

Political philosophy

We can define political philosophy as an investigation into the nature, causes, and effects of good and bad government. ... three ideas stand at the very heart of the subject. The first is that good and bad government profoundly affect the quality of human lives. ... The second is that the form our government takes is not predetermined: we have a choice to make. ... The third idea is that we can know what distinguishes good from bad: we can trace the effects of different forms of government and we can learn what qualities go to make up the best form of government. In other words, there is such a thing as political knowledge.

David Miller, *Political Philosophy*