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COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

B.P.S.C.-133

B.A. General - 3rd Semester

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AND POLITICS**

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

B.P.S.C.-133

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note : This paper has two Sections. Answer any five questions. Each questions carry equal marks. Attempt at least two questions from each Section.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of parliamentary system.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 51, Q. No. 5.

Q. 2. Discuss the changing nature of state in the context of Globalisation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 108, 'Changing Nature of State'.

Q. 3. Describe the differences between the Unitary and Federal political systems.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 64, Q. No. 4.

Q. 4. Write notes on the following:

(a) Confederation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 59, 'Confederation' and Page No. 66, Q. No. 2.

(b) Classical Liberalism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 139, 'Classical Liberalism'.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. Elaborate upon the differences between the Political Parties and Pressure Groups.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 68, 'Political Parties' and Chapter-8, Page No. 80, 'Defining Pressure Groups'.

Q. 6. Explain the characteristics of Authoritarian Regimes.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 25, 'The Nature of Authoritarian Regimes'.

Q. 7. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of proportional representation method.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 96, 'Advantages and Disadvantages of Proportional Representation Systems'.

Q. 8. Write notes on the following:

(a) Historical Method.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 16, 'Historical Method'.

(b) Multiculturalism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 145, Q. No. 4.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

B.P.S.C.-133

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note : This paper has **two** Sections. Answer any **five** questions. Each questions carry **equal** marks. Attempt at least **two** questions from each Section.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of the Presidential System.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 47, 'Advantages and Disadvantages of Parliamentary/Presidential System'.

Q. 2. Explain the difference between Totalitarian and Military Dictatorships.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 28, Q. No. 4.

Q. 3. Elaborate on the development of comparative politics in the twentieth century.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 7, Q. No. 6.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Multiparty System.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 71, 'Multiparty System'.

(b) Confederation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 66, Q. No. 2.

SECTION-II

Q. 5. What are the main functions of Political Parties?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 70, 'Functions of Parties'.

Q. 6. Elaborate upon the essential features of Federal System.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 58, 'Federalism: Essential Features'.

Q. 7. Analyse the differences between the political parties and pressure groups.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 87, Q. No. 2.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Globalization.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 127, 'What is Globalization?'

(b) Communitarianism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 143, Q. No. 7.

■■

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Comparative Analysis: Nature, Scope and Utility



INTRODUCTION

Comparing helps in properly understanding our behaviour with that of others. Comparison is there at broader levels also. In Political Science, there are comparisons among various political systems, institutions, etc. of different countries. Comparative politics studies political experiences of various countries in facing different problems with a view to compare them systematically and bring out their similarities and differences. Comparative Government studies the general structure of government of more than one country in a systematic way. Comparative politics studies different political activities including both governmental and non-governmental and carries out a comprehensive study of all political activities of the country. The subject-matter of comparative politics is different from comparative methods used in Economics, Psychology, Sociology, etc. The earliest studies were in observing/classifying regimes but comparative politics in the late 19th and early 20th century laid more emphasis on carrying out the study of formal legal structures of institutions in western countries. A number of new countries emerged from their colonization by the end of Second World War. With the arrival of Soviet Union on the world scenario, the dominance of liberalism was challenged by communism. During 1970s, developmentalism started to be criticized and during late 1980s, regional systemic studies became important. Comparative politics is very useful in enhancing our ability to understand political realities.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS: NATURE AND SCOPE

In comparative politics, we study the political experiences of different countries. Its purpose is to highlight the similarities and differences among them.

There is a difference in the subject-matter of comparative politics from comparative methods used in Economics, Psychology, Sociology, etc. Here, we carry out comparative analysis of the different governments and political institutions. Its subject-matter, language and point of view differentiate it from other disciplines. Political science contains the subject matter and the perspective of comparative politics and the fields included are democracy, political parties, constitutions, etc. Comparative politics is very important for the development of political theories because the former tries to find out the similarities and differences in political behaviours.

Comparisons: Identification of Relationships

Comparative methods are included in the scope of comparative political analysis. A comparativist is one who is engaged in studying another country, other his own. He collects information and carries out systematic comparisons between two or more countries in order to list their similarities and differences. Its purpose is not just to just know the similarities and differences but it attempts to systematically study their relationship and understand the political phenomena.

Comparative Politics and Comparative Government

Comparative Government is a systematic study of general structure of the Government of more than one country and comparative politics studies the different forms of political activities of the country which includes both governmental and non-governmental. Earlier, comparative politics was doing study of governments of prominent western nations but after the Second World War, attempts were made to study the new countries. Comparisons were increased in both in its numbers and in the diversity of the countries. The scope of politics was enlarged and it was studied as a

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total system with the inclusion of institutions, political parties and social groups. Attempts were made to form universal models for explaining the political phenomena in respect of all the countries. The emphasis was to study the importance of political socialisation, ruling classes, political culture, etc. for building the nations, its institutions, modernization and development. At that time, there were two different ideologies in the world politics viz. Western capitalism and Soviet socialism. The Western imperialism was rejected by the new nations as they wanted to build their separate identity. Therefore, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was started. Countries favored the socialist path of development. In fifties and sixties, efforts were made to create large scale models, and by 1970s, the Third World emerged which helped in uniting countries who did not want to belong to any of the two prominent sides, the US and the Soviet. In 1980s, comparison levels were narrowed and smaller units of comparison emerged. Thereafter, globalization again necessitated the need to have large scale comparisons because of the presence of many non-government participants. Countries started having increasing economic relations with increasing connectivity and the phenomenal development of Information Technology.

COMPARATIVE POLITICS: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Comparative politics studies countries and different ideologies (capitalist, socialist and mixed ideologies). The nature and scope of comparative politics has been changing with the changes in the areas of its studies as well as the areas of importance of studies at a particular time.

The Origins of Comparative Study of Politics

Comparative politics has a long history, starting with Aristotle, John Locke, and Max Weber, etc. Aristotle, the Greek philosopher conducted studies on comparative politics in respect of constitutions of 150 states. He gave a typology of regimes in descriptive and normative forms. He classified political systems on the basis of its types (democratic, aristocratic, monarchy, etc.) and also categorized regimes on the basis of norms of good governance into good/bad and ideal/perverted. While recognizing the Aristotelian categories, the Romans considered the same in legal terms. Machiavelli undertook comparative study of regime types to present the best ways to rule, during the 15th century and compared various principalities (hereditary, new, mixed and ecclesiastic) and republics.

The Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

In this period, a large number of countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America were either colonies of the European countries or were under its being ex-colonies. At this time, liberalism was the ruling ideology and the Europeans were controlling politics of the whole world. During this period, comparative studies were conducted in respect of the ideal state and in the areas of institutions, power distribution, relations among different layers of government etc. The focus of studies was on the Governments/Institutions of the European countries (euro-centric) including Great Britain, Germany, and France, etc. These studies were in fact not really comparative because quite a large number of nations of the world were excluded from it. Therefore, no general conclusions could be drawn from the studies which could be applied to other existing countries.

All this reflected the supremacy of Europe on world politics. Europe remained the centre point of entire history of this period because other countries were either its colonies or were liberalized from their colonization having no history of their own or their histories were tied with the Western countries. In this way, the works done in this period had its roots in the normative values of Western countries.

The Second World War and After

After the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in the year 1917, socialism emerged in the world as an alternative to the western ideologies of capitalism and liberalism. During 1930s, a number of significant changes occurred in the economic and political scenario of the world, the control of the Europe and the British had declined by the end of the Second World War and the leadership of the United States of America came into existence in the world politics and economy known as the new hegemony. The world was divided into the Western capitalist ideology and the socialist ideology. By the end of the Second World War, most of countries got themselves free from the control of the colonial powers and they did not have the compulsion to follow the capitalist ideology for growth. With emergence of these new nations, the politically powerful people started slogans of growth, nation building and modernization. In spite of the presence of political elites in the new countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America who were inclined towards socialism, many nations who had recently achieved independence, distanced themselves from both the ideologies and decided to remain non-aligned which means that they were not

formally aligned with or against any of the two power blocs. Some of these countries had their own ways of development which were similar to the socialist ideology, like the mixed economy model adopted by India which combined the aspects of both socialism as well as capitalism.

Up to 1940s, comparative studies of Governments conducted were mainly concerned with studying the institutions, the legal and constitutional principles controlling them and the way they had been working in the Western countries. Thereafter, during mid 1950s, a significant approach had appeared which forcefully opposed the institutional approach. It was called the behavioural movement and its objective was to provide scientific strictness to Politics to enable it to develop as a science. It emphasised on developing a quantitative enquiry by using survey techniques to examine empirical facts and also to give objective value-neutral observations.

The behaviouralism movement tried to know why people behave politically in such ways, why political systems work in such ways, etc., due to which there was a significant shift in the focus of comparative studies. Roy Macridis had criticised comparative studies because of its priority to formal institutions over non-formal political processes. Gabriel Almond and others dismissed giving of special importance to the western countries and they came out with a theory for comparing all political systems.

Besides increasing geographical concerns, political sense had also increased with the dismissal of the erstwhile study of the political institutions and the political belief had widened from legalism. Real politics was given importance. Informal institutions, elections, political parties which were earlier excluded, were included in comparative studies. With increase in the number of countries, there was a need for having such a framework for undertaking large scale comparisons. By including social and cultural institutions, the concept of political systems came up which enabled specialists to understand the politics of non-western countries and include the informal institutions in studies. A structural functionalism approach emerged where it became necessary to perform specific functions for all societies and comparisons were made to see its effectiveness in implementing the functions.

These developments enabled scholars to conduct studies of a large number of political systems and structures with a single model. The Western com-

parativists got an opportunity to conduct studies about the economic/political changes. The newly independent countries worked as their living laboratories for conducting the studies. Wiarda said that the period had excellent opportunities for conducting studies on political changes and for bringing new methods of studies, many new theories and approaches in comparative politics came up.

During this period, a number of new universalistic models came up, including political system by David Easton, the social mobilisation by Karl Deutsch, etc. Many theories were applied universally to explain political processes of different ideologies and cultures, for example theories of modernisation (Apter, Rokkan, Eisenstadt and Ward), the theory of political development (Almond, Coleman, Pye & Verba). Also, there were international participations in the form of military alliances/foreign aid by the United States and most of the studies during the period were for pursuing the objectives of its foreign policy, like the Himalayan Project in India. In *Politics of Developing Areas*, Almond and Coleman had described the new Comparative Politics Movement. Most prominent conceptual model of the period was developmentalism. The United State was taking interest in developing countries so as to stop them from going towards Marxism-Leninism ideologies and for adopting non-communist routes for development.

Post-Behaviouralism: Behaviourists wanted to make the political science stricter and relevant. There was no focus on social/political disturbances of the period. After that the post-behavioural movement came. David Easton talked about the 'credo of relevance' that contained seven points which later became the main characteristics of post-behavioural movement. These were:

- Substance dominates technique, what is studied is more important than how it is studied.
- Study of empirical politics only takes us to a conservative view as the focus was on what is, rather than what it might be.
- Sophisticated methods hide the reality which prevents political science from taking care of urgent human requirements.
- Research should be value laden and driven by value judgements;
- Humane values of civilization should be promoted by intellectuals.
- Research should be action oriented.
- Politicization of professions was necessary.

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The 1970s and Challenges to Developmentalism

Developmentalism was criticized during 1970s and it was said that for conducting studies of different political and social systems by using one universal framework, developmentalism favoured unreal models due to which, differences among the systems were reduced. Critics were against ethnocentrism (tendency to look at other cultures from the perspective of own culture) of models and they put more emphasis on Third World to find out ways to solve their problems. Developmentalism theory was criticized by Dependency theory because it did not take notice of the domestic class factors and international market/power factors. Dependency theory also criticized the US foreign policy and MNCs because it believed that it was not possible to have together the development of the industrialised nations and that of the developing economies. A number of writers of this period, like Andre Gunde Frank (*Capitalism and Underdevelopment in Latin America*) and Malcolm Caldwell (*The Wealth of Some Nations*) had stated that due to the spread of capitalism, there was under development in many countries. There was criticism by the Marxist critics of the dependency theory also. Developmentalism was criticized by corporatist approach for its Euro-American ethnocentrism.

The 1980s: The Return of the State

During late 1970s and early 1980s, a number of theories (like transitions to democracy, politics of structural adjustment, bureaucratic-authoritarianism, neoliberalism, etc.) came up in comparative politics reflecting the negative reactions towards developmentalism. These theories provided many new areas and a number of choices. Scholars called for the need to replace the notion of State with political system so that it could adjust itself with scientific inquiry. But attention towards the State continued to be reflected in the works of scholars such as Guillermo O'Donnell in Argentina and Ralph Miliband. The State was back in focus with the works of scholars such as Nicos Poulantzas and Peter Evans.

The Late Twentieth century: Globalisation and Emerging Trends

(i) **Scaling Down of Systems:** There was a sharp rise in the number of countries taken up for conducting studies during the period between 1960 and 1980 and a number of other variables such as policy, ideology, governing experience, etc. were also included. By the 1980s, importance was shifted from general

theory towards the relevance of the context which showed the influence of a historical inquiry in social sciences with the aim to learn the phenomena in its holistic context. Attention was also shifting towards having an in-depth study of specific countries and cases to enable the analysts to evaluate more qualitative data and properly understand specific cultures and situations. Emphasis was on conducting more culturally specific studies, nationally specific countries and institutionally specific countries. By this time, importance given to large systems and model building was reducing and more emphasis was on the specific contexts. There was a reduction in comparisons still comparisons at smaller levels were going on.

(ii) **Civil Society and Democratisation Approach (es):**

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the concept of End of History started. In his book titled *The End of History and the Last Man*, Francis Fukuyama, an American political scientist stated that with the dominance of the liberal democracy of the West as the final form of human Government after the cold war and the dissolution of Soviet Union, humanity has reached the end of history. During 1990s, the concept of end of history was joined by the process of globalization wherein economic, social, political and cultural aspects of society are brought to global level. In such situations, anything happening in one part of the world, affects the other parts also. But here also, the western capitalism remains the central point. With growth of capitalism, the civil society and democratization approaches have given importance to the civil society in order to protect rights of the people. Along with more studies on the movements for freedom, movements by tribes, lower castes, dalit people, women's movement and environment protection movements, there are studies on western capitalism to develop market democracy, also taking place.

(iii) **Information Collection and Diffusion:** The phenomenal growth of information and communication technology, including internet has decisively affected the growth of globalization. With this, processes relating to