

JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY - 04/14/08

Yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away, then came 09/11, military intervention, credit crunch, recession, and politics.

HOW DID THE TERM “*POLITICS*” ORIGINATE?

Given the current tumultuous 2008 presidential campaign, some say that “*politics*” can be defined as follows: “*poli*” in Latin means 'many' and '*tics*' means 'bloodsucking creatures.'

Definition: The art or science of government; the art or science concerned with winning and holding control over a government

Online Etymology: 1529, "science of government," from *politic* (adjective), modeled on Aristotle's *ta politika* "affairs of state," the name of his book on governing and governments, which was in English 1450, via the French, as "Polettiques."

The Greek word "*polus*" means "many" and lies at the root of almost all our English words beginning with "poly." The true root of “*politics*” is the Greek "*polis*," meaning "city or state." A "*polites*" in ancient Greece was a citizen of a city or state, and "*politikos*" meant "pertaining to citizens or affairs of the state."

Conventional Wisdom: Politics = The Art of Winning Control

Moment of Zen: Politics does not have to be a dirty word, but power tends to corrupt those who possess it.