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Our conception of the State has broadened from that of the City State of ancient days. But that has not changed the nature of politics. It has only served to widen their scope and their absorbing interest.

The point I want to emphasize at the moment is that politics is inseparable from citizenship, and citizenship inseparable from service, and service inseparable from the highest and fullest expression of our natures. Keep this thought in mind and you will have a true appreciation of how noble a thing it is to be concerned with politics, and inversely how ignoble is the attitude of those who regard politics as something which is no concern of theirs.

Comparison of Politics to-day with Politics in the Days of the Ancients

The next thought I should like to present to you is the significance of politics in our day; and of having to do with politics in our day in comparison with politics and with participation in politics in the days of the Ancient Greeks. In other words, and in order to link what I have to say with the immediate purpose of the association which has been launched here this evening, the difference between the significance of politics in the century before Christ and politics in the Twentieth century.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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