Upper house (senato):** Often known as the Senate, and in federations as the 'States' House'. Traditionally the smaller but more elitist "house of review" populated by members of the titled, landed, financial or educational aristocracy. With some exceptions (Canada & the UK) candidates ability to join the upper house is now the same as for the lower house and members' prestige is only higher because, as there are fewer in total, each member has more of a voting influence than in the lower house. Often elected by proportional representation. In both Australia and the United States each state sends the same number of senators (twelve and two respectively) to the federal house irrespective of that state's population.

**Useful idiot (yararlı aptal):** Description for people of influence who support a cause they fail to understand the full ramifications of, and end up being exploited by the leaders of that cause. Originally attributed to Lenin (although research has failed to confirm this) in describing western personalities such as H.G. Wells, George Bernard Shaw, Paul Robeson and journalist Walter Duranty who visited the USSR during times of famine, were allowed to visit only select areas, and then returned home giving glowing reports of the new "workers' paradise".

**Utilitarianism (yararcılık):** Consequentialist philosophy originally espoused by 18th century writer Jeremy Bentham whereby the best policy is that which gives the greatest happiness to the greatest number.

**Vote of no confidence (güven oylaması):** In parliamentary systems, where the executive can only exist at the behest of the majority of the legislature, a vote of no confidence (generally by the lower house) would be a death knell for the current administration, and would, unless another coalition of parties could form a majority, precipitate an election.

**Winner-take-all (kazanan hepsini alır siyaseti):** Either a non-proportional representation or a non-preferential electoral system as is common in both the UK and the USA.

**Zeitgeist (zamanın ruhu):** German for 'spirit of the time'. The prevalent beliefs and attitudes of a place / country at any particular period.





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