

# THE PUBLIC INTEREST (I)

◆ Policy-makers should pursue what is best for the state and its people.

◆◆ Decide what is it we critically need – the public interest.

◆◆ Then design policies to try to achieve those public interests.

◆ These public interests (the ends) become the focus for allocating resources (the means or the instruments of power).

## THE PUBLIC INTEREST (II)

- ◆ People in and from institutions make decisions.
- ◆ They are products of their institutional culture, which in turn is a product of the political and social culture.
- ◆ Their decisions and behavior reflect a multitude of influences that can be summed up as coming from their view of their --

# THE PUBLIC INTEREST (III)

◆◆ INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS,

◆◆ INSTITUTIONAL INTERESTS,

◆◆ PUBLIC INTERESTS, AND

◆◆ ETHICAL/BROADER CONCERNS.

## THE PUBLIC INTEREST (IV)

- ◆ Emerge from the rough and tumble of policy development.
- ◆ Even when a clearly defined, accepted by most, public interest arises, it will not be legitimate to all and may prove to be a poor guide to action.
- ◆ Usually there are many competing statements of the public interest, all deserving consideration, some requiring close scrutiny.

## THE PUBLIC INTEREST (V)

◆ How a state defines its public interests depends on its political system, which determines who participates, what is considered, and how decisions are made.

◆ A political, therefore very subjective, process.