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## THE NATURE AND SPHERE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE.

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**A**LTHOUGH from one point of view Political Science is quite a new development, yet from another it is but the revival of an old line of thought which found its most complete expression in the *Politics* of Aristotle.

Before they suffered political extinction, the Greeks and Romans had brought the social and legal sides of Political Science to a very advanced point. But, from that time down to the dawn of the modern era, such a science was rendered practically impossible through the absence of the conditions on which it depends. As a living branch of study it implies this first condition, that the well-being of at least a considerable section of the community should be recognized as the basis of government and law. Where law and authority are expressed in the arbitrary commands of a despotic ruler Political Science cannot flourish. True, there were writers on certain elements of the subject during, and immediately after, the Middle Ages; but they produced, for the most part, mere echoes of the earlier writings, quite out of harmony with the conditions of their time. Only one new question arose to disturb the philosophic calm of all those troubled centuries, the question as to whether the emperor or the pope should exercise the supreme authority in the state. This was the occasion of the only two political works of any conse-