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V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

L. N. Pivneva

**POLITICAL SCIENCE  
for  
MEDICAL STUDENTS**

Tutorial for the course in Political Science  
for the School of Medicine

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This English-language tutorial presents the most important topics of political science, introducing students to this discipline's basic categories and to the development of political processes in society thus contributing to the formation of the world outlook of future medics. The tutorial is designated to deepen students' knowledge of chosen topics and can be used for self-study in preparation for practical classes in political science.

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## PREFACE

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The dynamics of national, international and global relations set new demands to the political education of a citizen. The astonishing pace of change, happened in political life, has stimulated people's interest toward politics. That is why political science has become popular all over the world. Now the growth of professionalization of policy poses the problem of political education for all segments of population. The necessity to study politics stems from the fact that each individual is important to the quality of democracy.

The tutorial "Political science for medical students" is intended for students from different countries of the world, who are going to take the course in political science at the School of Medicine in Ukrainian higher educational establishments. Future medics will benefit from it. The topics of the tutorial do not only mention the impact of medical knowledge on the development of political life, but contain separate pages and paragraphs, devoted to the problems of relationships of health and politics, health and the subject of political science, health policy in Ukraine and in different countries of the globe.

In spite of the fact that this tutorial is oriented at the education of students, majoring in medicine, it will be of great help for students who are majoring in other disciplines and are fluent in English.

This book is based on the world standards of teaching and research in political science. Its content will contribute to the ability of students to evaluate political events and processes in practical politics.

The chosen material for study reflects the level of development of political science in the world and in Ukraine at the beginning of the XXI century. It has been oriented at the program of humanitarian disciplines studied at Ukrainian universities. The tutorial is not only based on the state standard of teaching, but also on the international experience of teaching and research in political science, acquired by the author during the participation in exchange programs for teachers in the United States of America (Fulbright Program), Canada (Democratic Education Program), Hungary (Central European University Programs) and at the international conferences held at universities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Poland and France.

This tutorial makes the accent on the study of the most important key categories of political science, such as politics, power, state, political regimes, transitions to democracy, political elites and leadership, political parties, political culture, ethno politics, international relations and impact of globalization. The acquaintance with the interpretations of these concepts will help students understand the political processes in the world and in their own countries.

One of the objectives of the tutorial is to relate the theoretical material of political science with modern political processes in Ukraine. This will help students understand the basic political realities of the country in the area of state formation, the characteristics of a political regime, the activities of political elites and leaders, the state of ethno-political processes, political culture of the Ukrainian society and the place of Ukraine in international relations in our days. For this almost every topic has a section on how selected key categories of political science refract in the political space of Ukraine. This material will undoubtedly enrich students' knowledge about the country which they have chosen for getting their professional diplomas.

Hope, after studying the course, students will become more interested in politics and understand better the political processes in the world and their role as citizens in a global community. So, the purpose of this book is not only to provide them with political science material, but also help in self-study work while preparing for seminars. The tutorial introduces the students to the themes of political science, which coincide with the topics of lectures and seminars. Basic questions, that are available at the end of each topic, allow them to move from one section to another in preparation for classes in political science and look for additional information as well.

The effort has been made toward the clarity of the material presentation. For this we paid special attention to the logic of narration and provided the text with tables, pictures, questions for consideration, glossary of concepts.

Tips: while working with the tutorial, try to comprehend the material, read it slowly in order to understand the different approaches to the categories and their interaction in the world of politics. In the book there are quotations from the works of scholars who have contributed to the development of political science. Try to appreciate their comments. Those who want to turn to what politicians actually do, can use the

additional literature, given in the foot-notes for each topic and in references at the end of the book.

At the end of the book there is a glossary of concepts. The enrichment of your vocabulary with new terms in political science unknown to you previously will surely help in preparing for seminars and contribute to a better mark for a credit.

The study of political science provides an insight into political processes, the majority of which are universal. However, the characteristics of, say, the elections, the block combinations of political parties, quality of political leadership, ethno-political processes, political culture, etc. have their own specifics in each country. Without a doubt, the students will be able to analyze them on the basis of theoretical study of political science material.

To conclude, I want to thank my reviewers, Doctor of Political Science, prof. A. A. Fisun, Doctor of Philosophy, prof. I. D. Denisenko, whose comments and suggestions helped in improving the textbook. I also want to express my thanks to those who provided invaluable assistance in the selection of some foreign textbooks in English, illustrations, computer formatting, arranging tables and charts – L. P. Garnyk, A. A. Chaban, M. A. Folomeev.

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