

i. The discovery and development of the problem itself.

This may come from either a science involved in the research itself or from a science needing the results of the research. For instance, a chemist or an engineer may work at a problem of the supply of food or raw materials and thus create new situations for economics or political science, of which these latter sciences only become aware at a later stage of their development. Or, the social science concerned may anticipate the situation and itself set the problem.

ii. The research proper.

This must be referred in every case to the appropriate science for the application of the appropriate method. Amateur excursions into complex problems are not rendered legitimate by the mere fact of the newness of the field.

iii. Coordination of results.

Nevertheless, in every case in the field of International Relations, more than one science will be affected by the results of the research. Indeed it is this coordination which gives the peculiar meaning to work in this field. It reaches out beyond the analytic processes which establish the data, to syntheses which affect the life and welfare of nations. Ultimately, if ever intelligence should guide statesmanship in these great fields, it will need the implements provided by such research and the positive results of an objective method which national politics by its very nature -- asserting as it must the self-interest of the peoples concerned -- can not otherwise secure.

The need of a study of the interrelation of the various sciences involved in this threefold operation was recognized by your Committee as the most pressing need in its program for the coming year. It was suggested therefore that assignments be made to its members of memoranda dealing with the contribution of their special sciences, and the hope was expressed that the new membership of the Committee be constituted with an eye to the well-rounded execution of this plan.

3. The Place of International Relations in the Social Sciences

Your Committee feels that the subject with which it deals is one which offers peculiar opportunities in the field of research and that the SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL should not fail to note the unique possibilities here for applying the results of scientific investigations to the practical problems of politics on the largest possible scale. It is already clear to the most casual observer that the dominant characteristics of the process of the evolution of civilization have changed from those of the nineteenth century.