

THEORY

in Political Science

Accuracy (accurate)

A theory should fit the facts.

Parsimony (parsimonious)

A theory should have as few components as possible. The less we have to assume, the better.

Causality (causal)

A theory should tell us what causes a phenomenon and how.

Generality (general)

A theory should aim to explain the same phenomenon wherever and whenever it occurs.

Falsifiability (falsifiable)

A theory should be structured so that it is possible—given the right evidence—to prove it wrong.