UNIT 1: TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO POLITICAL ANALYSIS (PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH AND HISTORICAL APPROACH)

UNIT STRUCTURE

1.1 Learning Objectives

1.2 Introduction

1.3 Traditional Approaches to Political Analysis

1.4 Philosophical Approach

1.5 Historical Approach

1.6 Let Us Sum Up

1.7 Further Reading

1.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

1.9 Model Questions

1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the traditional approaches to political analysis
- discuss the philosophical approach to political analysis
- discuss the historical approach to political analysis
- explain the limitations of the philosophical and historical approaches.

1.2 INTRODUCTION

The various approaches to political analysis have been playing an important role in the field of study of politics and political events. The approaches to political analysis can be broadly classified as traditional approaches and modern approaches. While the Traditional Approaches to

political analysis include the philosophical, historical, institutional and legal approaches, the Modern Approaches to political analysis include the behavioural approach, the post-behavioural approach, the systems approach, the structural-functional approach, the communications theory approach and the decision-making approach. In this unit we shall be focusing on two traditional approaches namely, the Philosophical approach and the Historical approach.

1.3 TRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The traditional approaches to political analysis were widely prevalent till the outbreak of the Second World War. These approaches were mainly related to the traditional view of politics which emphasized the study of the state and government. Therefore, traditional approaches are primarily concerned with the study of the organization and activities of the state and the principles and ideas which underlie political organizations and activities. These approaches were ***normative*** and idealistic. The political thinkers advocating these approaches, therefore, raised questions like 'what should be an ideal state?' According to them the study of Political Science should be confined to the formal structures of the government, laws, rules and regulations. Thus, the advocates of the traditional approaches emphasize various norms - what 'ought to be' or 'should be' rather than 'what is'.

Normative: Prescribing norms or ethical standards.

- **Characteristics of Traditional approaches**

  - Traditional approaches are largely normative in nature and laid stress on the values associated with politics (e.g. moral issues of justice, equalty. etc.)
  - Emphasis is on the study of different political structures. (e.g. parliament, judiciary.etc.)
  - Traditional approaches made very little attempt to relate theory and research

- These approaches believe that since facts and values are closely interlinked, studies in Political Science can never be scientific.

- **Various types of Traditional Approaches:**

The traditional approaches can be sub-divided into the following-

- Philosophical approach
- Historical approach
- Institutional approach
- Legal approach.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: Mention any two traditional approaches.

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Q.2: Traditional approaches were normative in nature. (True/ False)

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Q.3: State any two characteristics of the Traditional approaches.

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1.4 PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH

Now, let us discuss the Philosophical Approach to political analysis:

- **Philosophical Approach**: The Philosophical Approach is regarded as the oldest approach to the study of political phenomena and Political Science. The emergence of this approach can be traced back to the times of the Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle.

Leo Strauss was one of the main advocates of the philosophical approach. He believes that "the philosophy is the quest for wisdom and political philosophy is the attempt truly to know about the nature of political things and the right or good political order." (Mahajan, V.D. : *Political Theory* S. Chand & Complany Ltd., New Delhi, 2006 p.18). German-American political philosopher, Leo Strauss was of the view that initially political philosophy was identical with Political Science. It was an all-embracing study of the affairs of the human society. Accordingly, there could not be a non-philosophical political science or non-scientific political philosophy. The philosophical approach firmly believes that the values cannot be separated from the study of politics. Therefore, its main concern is to judge what is good or bad in any political society. It is mainly an ethical and normative study of politics and, thus, idealistic. It deals with the problems of the nature and functions of the state, citizenship, rights and duties etc. The advocates of this approach firmly believe that political philosophy is closely linked with the political ideologies. Therefore, they are of the opinion that a political scientist must have the knowledge of good life and good society. Political philosophy helps in setting up of a good political order. The philosophical approach was pre-dominant in most of the classical political theory. The emphasis was on moral reasoning. Leo Strauss believed that values were an indispensable part of political philosophy and could not be excluded from the study of politics. Thus, the philosophical approach aims at evolving standards of right and wrong. It is important for a political scientist to have the knowledge of good life and good society. Classical conceptions of individual rights, freedom, equality, justice and conditions of state intervention in the lives of the individuals were all formulated on moral grounds. The political views of writers such as J.S Mill, T.H.Green, Hobhouse, Laski, Barker and others reflected the philosophical approach.

- **Limitations of the Philosophical Approach**

- The philosophical approach is criticised as being normative in nature and ignores political realities.
- The question of what is ethical and what is not varies from situation to situation.
- The philosophical approach is considered idealistic in nature.
- Importance is given to inductive and deductive methods only.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.4: Mention the names of any two advocates of the philosophical approach.

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Q.5: The philosophical approach firmly believes that the values cannot be separated from the study of politics. (True/False)

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Q.6: Explain briefly the philosophical approach. (within 75 words)

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Greek philosopher Plato used the Philosophical Approach for studying Political Science. While giving his ideas on Philosopher King, Ideal State etc., he was more concerned with what 'ought to be' (what is desirable) rather than dealing with the existing realities of those societies. He had also set various norms for the philosopher kings and also of an ideal state.

1.5 HISTORICAL APPROACH

Now, let us discuss the Historical Approach to political analysis:

- **Historical Approach**: According to the advocates of this approach, political theory can be only understood when the historical factors like the age, place and the situation in which it is evolved are taken into consideration. As the name of this approach is related to history, it emphasizes the study of the history of every political event to analyze any situation. Political thinkers like Machiavelli, Sabine and Dunning believe that politics and history are intricately related and the study of politics should always have a historical perspective. Sabine is of the view that Political Science should include all those subjects which have been discussed in the writings of different political thinkers from the time of Plato. Moreover, history not only speaks about the past but also links it with the present events. History provides the chronological order of every political event and thereby helps in future estimation of events also. Hence, without studying the past political events, institutions and political environment it would be wrong to analyze the present political scenario or events. The historical approach aims at understanding politics through a historical account of the past. Apart from the fact that the study of the old political institutions is important from the standpoint of their role in a particular period of history, their study is also important from the point of view of assessing their contribution to the political behaviour of society as a whole throughout different stages of human history. Some important works where one can find the impact of the historical approach include “Ancient Law” (1861) and “Early History of Institutions” (1874) by Sir Henry Maine; “Introduction to Political Science” (1896) by Sir John Seeley; “The State and the Nation” (1919), etc.



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Applying the historical approach in the Indian context, one finds that the basic document of governance in India, i.e., the Constitution of India has its roots in the freedom movement of India. The ideas of liberty, equality, elimination of discrimination, social justice, secularism, fundamental rights, popular sovereignty, parliamentary democracy, federalism, national unity as reflected in the Indian Constitution were the dominant themes during the freedom movement inspiring the people to confront oppression and exploitation. Today a modern polity has been established in India. However, the foundation of the modern Republic of India can be traced back to the freedom movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and other national figures.

- **Limitations of the Historical Approach**

➢ The Historical approach suffers from some limitations. Lord Bryce has said that though historical comparisons may be illuminating, yet sometimes they may be misleading too. Historical facts may be influenced by socio-cultural orientations of those who document historical facts.

➢ Critics also point out ancient ideas may not be suitable in the contemporary times and historical events cannot help us in the contemporary times as the realities of political life have undergone vast changes.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 7: "Early History of Institutions" (1874) was written by whom?

……

Q. 8: Mention the names of any two political thinkers who believed that politics and history are intricately related.

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Q. 9 : Explain briefly the historical approach. (within 75 words)

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1.6 LET US SUM UP

- The traditional approaches to political analysis were widely prevalent till the outbreak of the Second World War. These approaches were mainly related to the traditional view of politics which emphasized the study of the state and government.
- Traditional approaches are primarily concerned with the study of the organization and activities of the state and principles and the ideas which underlie political organizations and activities.
- These approaches were normative and idealistic. The political thinkers advocating these approaches, therefore, raised questions like 'what should be an ideal state?' Thus, the advocates of the traditional approaches emphasize various norms - what 'ought to be' or 'should be' rather than 'what is'.
- The traditional approaches can be sub-divided into Philosophical, Historical, Institutional and Legal approaches.
- The philosophical approach to political analysis is regarded as the oldest approach to the study of political phenomena and Political Science.

The emergence of this approach can be traced back to the times of the Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle.

- Leo Strauss was one of the main advocates of the philosophical approach. Leo Strauss was of the view that initially political philosophy was identical with Political Science. It was as all-embracing study of the affairs of the human society. Accordingly, there could not be a non-philosophical political science or non-scientific political philosophy.

- The philosophical approach firmly believes that the values cannot be separated from the study of politics. Therefore, its main concern is to judge what is good or bad in any political society. It is mainly an ethical and normative study of politics and, thus, idealistic.

- The philosophical approach deals with the problems of the nature and functions of the state, citizenship, rights and duties etc. The political views of writers such as J.S Mill, T.H.Green, Hobhouse, Laski, Barker and others reflected the philosophical approach.

- According to the advocates of the historical approach, political theory can be only understood when the historical factors like the age, place and the situation in which it is evolved are taken into consideration.

- Political thinkers like Machiavelli, Sabine and Dunning believe that politics and history are intricately related and the study of politics always should have a historical perspective. Sabine is of the view that Political Science should include all those subjects which have been discussed in the writings of different political thinkers from the time of Plato.

- This approach strongly upholds the belief that the thinking or the ideology of every political thinker is shaped by the surrounding environment. Moreover, history not only speaks about the past but also links it with the present events. History provides the chronological order of every political event and thereby helps in future estimation of events a l s o . Hence, without studying the past political events, institutions and political environment it would be wrong to analyze the present political scenario or events.

- The historical approach aims at understanding politics through a historical account of the past. Apart from the fact that the study of the old political institutions is important from the standpoint of their role in a particular period of history, their study is also important from the point of view of assessing their contribution to the political behaviour of society as a whole throughout different stages of human history.

- Some important works where one can find the impact of the historical approach include "Ancient Law" (1861), "Early History of Institutions" (1874) by Sir Henry Maine, "Introduction to Political Science" (1896) by Sir John Seeley, "The State and the Nation" (1919), etc. (Mahajan, V.D.: *Political Theory*, S,Chand & Company Ltd., New Delhi, 2006, p.19).



1.7 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). *Political Theory-Principles of Political Science.* New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). *Principles of Political Science*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



1.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Philosophical approach and Historical approach

Ans to Q No 2: True

Ans to Q No 3: (i) Traditional approaches are largely normative and stresses on the values of Politics

(ii) Emphasis is on the study of different political structures.

Ans to Q No 4: Leo Strauss and T.H.Green

Ans to Q No 5: True

Ans to Q No 6: The Philosophical approach approach is regarded as the oldest approach to the study of political phenomena and Political Science. The philosophical approach firmly believes that the values cannot be separated from the study of politics. Therefore, its main concern is to judge what is good or bad in any political society. It is mainly an ethical and normative study of politics and, thus, idealistic.

Ans to Q No 7: Sir Henry Maine

Ans to Q No 8: Machiavelli and Sabine

Ans to Q No 9: According to the advocates of the historical approach, political theory can be only understood when the historical factors like the age, place and the situation in which it is evolved are taken into consideration. The historical approach aims at understanding politics through a historical account of the past. It emphasizes the study of the history of every political reality to analyze any situation. The study of politics always should have a historical perspective.



1.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: Which is the oldest approach to the study of Political Science?

Q 2: Name one advocate of the philosophical approach and one advocate of the historical approach.

Q 3: Which approach aims at evolving standards of right and wrong.

Q 4: Works such as “Ancient Law” (1861) and “Introduction to Political Science” (1896) of Sir John Seeley is associated with which traditional approach?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Mention the characteristics of the traditional approaches to political analysis.

Q 2: Briefly write about the historical approach to political analysis.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Explain the meaning of traditional approaches. Discuss the characteristics of the traditional approaches to political analysis.

Q 2: Discuss the philosophical approach to political analysis. Write about the limitations of the philosophical approach.

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UNIT 2: INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH AND LEGAL APPROACH

UNIT STRUCTURE

2.1 Learning Objectives

2.2 Introduction

2.3 Institutional Approach

2.4 Legal Approach

2.5 Let Us Sum Up

2.6 Further Reading

2.7 Answers to Check Your Progress

2.8 Model Questions

2.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the institutional approach to political analysis
- discuss the legal approach to political analysis
- explain the limitations of the institutional approach explain the limitations of the legal approach.

2.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous unit, we discussed the meaning and two types of traditional approaches. In this unit we shall learn about two other very important traditional approaches, namely, the institutional approach and the legal approach. The main emphasis of these approaches is on the formal and legal framework of political phenomena. The study of the structural dimensions of any state is very important. These structures would include the various branches of the government, political parties, etc. At the same time, the study of the legal dimensions of various political institutions and legal documents like the Constitution is also very essential. Accordingly, the functioning of formal institutional structures and their legal framework could be studied by adopting the institutional and legal approaches to political analysis.

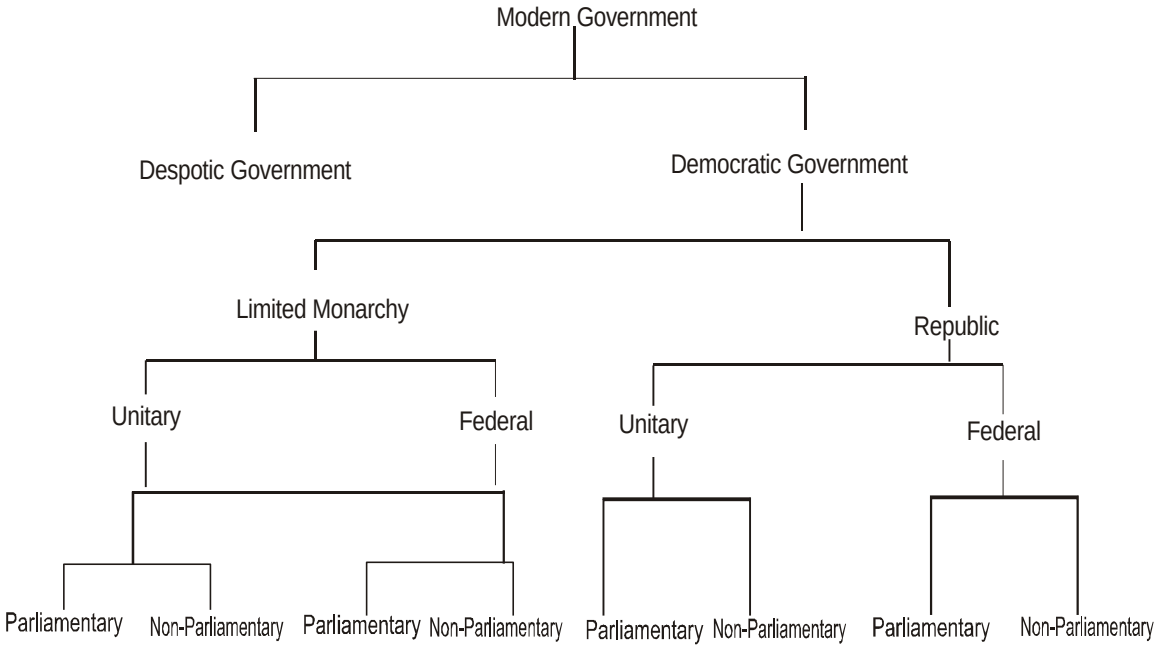
2.3 INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH

The Institutional Approach is a very old and important approach to the study of Political Science. This approach mainly deals with the formal aspects of government and politics emphasizes the study of the political institutions and structures. Thus, the institutional approach is concerned with the study of the formal structures like legislature, executive, judiciary, political parties, interest groups etc. The advocates of this approach include both ancient and modern political thinkers. Among the ancient thinkers Aristotle is an important contributor to this approach while the modern thinkers include James Bryce, Bentley, Walter Bagehot, Harold Laski, etc. Accordingly, the institutional approach studies the organization and functioning of government and its various organs, political parties and other institutions which influence politics and the political process. Aristotle's classification of governments (monarchy, tyranny, aristocracy, oligarchy, polity and democracy), Modern Classification (democracy and dictatorship, parliamentary and presidential, unitary and federal), study of different levels of government (federal, state and local) as well as branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial) with regard to their composition and powers, etc., constitute the subject matter of the institutional approach. The institutionalists lay stress on the study of institutions and structures, constitutions, rules and regulations and other legal documents. Thus, politics is the study of the structures and institutions of political activity.

- **Limitations of the Institutional Approach**

  - The Institutional Approach is regarded as a narrow approach as the approach is confined only to the study of formal structures and institutions.
  - The institutional approach does not take into account the sociological, psychological, political and economic conditions and factors which play an important role in the matter of actual functioning of the formal institutions.

Dr.Stephen Leacock's classification of modern governments is considered to be the most acceptable one. Parliamentary and Presidential forms and Unitary and Federal forms of government are all derivatives of Democratic government, which Dr.Leacock has shown in the form of a table as shown :



Dr. Stephen Leacok's Classification of modern governments.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Who classified governments into monarchy, tyranny, aristocracy, oligarchy, polity and democracy?

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Q 2: The advocates of the institutional approach includes both ancient and modern political thinkers. (True/False).

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Q 3: What are the limitations of the institutional approach?

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Q 4: Describe the Institutional Approach to the study of Political Science.(within 75 words).

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2.4 LEGAL APPROACH

The Legal Approach regards the state as the fundamental organization for the creation and enforcement of laws. Therefore, this approach is concerned with the legal process, legal bodies or institutions, justice and independence of judiciary, division of powers between the union and states, the bureaucracy and other legitimate authorities. The advocates of this approach are Cicero, Jean Bodin, Thomas Hobbes, Jeremy Bentham, John Austin, Dicey and Sir Henry Maine. Formal and legal structures of different countries constituted the main subjects of study of the legal approach. Although the tradition of study of legal aspects of political institutions was visible in the ancient period, yet as a formal approach to the study of political analysis, the legal approach started with the study of political structures of democratic countries like those of the UK and USA. For instance, the constitutional or legal position of the King of England, the British Cabinet, the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the British judicial system were studied in detail. The legal approach focuses on the legal and constitutional framework determining the functioning of different governmental structures including their powers and functions and legal position. In the context of India, the legal approach to the study of Indian politics would include a study of the legal provisions and implications of the Indian Constitution, the decisions of the Supreme Court of India, legal procedures, position and powers and functions of the two houses of parliament and state legislatures, powers and functions and position of the President of India, Prime Minister, Governors, Chief Ministers and other constitutional authorities and the procedures of election of various institutions and authorities.

- **Limitations of the Legal Approach**

  - The legal approach basically deals only with formal structures and processes and ignores the complex environmental factors influencing their actual functioning such as the social, cultural, economic and political environment.
  - The legal approach is very restrictive in nature as it considers only legal nature and implications of political phenomena.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5: Mention the names of any two advocates of the legal approach?

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Q 6: As a formal approach to the study of political analysis, the legal approach started with the study of political structures of democratic countries like those of the UK and USA.
(True/False)

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Q 7: Explain briefly the legal approach to political analysis. (within 75 words)

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Q 8: State the limitations of the legal approach.

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2.5 LET US SUM UP

- The institutional approach is a very old and important approach to the study of Political Science. This approach mainly deals with the formal aspects of government and politics emphasizes the study of the political institutions and structures.
- The institutional approach is concerned with the study of the formal structures like legislature, executive, judiciary, political parties, interest groups etc.
- Accordingly, the institutional approach studies the organization and

functioning of government and its various organs, political parties and other institutions which influence politics and the political process.

- Aristotle's classification of governments (monarchy, tyranny, aristocracy, oligarchy, polity and democracy), Modern Classification (democracy and dictatorship, parliamentary and presidential, unitary and federal), study of different levels of government (federal, state and local) as well as branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial) with regard to their composition and powers, etc., constitute the subject matter of the institutional approach.

- The advocates of the institutional approach approach includes both ancient and modern political thinkers. Among the ancient thinkers Aristotle is an important contributor to this approach while the modern thinkers include James Bryce, Bentley, Walter Bagehot, Harold Laski, etc.

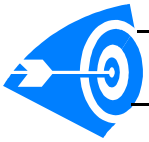
- The limitations of the institutional approach are: the Institutional Approach is regarded as a narrow approach as the approach is confined only to the study of formal structures and institutions; the institutional approach does not take into account the sociological, psychological, political and economic conditions and factors which play an important role in the matter of actual functioning of the formal institutions.

- The legal approach regards the state as the fundamental organization for the creation and enforcement of laws. Therefore, this approach is concerned with the legal process, legal bodies or institutions, justice and independence of judiciary.

- The advocates of this approach are Cicero, Jean Bodin, Thomas Hobbes, Jeremy Bentham, John Austin, Dicey and Sir Henry Maine. Formal, legal and institutional structures of different countries constituted the main subjects of study of the legal approach.

- The limitations of the institutional approach are: the legal approach

basically deals only with formal structures and processes and ignores the complex environmental factors influencing their actual functioning such as the social, cultural, economic and political environment; The legal approach is very restrictive in nature as it considers only legal nature and implications of political phenomena.



2.6 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Aristotle

Ans to Q No 2: True

Ans to Q No 3:

(a) The Institutional Approach is regarded as a narrow approach as the approach is confined only to the study of formal structures and institutions.

(b) The institutional approach does not take into account the sociological, psychological, political and economic conditions and factors which play an important role in the matter of actual functioning of the formal institutions.

Ans to Q No 4: The institutional approach mainly deals with the formal aspects of government and politics emphasizes the study of the political institutions and structures. Thus, the institutional approach is concerned with the study of the formal structures like legislature, executive, judiciary, political parties, interest groups etc. The institutionalists lay stress on the study of institutions and structures, constitutions, rules and regulations and other legal documents. Thus, politics is the study of the structures and institutions of political activity.

Ans to Q No 5: Jean Bodin and Thomas Hobbes

Ans to Q No 6: True

Ans to Q No 7: The legal approach regards the state as the fundamental organization for the creation and enforcement of laws. Therefore, this approach is concerned with the legal process, legal bodies or institutions, justice and independence of judiciary, division of powers between the union and states, the bureaucracy and other legitimate authorities. Formal, legal and institutional structures of different countries constituted the main subjects of study of the legal approach.

Ans to Q No 8:

(i) The legal approach basically deals only with formal structures and processes and ignores the complex environmental factors influencing their actual functioning such as the social, cultural, economic and political environment.

(ii) The legal approach is very restrictive in nature as it considers only legal nature and implications of political phenomena.



2.7 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). Political Theory-Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



2.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: Which approach regards the state as the fundamental organization for the creation and enforcement of laws?

Q 2: Mention the name of an ancient exponent of the institutional approach.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Write briefly about the institutional approach.

Q 2: Write briefly about the legal approach.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q1: Write briefly about the institutional approach. State the limitations of the approach

Q 2: Write briefly about the legal approach. State the limitations of the approach.

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UNIT 3: MODERN APPROACHES TO POLITICAL ANALYSIS (BEHAVIOURALISM AND POST BEHAVIOURALISM)

UNIT STRUCTURE

3.1 Learning Objectives

3.2 Introduction

3.3 Modern Approaches to Political Analysis

- 3.3.1 Meaning of Modern Approaches
- 3.3.2 Characteristics of Modern Approaches

3.4 The Behavioural Approach or Behaviouralism

- 3.4.1 Meaning of Behaviouralism
- 3.4.2 Salient Features of Behaviouralism
- 3.4.3 Merits of Behavioralism and Criticisms against Behaviouralism

3.5 The Post-Behavioural Approach or Post-Behaviouralism: Origin and Meaning

3.6 Let Us Sum Up

3.7 Further Reading

3.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

3.9 Model Questions

3.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the modern approaches to political analysis
- explain the characteristics of the modern approaches
- discuss the behavioural approach to the study of Political Science
- discuss the post-behavioural approach to the study of Political Science

3.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous units, we learnt about the traditional approaches to

political analysis. In this unit we shall learn about the modern approaches to political analysis. As opposed to the traditional approaches, the modern approaches are based on the study and analysis of facts .The modern approaches include behavioural approach, post-behavioural approach, systems approach, structural-functional approach, communication theory approach, etc. In this unit we shall focus on two major modern approaches, namely, Behaviouralism and Post-behaviouralism.

3.3 MODERN APPROACHES TO POLITICAL ANALYSIS

3.3.1 Meaning of Modern Approaches

After studying politics with the help of traditional approaches, the political thinkers of the later period felt the necessity to study politics from a new perspective. Thus, to minimize the deficiencies of the traditional approaches, various new approaches have been advocated by the new political thinkers. These new approaches are regarded as the "modern approaches" political analysis. Many thinkers regard was these approaches as a reaction against the traditional approaches. These approaches are mainly concerned with the scientific study of politics. The first breakthrough in this regard comes with the emergence of the behavioural revolution in Political Science. The modern approaches include : the Behavioural approach, the Post-Behavioural approach, the Systems approach, the Structural-Functional approach, the Communication Theory approach and the Decision-Making approach.

3.3.2 Characteristics of Modern Approaches

- Modern Approaches try to draw conclusion from empirical data.
- These approaches go beyond the study of political structures and its historical analysis and concentrate on the study of political behaviour based on factual understanding of political phenomena.
- Modern Approaches believe in inter-disciplinary study
- They emphasize scientific methods of study and attempt to draw scientific conclusions in Political Science



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Mention any two modern approaches.

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Q 2: Mention any two characteristics of modern approaches.

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Q 3: Modern approaches believe in inter-disciplinary study.

(True/False)

……

Q 4: The first breakthrough with regard to the scientific study of politics was the emergence of which revolution in political science?

.....……

3.4 THE BEHAVIOURAL APPROACH OR BEHAVIOURALISM

3.4.1 Origin and Meaning of Behaviouralism

The origin of behavioural movement can be traced back to the period of intellectual developments in the twentieth century. The main thrust of this approach has been on the day to day behaviour of the individuals as the members a political society. After the First World War a movement emerged towards the use of empirical and quantitative methods. Thus the emphasis on political behaviour in the first stage of the twentieth century later led to the emergence of the behavioural movement in Political Science. Significant landmark of this revolution is the publication of the book, Political Behaviour written by an American thinker Frank Kent in 1928. This approach takes into account the behaviour of persons and groups in society and not institutions, structures or ideologies. Hence, the emphasis of this approach is on

the study of the individual as a member of the group.

After the Second World War this movement became very popular among the political thinkers of America as well as some European countries. Charles. E. Merriam who was a professor of Political Science at the Chicago University is regarded the father of the behavioural movement. The behaviouralists emphasize the use of quantitative data and statistical tables in political analysis. Several American political scientists like Gabriel Almond, Robert Dahl, David Easton, Harold Lasswell and Karl Deutsch have evolved some theoretical frameworks and research designs to do scientific and systematic research in Political Science. All these works have contributed towards the strengthening of behavioural movement.

Behaviouralism has been defined in different ways. Robert Dahl regards behaviouralism as "a protest movement within Political Science associated with a number of political scientists, mainly Americans who shared a strong sense of dissatisfaction with the achievements of conventional Political Science, particularly through historical, philosophical and the descriptive institutional approaches." He further opines that by linking politics with the empirical components of the society, the behavioural approach makes an attempt to make Political Science more scientific, objective and value free.

David Easton is of the view that the behavioural approach should look at the participants in the political system as individuals with their emotions, prejudices and predispositions of human beings. Scholars like Charles E Merriam and Harold Lasswell also believed that political investigations would be incomplete if psychological and social aspects are not taken into consideration. Therefore, the behavioural movement tried to shift the focus of study from the structure and origin of the government and various other institutions of the state to the individuals who constitute the political system. For studying the day to day problems of the individuals, behaviouralism put emphasis on the development of new methods and techniques of research. The behaviouralists mainly used the techniques of observation, interview, survey, research, case studies, data collection, statistical analysis, quantification etc.



LET US KNOW

An important consideration of Behaviouralism has been the study of political behavior, as an area of study within Political Science. Its focus is on the individual as voter, leader, revolutionary, party member, etc., and the influences of the of the group or the political system on the individual's political behavior.

3.4.2 Salient Features of Behaviouralism

David Easton has pointed out certain salient features of behaviouralism which are regarded as its intellectual foundations. These are:

- **Regularities:** This approach believes that there are certain uniformities in political behaviour which can be expressed in generalizations or theories in order to explain and predict political phenomena. In a particular situation the political behaviour of individuals may be more or less similar. Such regularities of behaviour may help the researcher to analyze a political situation as well as to predict the future political phenomena. Study of such regularities makes Political Science more scientific with some predictive value.
- **Verification:** The behaviouralists do not want to accept everything as granted. Therefore, they emphasize testing and verifying everything. According to them, what cannot be verified is not scientific.
- **Techniques:** The behaviouralists put emphasis on the use of those research tools and methods which generate valid, reliable and comparative data. A researcher must make use of sophisticated tools like sample surveys, mathematical models, simulation etc.
- **Quantification:** After collecting data, the researcher should measure and quantify those data.
- **Values:** The behaviouralists have put heavy emphasis on separation

of facts from values. They believe that to do objective research one has to be value free. It means that the researcher should not have any pre-conceived notion or a biased view.

- **Systematization:** According to the behaviouralists research in Political Science must be systematic. Theory and research should go together.
- **Pure Science:** Another characteristic of behaviouralism has been its aim to make Political Science a "pure science". It believes that the study of Political Science should be verified by evidence.
- **Integration:** According to the behaviouralists, Political Science should not be separated from various other social sciences like history, sociology and economics etc. This approach believes that political events are shaped by various other factors in the society and therefore, it would be wrong to separate Political Science from other disciplines.

Thus, with the emergence of behaviouralism a new thinking and new method of study were evolved in the field of Political Science.

3.4.3 Merits of Behavioralism and Criticisms against Behaviouralism

- **Merits of Behavioralism**

We can list the merits of behavioural approach as follows:

- It attempts to make Political Science scientific and brings it closer to the day to day life of the individuals.
- Behaviouralism has first talked about bringing human behaviour into the arena of Political Science and thereby makes the study more relevant to the society.
- This approach helps in predicting future political events.

- **Criticisms against Behavioralism**

The behavioural approach has been appreciated by different political thinkers for its merits as mentioned above. However, the Behavioural approach has also faced criticism for its 'mad craze' for scienticism also. The main criticisms levelled against the Behavioural approach

are mentioned below:

- The Behavioural approach has been criticized for its dependence on techniques and methods ignoring the subject matter.
- The advocates of the Behavioural approach were wrong when they said that human beings behave in similar ways in similar circumstances.
- Besides, it is a difficult task to study human behaviour and to get a definite result.
- Most of the political phenomena are unquantifiable. Therefore it is always difficult to use scientific method in the study of Political Science.
- Moreover, the researcher being a human being is not always value neutral as believed by the behaviouralists.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5: Mention the names of three behaviouralists.

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Q 6: Who is regarded as the father of Behavioural Revolution?

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Q 7: List out four features of behaviouralism.

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Q 8: Mention any two criticisms of Behaviouralism.

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Q 9: A significant landmark of the behavioural revolution is the publication of the book titled ..... written by Frank Kent in 1928. (Fill in the Blank)

3.5 THE POST-BEHAVIOURAL APPROACH OR POST-BEHAVIOURALISM : ORIGIN AND MEANING

The growth of behavioural movement in Political Science is one of the important landmarks in the history of Political Science. The rise of behaviouralism clearly introduced a scientific vigour in the study of political phenomena. However, after sometime, it began to be realized that unlike natural sciences, generalizations could not be made in the field of social sciences, as the study of man in the societal context was a far more complex pursuit than the study of objects in the natural sciences. Therefore, a new thinking emerged among the behaviouralists for modifying behaviouralism. This led to the emergence of post-behaviouralism.

David Easton who was a staunch supporter of behaviouralism later became a strong critic of behaviouralism. In his presidential address to the Annual Convention of the American Political Science Association held in 1969, David Easton declared that he felt dissatisfied with the political research and teaching made under the impact of behaviouralism. He further said that because of too much use of mathematics, Political Science looked more of mathematics than of social science and that it had lost touch with the current and contemporary world. Behaviouralism also dissatisfied people as it failed to offer solutions to many social and political problems. Such dissatisfaction has led to the emergence of post- behaviouralism. This new approach believed that mere use of sophisticated techniques and research tools would not solve the social and political problems of the world. Therefore post behaviouralists opposed the idea of behaviouralists to make Political Science a value-free science like other natural sciences. Therefore, post-behaviouralists made an effort to make Political Science relevant to the

society by reintroducing the emphasis on values. However, it must be remembered that post-behaviouralism cannot be separated from behaviouralism as it has emerged out of behaviouralism. Through using different techniques and methods post-behaviouralists try to overcome the drawbacks of behaviouralism and make the study of Political Science more relevant to the society by laying equal emphasis on facts and values.



LET US KNOW

David Easton first pointed out the intellectual foundations of behaviouralism. Later he charted out certain salient features of post behaviouralism which are termed as 'Credo of Relevance'.

Post-behaviouralism believed that the use of scientific tools is beneficial if it can solve the various problems of the society. Behaviouralists gave too much emphasis on methods and techniques and believed that it was better to be wrong than vague. Post-behaviouralists on the other hand, believe that it is better to be vague than non-relevantly precise. The post-behaviouralists criticized behaviouralism on the ground that the latter had lost touch with the realities of the society because of over emphasis on techniques. Thus, post-behaviouralists may be regarded as the reform movement within behaviouralism. This new approach emphasizes identifying and solving the major issues of political and social life. According to post-behavioralism, the political scientists should find out different alternatives and means to solve the social problems. Thus, the main thrust of post-behaviouralism has been to make Political Science relevant to the society. However, it must be remembered that it is only a continuation of behaviouralism. It does not altogether reject the ideas of behaviouralism. It acknowledges the achievement of behavioralism and appreciates its effort to do objective research in Political Science. It only tries to bring research in Political Science closer to reality to make the subject more relevant to the society. Accordingly, the post-behaviouralists opposed the efforts of the behaviouralists to make Political Science a value-free science. It was argued

by the post-behaviouralists that Political Science in order to be relevant to the society must consider basic issues of society such as justice, liberty, equality, democracy, etc., The post-behaviouralists have described behaviouralism as a 'mad craze for scienticism'. Thus, post-behavioralism is a reformation of behavioralism as it shifts its focus strictly from empirical research to resolving problems confronting the society.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 10: Post-behaviouralists tried to make the study of Political Science more relevant to the society. (True/False)

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Q 11: Name one behaviouralist who later became an advocate of post-behaviouralism.

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Q 12: Write briefly about post-behaviouralism. (within 75 words)

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ACTIVITY 3.1

Find out the major dissimilarities between behaviouralism and post-behaviouralism.

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3.6 LET US SUM UP

- After studying politics with the help of traditional approaches, the political thinkers of the later period felt the necessity to study politics from a new perspective. Thus, to minimize the deficiencies of the traditional approaches, various new approaches have been advocated by the new political thinkers. These new approaches are regarded as the "modern approaches" political analysis.

- Many thinkers regard these approaches as a reaction against the traditional approaches. These approaches are mainly concerned with the scientific study of politics. The first breakthrough in this regard comes with the emergence of the behavioural revolution in Political Science.

- The origin of behavioural movement can be traced back to the period of intellectual developments in the twentieth century. The main thrust of this approach has been on the day to day behaviour of the individuals as the members a political society. After the First World War a movement emerged towards the use of empirical and quantitative methods.

- The emphasis on political behaviour in the first stage of the twentieth century later led to the emergence of the behavioural movement in Political Science. Significant landmark of this revolution is the publication of the book, Political Behaviour written by an American thinker Frank Kent in 1928.

- The behavioural approach takes into account the behaviour of persons and groups in society and not institutions, structures or ideologies. Hence, the emphasis of this approach is on the study of the individual

as a member of the group.

- After the Second World War this movement became very popular among the political thinkers of America as well as some European countries. Charles. E. Merriam of the Chicago University is regarded the father of the behavioural movement.

- The behaviouralists emphasize the use of quantitative data and statistical tables in political analysis. Several writers like Gabriel Almond, Robert Dahl, David Easton, Harold Lasswell and Karl Deutsch have evolved some theoretical frameworks and research designs to do scientific and systematic research in Political Science. All these works have contributed towards the strengthening of behavioural movement.

- David Easton has pointed out certain salient features of behaviouralism which are regarded as its intellectual foundations. These are: Regularities, Verification, Techniques, Quantification, Values, Systematization, Pure Science and Integration.

- The growth of behavioural movement in Political Science is one of the important landmarks in the history of Political Science. The rise of behaviouralism clearly introduced a scientific vigour in the study of political phenomena. However, after sometime, it began to be realized that unlike natural sciences, generalizations could not be made in the field of social sciences, as the study of man in the societal context was a far more complex pursuit than the study of objects in the natural sciences. Therefore, a new thinking emerged among the behaviouralists for modifying behaviouralism.

- David Easton who was a staunch supporter of behaviouralism later became a strong critic of behaviouralism. In his presidential address to the Annual Convention of the American Political Science Association held in 1969, David Easton declared that he felt dissatisfied with the

political research and teaching made under the impact of behaviouralism.

- The Post-behavioural approach believed that mere use of sophisticated techniques and research tools would not solve the social and political problems of the world. Therefore post behaviouralists opposed the idea of behaviouralists to make Political Science a value-free science like other natural sciences. Therefore, post-behaviouralists made an effort to make Political Science relevant to the society.

- It must be remembered that post-behaviouralism cannot be separated from behaviouralism as it has emerged out of behaviouralism. Through using different techniques and methods post-behaviouralists try to overcome the drawbacks of behaviouralism and make the study of Political Science more relevant to the society.

- Post-behaviouralism believed that the use of scientific tools is beneficial if it can solve the various problems of the society. Thus, post-behavioralism is a reformation of behaviouralism as it shifts its focus strictly from empirical research to resolving problems confronting the society.

- The post-behaviouralists opposed the efforts of the behaviouralists to make Political Science a value-free science. It was argued by the post-behaviouralists that Political Science in order to be relevant to the society must consider basic issues of society such as justice, liberty, equality, democracy, etc.



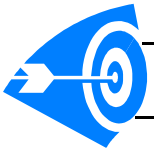
3.7 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). Political Theory-Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



3.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Structural-functional approach and Communication Theory approach.

Ans to Q No 2: a) Modern approaches try to draw conclusion from empirical data.

b) Modern approaches go beyond the study of political structures and its historical analysis and concentrate on the study of political behaviour based on factual understanding of political phenomena.

Ans to Q No 3: True

Ans to Q No 4: The Behavioural revolution.

Ans to Q No 5: David Easton ,Charles E Merriam and Harold Lasswell

Ans to Q No 6: Charles. E. Merriam

Ans to Q No 7: Regularities, Verification, Techniques and Quantification

Ans to Q No 8: (i) The Behavioural approach has been criticized for its dependence on techniques and methods ignoring the subject matter.

(ii) The advocates of the Behavioural approach were wrong when they said that human beings behave in similar ways in similar circumstances

Ans to Q No 9: "Political Behaviour"

Ans to Q No 10: True

Ans to Q No 11: David Easton

Ans to Q No 12: The rise of behaviouralism clearly introduced a scientific vigour in the study of political phenomena. However, after sometime, it was felt that unlike natural sciences, generalizations could not be made in the field of social sciences.Therefore, a new thinking emerged among the behaviouralists for modifying behaviouralism in the form of post-behaviouralism. The post-behaviouralists made an effort to make Political Science relevant to the society by reintroducing the emphasis on values. Thus, the main thrust of post-behaviouralism has been to make Political Science relevant to the society.



3.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: Mention the names of any four behaviouralists.

Q 2: Mention any two techniques used by the behaviouralists.

Q 3: Whose presidential address to the Annual Convention of the American Political Science Association held in 1969 paved the way for the emergence of Post-Behaviouralism?

Q 4: Which modern approach reintroduced the emphasis on values.

B. Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Explain any four features of behaviouralism.

Q 2: Write briefly about the reemphasis on values as propounded by post-behaviouralism.

C. Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss the Behavioural approach.

Q 2: Discuss the Post-Behavioral Approach.

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UNIT 4: SYSTEMS APPROACH AND STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONAL APPROACH

UNIT STRUCTURE

4.1 Learning Objectives

4.2 Introduction

4.3 Systems Approach

4.4 Structural-Functional Approach

4.5 Let Us Sum Up

4.6 Further Reading

4.7 Answers to Check Your Progress

4.8 Model Questions

4.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the meaning of a system
- discuss David Easton's Systems analysis
- explain the background of structural functionalism
- discuss Gabriel Almond's structural functional analysis.

4.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous unit, we learnt about the modern approaches of behaviouralism and post-behaviouralism. In this unit, we shall learn about some other modern approaches, namely, the systems approach and the structural-functional approach. Modern political scientists have looked at politics not in isolation but as a product of the social system. A diverse range of influences from the social, cultural, economic and legal environments

affect the functioning of the political system. Thus, the two modern approaches, namely, the systems approach and the structural-functional approach aims at studying politics in a comprehensive manner.

4.3 SYSTEMS APPROACH

- **Meaning of a System**

The systems approach is a modern approach. The political system analysis seeks to relate political science to other social sciences such as sociology, economics, psychology and anthropology. The basic idea of the systems approach is that all social phenomena, including political, economic, cultural, sociological, etc., are interrelated and affect each other. Accordingly, political life cannot be seen in isolation from other aspects of social life. Political life is the outcome of a set of interactions between different sub-systems.

- **David Easton's Political Systems Theory**

The systems approach makes an attempt to explain the relationship of political life with other aspects of social life. The idea of a system was originally borrowed from biology by the American sociologist, Talcott Parsons who first popularized the concept of social system. Later on David Easton further developed the concept of a political system. A political system includes not only governmental institutions such as the legislatures, executives, courts of law and administrative agencies but also such organizations as political parties, interest groups, channels of mass media, political phenomena such as riots and demonstrations, etc.

According to the systems approach, a political system operates within an environment. The environment includes the political, social, economic, legal, moral, cultural environments. Accordingly, it is not possible to analyze political events in isolation from other aspects of the society. In other words, influences from the society, be it economic, religious or otherwise, do shape the political process.

The environment generates "demands" from different sections of the

society such as demand for reservation in the matter of employment for certain groups, demand for better working conditions or minimum wages, demand for better transportation facilities, demand for better health facilities, etc.

Again there exists "support" for the political system which may be manifested in different forms. Examples of support include payment of taxes to the government, respect for public authorities, symbols and ceremonies, obedience to laws, paying attention to governmental communications, etc.

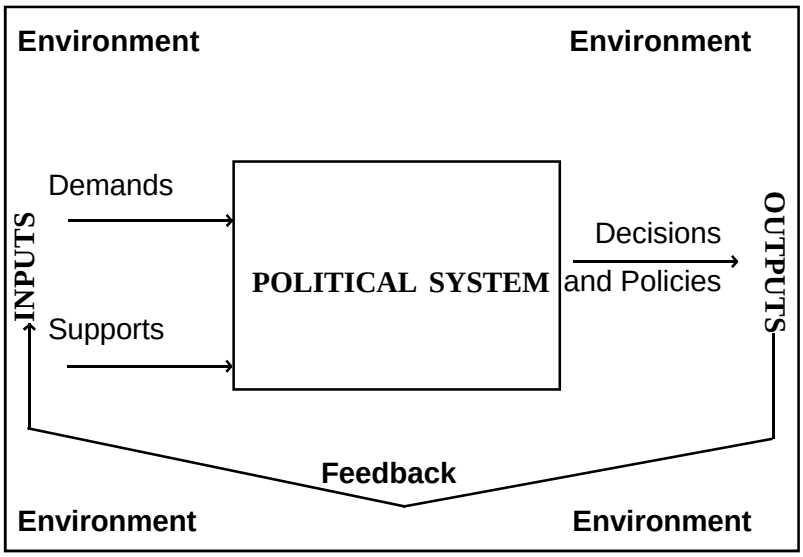
Both "demands" and "support" constitute what Easton calls "inputs". The political system receives these inputs from the environment. After taking various factors into consideration, the government decides to take action on some of these demands while others are not acted upon. Through the conversion process, the inputs are converted into "outputs" by the decision makers in the form of policies, decisions, rules, regulations and laws. The process of conversion depends on the capacity of the political system and distribution of resources, among others. The "outputs" create reactions and responses in the environment which are fed back into the political system through the feedback loop. Feedback is a dynamic process. Information regarding the performance of the political system is communicated back to the system through the feedback loop affecting the subsequent behaviour of the political system. It may also give rise to fresh "demands" and subsequent "output" functions. Accordingly, feedback is a cyclical process.

When the political system functions as described above, we have a "stable political system". When the political system breaks down and cannot function as described above, we have a "dysfunctional political system".

The systems approach as developed by David Eason can be analyzed with the help of a diagram as follows:

David Easton's systems analysis could be applied to empirical analysis of the functioning of all political systems. Through the systems approach, David Easton provided a general framework for a scientific

and empirical study of all types of political systems.



David Easton's Systems Model



ACTIVITY 4.1

Try to apply the Systems Approach in the context of the Indian Political System.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Who first popularized the concept of social system?

.....

Q 2: What constitutes "inputs" of a political system according to David Easton ?

.....

Q 3: The environment includes the political, social, economic, legal, moral, cultural environments. (True/False)

.....

Q 4: Write briefly about the conversion process.

.....

.....

4.4 STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONAL APPROACH

- **Background of Structural functionalism**

Structural functionalism as an approach has its roots in anthropology and sociology. It sees society as a complex system characterized by the presence of structures performing different functions, in terms of customs, traditions, norms and values. The structural functional approach looks at both social structures and social functions performed by these structures. This approach treats the society as a single inter-related system where each part of the system has a definite and distinct role to play. Initially, theories of functionalism were propounded by anthropologists and sociologists like Malinowski and Radcliff-Brown. Subsequently, these theories were adopted by Talcott Parsons and Marion Levy. Thus a new framework of analysis emerged in the field of sociological discussion.

- **Gabriel Almond's Structural-Functional Analysis**

Talking about the political sphere, several new factors in the modern period such as adult suffrage, emergence of political parties and pressure groups, new modes of communication media, etc. have brought about new forms of structures and new spheres of functions. Accordingly, in the 1970s, Gabriel Almond and Bingham Powell applied the structural-functional approach to the field of politics. As a matter of fact, Structural-functionalism in politics is an offshoot of the systems approach. Almond and Powell were of the view that in order to understand the political system, it is necessary to

analyse not only the institutions but also the functions of the political system. The main stress of the political system is structures and functions. According to Almond, political systems need to perform a set of functions for sustaining itself. These functions are performed by different kinds of political structures.

The structural-functional approach may be regarded as an offshoot of the system analysis. Gabriel Almond defines political systems as a special system of interaction that exists in all societies performing certain functions. According to him, the main characteristics of a political system are comprehensiveness, inter-dependence and existence of boundaries. Like Easton, Almond also believes that all political systems perform input and output functions. The input functions of a political system are political socialization and recruitment, interest-articulation, interest-aggregation and political communication. Political socialization is a learning process whereby an individual acquires attitudes and orientations towards political phenomena. It implies the process of transmission of political norms, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour from one generation to another. Accordingly, political socialization helps in the shaping of the overall political culture. Some of the agents of political socialization include the family, school, peer groups, mass media, religion, political parties and work place experiences.

Recruitment implies the process whereby are recruited into the specialized role of the political system, whether as members of political parties, candidates contesting elections, etc. They are imparted training and skills so as to inculcate appropriate political values to serve in different capacities. Primary groups such as family and school are capable of playing this role effectively.

Interest articulation means the processes concerned with the formulation and expression of opinions, attitudes, beliefs, orientations and preferences of different sections in the form of claims and demands for political action. Interest articulation is the process whereby the diverse interests in the society are converted into political demands. This function is best performed by different interest groups.

Interest aggregation is the process whereby the diverse interests are

combined by way of accommodation and compromise so that such political demands may be given a concrete shape for policy formulation. This function is best performed by political parties.

Political Communication is the process whereby different components of a political system such as individuals, groups and institutions transmit and receive information with regard to the functioning of the political system. The mass media can play an important role in this regard.

Again, Almond makes a three-fold classification of governmental output functions relating to policy making and implementation. These output functions are- rule making, rule application and rule adjudication. Thus, Almond believes that a stable and efficient political system converts inputs into outputs.

Almond's structural-functional approach is not free from criticisms. It is pointed out that the approach is basically modelled on the western political system and hence is not suitable for the study of developing countries where there are many problems based on religion, caste, language, ethnicity, poverty, etc. The sophisticated tools of analysis adopted by the structural-functional approach do not take these factors into consideration and therefore are of little use when it comes to studying the realities of political life in developing countries.

However, despite the criticisms, it must be said that the structural-functional approach by stressing on the study of structures and functions have provided a systematic tool for empirical investigation and political analysis.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5: Mention the names of two advocates of the theories of functionalism.

……

Q 6: In the 1970s, Gabriel Almond and Bingham Powell applied the

structural-functional approach to the field of politics. (True/ False) .....

Q 7: The function of interest aggregation is best performed by different interest groups. (True/False)

.....

Q 8: Write briefly about recruitment as an input function of a political system. (within 75 words)

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4.5 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). Political Theory-Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



4.6 LET US SUM UP

- The systems approach is a modern approach which developed as a reaction to the traditional approaches to the study of political science. The political system analysis seeks to relate political science to other social sciences such as sociology, economics, psychology and anthropology.

- The basic idea of the systems approach is that all social phenomena, including political, economic, cultural, sociological, etc., are interrelated and affect each other. Accordingly, political life cannot be seen in isolation from other aspects of social life. Political life is the outcome of a set of interactions between different sub-systems.

- Thus, the systems approach makes an attempt to explain the relationship of political life with other aspects of social life. The idea of a system was originally borrowed from biology by Talcott Parsons who first popularized the concept of social system. Later on David Easton further developed the concept of a political system.

- According to the systems approach, a political system operates within an environment. The environment includes the political, social, economic, legal, moral, cultural environments. Accordingly, it is not possible to analyze political events in isolation from other aspects of the society. In other words, influences from the society, be it economic, religious or otherwise, do shape the political process.

- The environment generates "demands" from different sections of the society.Again there exists "support" for the political system which may be manifested in different forms.

- Both "demands" and "support" constitute what Easton calls "inputs". The political system receives theses inputs from the environment.

- Through the conversion process, the inputs are converted into "outputs" by the decision makers in the form of policies, decisions, rules,

regulations and laws. The process of conversion depends on the capacity of the political system and distribution of resources, among others.

- The "outputs" flow back into the environment through a "feedback" loop. Feedback is a dynamic process. Information regarding the performance of the political system is communicated back to the system through the feedback loop affecting the subsequent behaviour of the political system. It may also give rise to fresh "demands" and subsequent "output" functions. Accordingly, feedback is a cyclical process.

- Structural functionalism as an approach has its roots in anthropology and sociology. The structural functional approach looks at both social structures and social functions performed by these structures.

- Initially, theories of functionalism were propounded by anthropologists and sociologists like Malinowski and Radcliff-Brown. Subsequently, these theories were adopted by Talcott Parsons and Marion Levy. Thus a new framework of analysis emerged in the field of sociological discussion.

- In the 1970s, Gabriel Almond and Bingham Powell applied the structural-functional approach to the field of politics. As a matter of fact, Structural-functionalism in politics is an offshoot of the systems approach.

- The main stress of the political system is structures and functions. According to Almond, political systems need to perform a set of functions for sustaining itself. These functions are performed by different kinds of political structures.

- Gabriel Almond defines political systems as a special system of interaction that exists in all societies performing certain functions. According to him, the main characteristics of a political system are comprehensiveness, inter-dependence and existence of boundaries.

- Like Easton, Almond also believes that all political systems perform input and output functions. The input functions of a political system are political socialization and recruitment, interest-articulation, interest-aggregation and political communication.

- Almond makes a three-fold classification of governmental output functions relating to policy making and implementation. These output functions are- rule making, rule application and rule adjudication. Thus,

Almond believes that a stable and efficient political system converts inputs into outputs.



4.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Talcott Parsons

Ans to Q No 2: Demands and Supports

Ans to Q No 3: True

Ans to Q No 4: Through the conversion process, the inputs are converted into "outputs" by the decision makers in the form of policies, decisions, rules, regulations and laws. The process of conversion depends on the capacity of the political system and distribution of resources, among others.

Ans to Q No 5: Malinowski and Radcliff-Brown

Ans to Q No 6: True

Ans to Q No 7: False

Ans to Q No 8: Recruitment implies the process whereby are recruited into the specialized role of the political system, whether as members of political parties, candidates contesting elections, etc. They are imparted training and skills so as to inculcate appropriate political values to serve in different capacities. Primary groups such as family and school are capable of playing this role effectively.



4.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: Mention any two "demands" emanating from the environment with regard to the systems approach.

Q 2: Outputs of the political system are visible in what forms?

Q 3: Mention the input functions of a political system as propounded by Gabriel Almond.

Q 4: Mention the output functions of a political system as propounded by Gabriel Almond.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Explain the inputs of a political system in the form of demands and supports.

Q 2: Explain the meaning of interest articulation and interest aggregation.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss the systems approach.

Q 2: Discuss the structural-functional approach.

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UNIT 5: COMMUNICATION THEORY APPROACH AND THE DECISION MAKING APPROACH

UNIT STRUCTURE

5.1 Learning Objectives

5.2 Introduction

5.3 Communication Theory Approach

5.4 Decision-Making Approach

5.5 Let Us Sum Up

5.6 Further Reading

5.7 Answers to Check Your Progress

5.8 Model Questions

5.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit , you will be able to :

- discuss the Communication theory approach
- explain the criticisms of the Communication theory approach
- discuss the Decision-Making approach
- explain the criticisms of the Decision-Making approach.

5.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous unit, we learnt about two important modern approaches. In this unit also, we shall learn about two other important modern approaches, namely, the communication theory and the decision making approach. While the communication theory aims at studying the flow of communication within and between political systems, the decision making approach looks at the decision making process in the political system and the factors and

processes involved.

5.3 COMMUNICATION THEORY APPROACH

The Communication theory approach tries to investigate how one segment of a system affects another by sending messages or information. It was Norbert Wiener, the American philosopher and mathematician, who first spoke about this approach in the field of cybernetics. Later on Karl Deutsch developed it and applied the communication approach in Political Science. Deutsch believes that the political system is a network of communication channels and it is self regulative. He further believes that the government is responsible for administering different communication channels. This approach treats the government as the decision making system. According to Deutsch, the four factors of analysis in communication theory are - lead, lag, gain and load.

According to the Communication theory, the function of communication lies at the centre of all political activity. The communication theory treats the government as a decision-making system and looks at how information passes at various levels within the political system and between one political system and another. The decisions taken by the government are based on the flow of certain information. According to Karl Deutsch, there are four factors of analysis in communication theory. These are load, lag, gain and lead. Load implies the total amount of information that a system possesses at any point of time. Lag stands for the amount of delay between receiving the feedback on the consequences of decisions taken and the corrective action taken on the information that is received. Gain means the manner in which the system responds to the information received. Lead refers to the ability of the system to respond to predictions regarding the future consequences of actions and decisions taken.

Political systems differ in their capacity for receiving, storing, recalling and transmitting information accurately and rapidly. Certain political systems have a greater capacity than others in this respect. Thus, political systems are information-receiving and processing units, just like the human brain. Those political systems which efficiently receive, store, recall, transmit,

process and act on the incoming information and successfully convert such incoming information into proper outputs or responses are better able to endure and survive under stressful conditions.

The contexts within which the issue of communication may be presented are listed below:

(a) Communication within the political system in terms of the passage of information between its different agencies

(b) Communication between the political system and its environment

(c) Communication between two or more political systems

(d) Criticisms of the Communication theory approach:

The communication theory approach is criticized on many grounds. These are as follows:

- The communication theory focuses on the flow of communication rather than on the substance of the decisions or the information itself.
- The communication theory lays greater emphasis on processes. It does not take into account the outcomes and consequences.
- The communication theory can provide us information regarding the location of power. But the concept of power is very complicated and the communication theory does not help us understand the concept of power.
- The communication theory has used engineering techniques to study human behaviour. However, engineering techniques tend to be mechanistic in nature and cannot be used for studying human behaviour which is dynamic in nature.

It may be stated here that despite the above mentioned criticisms, it must be said that the communication theory has provided us with a theoretical model for analysing the processes and channels of communication in the political system.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: According to Karl Deutsch, what are the four factors of analysis in communication theory?

.....

Q 2: What is meant by load?

.....

Q 3: Mention any two contexts within which the problem of communication may be presented ?

.....

.....

Q 4: Write briefly about the communication theory approach ? (within 75 words)

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5.4 DECISION-MAKING APPROACH

The Decision-Making approach approach tries to find out the factors, processes, consequences and actors of decision making in the political system. Scholars like Richard Synder and Charles Lindblom have developed this approach. A political decision which is taken by a few actors influences the larger society and such a decision is generally shaped by a specific situation. Therefore, it takes into account psychological and social aspects of decision makers also.

The Decision-Making approach regards politics as a process of arriving at public decisions. According to Vernon Van Dyke: "Every actor is a decision-

maker……. Voters decide whether to vote and for whom. Legislators decide which proposals to advance or support. Executives decide what legislation to seek, whether to sign or veto acts of the legislative body……" (Gauba, O.P.: An Introduction to Political Theory-fourth edition, Macmillan India Ltd., New Delhi, 2007, p.100). Let us look at some of the important aspects of the decision-making mechanism:

- Identifying the issues on which decisions are made
- The structures and actors involved in decision-making such as legislators, executives, etc.
- The alternative courses of action or options that were considered before taking a decision
- The factors which influenced the decision-makers to take a particular decision
- The fallout of the decision in political terms

Generally speaking, the decision-makers are assumed to be rational actors who are aware of the goals to be achieved and hence are inclined towards employing the most feasible or efficient means of attaining these goals. Thus decisions are not taken arbitrarily but in a rational way by weighing all possible courses of action.

Thus, every political action is the outcome of a particular decision. Such a decision has a public character and is taken by a few rational actors in a particular situation by following a particular process. Such a decision has a bearing on the larger society. The different categories of decisions include: who made the decision?, what was the decision?, when was the decision made?, how was the decision made?, where was the decision made?, why was the decision made?, etc.



LET US KNOW

We could analyse the decision making approach in the Indian context. In a developing country like India with a sizeable youth population, there is always a demand for creating

employment opportunities by the state. Accordingly, while identifying the various issues for policy action, tackling unemployment has always featured as a priority issue for the Government of India. In this context, the Government at the Union periodically reviews the employment scenario across the nation. Thus, both the executive in the form of the Union Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister and the legislature in the form of the Parliament of India are seen to take up the issue with all seriousness. Subsequently, various courses of action to deal with the unemployment problem are deliberated upon, both at the executive and legislative levels. The government may come up with a range of policy decisions such as enhancing entrepreneurial skills among the youth, granting start up loans to start businesses, attracting foreign investments to create jobs, laying stress on the manufacturing sector, expansion of the service sector, making agriculture a profitable venture, creating more public sector jobs and filling up existing vacancies, etc. Various factors are weighed and taken into account before the government actually takes any concrete policy decision in this regard. Finally, the decision taken by the government will have long term ramifications and generate varying levels of both support and opposition. The overall impact is noticeable when the government seeks a fresh mandate from the people at the election. If the satisfaction level of the people with regard to the specific government policies is high, then the government has not much difficulty in coming back to power.

- **Criticism against the Decision Making approach**

The decision making approach is not free from criticism. The decision making theory is based on exploring a range of possibilities which are known and fixed and on the basis of such expected possibilities, decision alternatives are counter weighed and a particular decision is arrived at. However, there may be unknown variations and possibilities which are unforeseen and unpredictable. In such situations, fixed models of decision-making cannot be tried. The decision-making approach does not give much importance to such variations.

Despite the criticism against the decision making approach, it must be said that the decision making approach has given us a scientific framework for investigating the relevant factors behind every political action as an outcome of a rational decision making process.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5 : The Decision-Making approach regards politics as a process of arriving at public decisions.(True/False)

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Q 6: Who developed the decision-making approach ? .

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Q 7: Write briefly about the decision making approach.

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Q 8: What are the criticisms against the decision making approach.

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5.5 LET US SUM UP

- The Communication theory approach tries to investigate how one segment of a system affects another by sending messages or information. It was Norbert Weiner who first spoke about this approach in the field of

cybernetics.

- Karl Deutsch developed the communication theory and applied the communication approach in Political Science. Deutsch believes that the political system is a network of communication channels and it is self regulative.

- Karl Deutsch further believes that the government is responsible for administering different communication channels. This approach treats the government as the decision making system. According to Deutsch, the four factors of analysis in communication theory are - lead, lag, gain and load.

- According to the Communication theory, the function of communication lies at the centre of all political activity. The communication theory treats the government as a decision-making system and looks at how information passes at various levels within the political system and between one political system and another.

- The decisions taken by the government are based on the flow of certain information. According to Karl Deutsch, there are four factors of analysis in communication theory. These are load, lag, gain and lead. Load implies the total amount of information that a system possesses at any point of time. Lag stands for the amount of delay between receiving the feedback on the consequences of decisions taken and the action taken on the information that is received. Gain means the manner in which the system responds to the information received. Lead refers to the ability of the system to respond to predictions regarding the future consequences of actions and decisions taken.

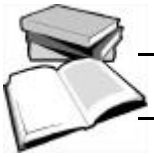
- The Decision-Making approach tries to find out the factors, processes, consequences and actors of decision making in the political system. Scholars like Richard Synder and Charles Lindblom have developed this approach.

- A political decision which is taken by a few actors influences the larger society and such a decision is generally shaped by a specific situation.

Therefore, it takes into account psychological and social aspects of decision makers also.

- Generally speaking, the decision-makers are assumed to be rational actors who are aware of the goals to be achieved and hence are inclined towards employing the most feasible or efficient means of attaining these goals. Thus decisions are not taken arbitrarily but in a rational way by weighing all possible courses of action.

- Every political action is the outcome of a particular decision. Such a decision has a public character and is taken by a few rational actors in a particular situation by following a particular process. Such a decision has a bearing on the larger society. The different categories of decisions include: who made the decision?, what was the decision?, when was the decision made?, how was the decision made?, where was the decision made?, why was the decision made?, etc.



5.6 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). Political Theory-Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



5.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No. 1: lead, lag, gain and load.

Ans to Q No. 2: Load implies the total amount of information that a system

possesses at any point of time.

Ans to Q No. 3: (i) Communication within the political system in terms of the passage of information between its different agencies

(ii) Communication between the political system and its environment

Ans to Q No. 4: The Communication theory tries to investigate how one segment of a system affects another by sending messages or information. It was Norbert Weiner who first spoke about this approach in the field of cybernetics. Later on Karl Deutsch developed it and applied the communication approach in Political Science. This approach treats the government as the decision making system. According to Deutsch, the four factors of analysis in communication theory are - lead, lag, gain and load.

Ans to Q No. 5: True

Ans to Q No. 6: Richard Synder and Charles Lindblom

Ans to Q No. 7: The Decision Making approach tries to find out the factors, processes, consequences and actors of decision making in the political system. Scholars like Richard Synder and Charles Lindblom have developed this approach. Some of the important aspects of the decision-making mechanism are:

(i) Identifying the issues on which decisions are made, the structures and actors involved in decision-making such as legislators, executives, etc.

(ii) The alternative courses of action or options that were considered before taking a decision

(iii) The factors which influenced the decision-makers to take a particular decision

(iv) The fallout of the decision in political terms

(v) The fallout of the decision in political terms

Ans to Q No. 8: The decision making approach is not free from criticisms.

The decision making theory is based on exploring a range of possibilities which are known and fixed and on the basis of such expected possibilities, decision alternatives are counter weighed and a particular decision is arrived at. However, there may be unknown variations and possibilities which are unforeseen and unpredictable. In such situations, fixed models of decision-making cannot be tried. The decision-making approach does not give much importance to such variations.



5.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q1: Who developed the communication theory in Political Science?

Q2: What is meant by lead?

Q3: Mention the name of any one scholar associated with the decision making approach.

Q4: Mention any two aspects with regard to the decision making mechanism.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q1: Write the criticisms against the communication theory.

Q2: Write about load, lag, gain and lead.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q1: Discuss the communication theory. Write about the criticisms levelled against the theory.

Q2: Discuss the decision making approach. Write about the criticisms levelled against the theory.

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UNIT 6: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON DEMOCRACY- LIBERAL DEMOCRACY AND MARXIST DEMOCRACY

UNIT STRUCTURE

6.1 Learning Objectives

6.2 Introduction

6.3 Liberal Democracy

6.3.1 Characteristics of Liberal Democracy

6.3.2 Representative Government and Liberal Democracy

6.4 Marxist Democracy

6.4.1 Characteristics of Marxist Democracy

6.4.2 Communist one party model

6.5 Comparison between Liberal Democracy and Marxist Democracy

6.5.1 Democracy in the Developing World

6.6 Let Us Sum Up

6.7 Further Reading

6.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

6.9 Model Questions

6.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the meaning and characteristics of Liberal Democracy
- explain the meaning and characteristics of Marxist Democracy
- make a comparison between Liberal Democracy and Marxist Democracy
- explain the nature of democracy in the developing world.

6.2 INTRODUCTION

Democracy is a form of government and a way of life. In a democracy, people are the source of power. People themselves choose or elect their rulers, and rulers are accountable to the electorate. Welfare and protection of popular interest is the motto of democracy. It is considered the best form of government where people enjoy rule of law, equality of rights and opportunity, liberty and freedom of speech, human dignity and justice without any discrimination. Such a state and society is democratic one. As such, democracy is also a means of managing civil society for a better life. The ancient traditions of Greek city states, the Roman Empire, ancient Indian and Chinese civilizations have contributed to the development of democracy. Greek city states followed direct democracy. Today indirect or representative democracy is more convenient for populous and big nation states. In this chapter we are going to explore two opposite perspectives on democracy, viz. Liberal and Marxist perspectives.

6.3 LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

Liberal ideas and democratic procedures have gradually become complementary to each other in 20th century. Liberty and Equality are necessary conditions for democracy. Liberal perspective of democracy has its roots in the theories of European thinkers like John Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Jeremy Bentham, J.S. Mill and others. Rule of the majority, people's consent for governance, individual rights, universal suffrage, responsible government, public opinion and people's participation are crucial elements of liberal democracy. Today most of the democratic states are representative democracy based on the principles of liberal democracy. A truly representative democracy ensures decentralization of power, people's empowerment and virtuous government.



LET US KNOW

Leading western nation states like the United States of America (USA), Great Britain, Canada, France,

Germany, Netherland, Belgium, Switzerland, and Australia are liberal democracies. Many developing and developed. Asian nations like India, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, etc. have adopted liberal democracy in the 20th centry in order to ensure welfare and mass participation in nation building. The American Revolution and the French Revolution are two important milestones of democracy.

6.3.1 Characteristics of Liberal Democracy

- Liberal democracy is based on the idea of a limited government. The individuals are guaranteed protection from state intrusions. Thus various devices such as a constitution, a bill of rights for citizens, an independent judiciary, a system of checks and balances between different governmental organs, universal adult suffrage, etc act as a shield against state interferences. The government is run as per prescribed rules and procedures. There is no scope for arbitrary exercise of power in a liberal democracy as it is the constitution which guides the process of governance in the state. Accordingly, a liberal democracy is a constitutional government, meaning a government by laws and not by individuals.

- Political and legal equality is a determining principle of classical democracy. Equality before law and equal protection of law for all must be observed without any discrimination by the democratic state. There is no discrimination in a liberal state on the basis of religion, class, creed, gender, ethnicity, place of birth, status, educational qualifications, etc. The government must work for the welfare of all sections of the people.

- In liberal democracies, there exists the rule of the majority. The political party which gains majority in the election forms the government. However, the majority has to fully safeguard and respect the rights and opinions of the minorities.

- The party or parties which fails/ fail to win in the election plays/play the role of the opposition until the next election. The opposition keeps an eye on the functioning of the government and engages itself in

constructive criticism of the policies and actions of the government whenever necessary.

- Political pluralism is another feature of liberal democracy. In liberal democracies there takes place free and open competition between political ideologies, political parties, political movements and so on. Freedom of thought and expression is the hallmark of liberal democracy.

- People's consent is the agreed principle of democratic rule. Free and fair periodical election in which political parties compete to woo the voters freely is another hallmark of democracy. Political parties contest elections and propagate their political ideologies to attract the voters. The citizens vote on the basis of the promises and agenda of the political parties and whichever party/ group of parties form the government remain accountable to the mass people for fulfillment of the promises made by it/them. A liberal democratic government executes various welfare policies for the people.

- The representatives of the people in a liberal democracy remain accountable to the people and public opinion and must try to fulfill the genuine grievances of the voters. Voters also freely discuss and criticize the policies and actions of their representatives and government.

- The electorate in a liberal democracy wields the ultimate power. The ruling party is required to seek the fresh mandate of the people at regular intervals in the form of elections. The electorate accordingly exerts its power at the time of election. If the electorate is dissatisfied with the government, it can vote the government out of power at the time of election.

- Separation of power among the three organs of government-legislature, executive and judiciary- is a distinct feature of liberal democracy. According to the theory of separation of powers, the three organs of the government, i.e. the executive, the legislature and the judiciary should be separated from each other. Each organ is autonomous in its own sphere and is free from interference from the other two organs. This is

how checks and balances is maintained.

- Mass media in a liberal democracy is not controlled by the state and it is free to comment and highlight all dimensions of government actions and thus contribute to people's awareness. It is called the fourth pillar of democracy.

- In liberal democracies, different groups and associations are formed to represent the interests and demands of different sections of people. These are known as interest groups and pressure groups. These may be trade unions, religious bodies, environmental groups, professional groupings, etc. These groups exert pressure on the government in order to have their demands met.

- Liberal thinking and philosophy is nurtured in the society in a free political environment. Public opinion and public awareness about the activities of the government is an essential aspect of liberal democracy. People have the freedom of speech and can criticize policies and decisions of the government. The government does not ignore public interest and opinion.

6.3.2 Representative Government and Liberal Democracy

Representative democracy has no alternative today. Such a government is run by elected people's representatives. Representative democracies are often called liberal democracies. John Locke, Rousseau and J.S. Mill advocated for subordination of government to law (Rule of Law), granted individual rights, a judiciary with sufficient independence to act as the guardian of the law and individual rights. Only under such preconditions and in the presence of a conscious citizenry, can the representative government succeed. J.S. Mill was especially concerned for minority rights in democracy. In his book *Considerations on Representative Government* Mill justifies the excellence of popular government and the necessity of individual rights, tolerance and a liberal society for the proper functioning of democracy. He, like Rousseau, regards democracy as necessary for progress since it promotes virtue, intelligence and excellence in citizens. J.S.

Mill also considers representative democracy as capable of ensuring freedom and the right of self determination. In such a democracy, citizens, regardless of their status, are politically equal and only popular sovereignty gives legitimacy to the government. As such, J.S. Mill harmonized liberal democratic ideals with representative government.



ACTIVITY 6.1

Why is democracy regarded as the best form of government today?

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Mention the names of two European thinkers whose theories gave rise to the Liberal perspective of democracy?

……..

Q 3: Today most of the democratic states are representative democracy based on the principles of liberal democracy. (True/ False)

Q 5: Who wrote the book "Considerations on Representative Government"?

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Q 6: Mention any two characteristics of Liberal Democracy?

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6.4 MARXIST DEMOCRACY

Marxism or communism since the 19th century has emerged as both

a critique and an alternative to liberal democratic politics through the writings of Karl Marx and Engels. Marx criticized liberal democracy on the ground that its guarantee of legal and political rights amidst social and economic inequalities makes democracy a system that serves the interests of only the capitalist class. Socialist or Marxist democracy is a rule of the proletarian majority i.e. working class. This can be realized following the overthrow of the capitalist system. For the socialists, removal of class difference between the have and haves nots, abolition of private property and privileges are necessary steps to freedom, equal status and democracy. Socialist revolution by the working class leads to the overthrow of the capitalist class and raises the proletariat to the position of ruling class marking the beginning of democracy for the first time. With the abolition of the capitalist domination over economic means the exploitation, of the working class both direct and indirect, would end, and everybody would equally enjoy rights, justice and lead a dignified life. The main aim of this socialist democracy run by the working class was to abolish private property and to destroy bour geoisie (capitalist) culture and ideology. By so doing, the establishment of a classless society would be possible. With the establishment of a classless society, the state will become obsolete and it will ultimately disappear as the society will be able to govern itself without the state. This is what Marx called "withering away of the state".

In the socialist democracy, the state would be governed through a 'commune system'. Commune is an association in which members own everything in common, not in private. Small communes would manage their own affairs and would elect their delegates for larger administrative units like towns, districts up to the national level. This is described as 'pyramidal structure of direct democracy' or people's democracy. The delegates would be bound by the instructions of their electorates downwards. True democracy according to Marx meant elimination of the class structure, wage labour, money, and private property.

Marx advocated for the elimination of the basic inequalities for genuine freedom and rights for the majority. (The wor King class) The State and liberal democratic institutions are instruments of oppression or handmaid of the propertied class. V.I. Lenin also criticizes representative parliamentary

democracy as being a shell to conceal the exploitation of the working class. People are never free and sovereign in a system controlled by the bourgeoisie.

6.4.1 Characteristics of Marxist Democracy

Some of the characteristics of Marxist democracy are as follows:

- There is no special privilege for individuals based on caste, creed or status in Marxist democracy. Everybody is entitled to equal opportunity and benefits.
- The Marxian concept of democracy is not only anti-class but also anti-state. According to Marx, a popular revolution is required to bring about the desired social order. The centralised bureaucratic state run by a group of professional politicians will be destroyed. Professional army, police and professional officials and judges will cease to exist. Marx was in favour of complete democratisation of executive power at all levels. In the legislative sphere, people will directly vote on important legislative matters by referendum. Elections to the representative assembly shall also be held. The judiciary shall also be an elective one.
- Election for the legislature and executive are held periodically, but multi party system is not allowed to operate in Marxist democracy. The only political party is the communist party which acts as the vanguard of people's interests. As such there is no opposition too.
- Marxist democracy does not believe in separation of powers between legislature, executive and judiciary. There is close relationship and cooperation among the three organs of government.
- In Marxist democracy people enjoy fundamental rights and freedom without any discrimination. But individuals must uphold social interests while enjoying liberty. Duty to fellow citizens, society and State is always given preference in Marxist democracy.
- Individual right to freedom of speech and expression is limited in Marxist democracy. Individuals and media have no right to criticize

government actions and policies as the latter are taken in the larger interest of the people.

- The State regulates society and economy. Hence individuals have no distinct identity and they form an integral part of the social whole.

6.4.2 Communist One Party Model

Vladimir Lenin introduced in Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution the communist one party model of democracy. Later it spread to other countries like China, Cuba, Venezuela, Vietnam and many nation states of East Europe. One party communist rule is called "Dictatorship of the Proletariat". The Communist party rule is necessary for gradual transformation of the feudal and capitalist society. Marx believed that State will wither away when Communism is established after the proletariat revolution; when there will be no class division, no inequality, no insecurity, no poverty and no need of law and prison to regulate people and there will be no need of a state also. However when it was found that revolutionary overthrow of capitalism was not possible and capitalism did not collapse as predicted by Marx, Lenin evolved the idea of vanguard political party (in the form of the Communist Party) to educate the masses and prepare for socialist revolution and establishment of Communism. In the communist model of democracy decisions are taken by the leaders.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 5: The main aim of this socialist democracy run by the working class was to abolish private property and to destroy bourgeois culture and ideology. (True/False)

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Q 6: Mention two features of Marxist Democracy.

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Q 7: What is "withering away of the state"?

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Q 8: Who introduced in Russia the communist one party model ?

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6.5 COMPARISON BETWEEN LIBERAL DEMOCRACY AND MARXIST DEMOCRACY

Liberal democracy and Marxist democracy stem from two antagonistic political ideologies-Liberalism and Socialism. There are basic differences between the two. These are cited below:

- Liberal democracy emphasizes individual liberty and limited state, whereas Marxist democracy advocates for communism and the State is allowed to exercise control over society and individuals. Individual liberty is subordinate to the larger social interest in Marxist democracy.

- Multiparty system and alteration of Poltical power among the parties is the hallmark of liberal democracy while Marxist democracy is a one party system. The Communist party rules forever. There is no opposition in such a political system.

- Liberal democracy protects private property. But Marxist democracy wants to eradicate private property because it widens the gap between the rich and the poor.

- Liberal democracy looks for uplifting the conditions of all sections and classes of citizens. On the other hand, Marxist democracy gives more importance to the labour and working class. This type of democracy wishes to eradicate the propertied class and create an egalitarian society.

- Liberal democracy nurses capitalism and free market economy. Liberal democracy recognizes private business. The State in liberal democracies ensures security and creates condition for private enterprise. But Marxist democracy is opposed to capitalism. Marxist democracy allows the State to exercise control over the means of production and private enterprise is not allowed in Marxist democracy.

- Liberal democracy has faith upon constitutional and parliamentary system. It preaches peaceful evolutionary social transformation but Marxist democracy wants to usher in a new society through revolution.
- Marxist democracy rejects the separation of power theory, whereas Liberal democracy is based upon the concept of separation of power. All the three organs of government-legislature, executive and judiciary enjoy autonomy in their respective spheres in liberal democracy.
- Freedom of speech and independence of mass media are special features of liberal democracy. Goverment policies can be openly critised by the mass media in tiberal democracies. But in Marxist democracy freedom of speech is limited and mass media is also controlled by the state.

6.5.1 Democracy in the Developing World

The developing nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America which got independence from the yoke of colonial rule in 20th century follow a new model of democracy. The prominent countries of the developing world like India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil and others have adopted a blend of socialist and liberal democracies. These nations vow to protect individual rights through a constitution while upholding social and economic equality at the same time. The poltical system of the above mentioned developing world are marked by social and economic disparities. Accordingly, for the purpose of national security and development, a strong and centralized state authority exists in these democracies aimed at reconciling social justice with individual freedom. Accordingly, these countries have provided a mixed model of democracy containing elements of both liberal democracy (such as political and civil liberties, parliamentary government, etc.) and socialist democracy (such as nationalization of certain industries, ceiling on land holdings, etc.).



ACTIVITY 6.2

Try to make a list of a few Liberal democratic states and Socialist democratic states of the world today.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 9: Write two differences between Liberal and Marxist concepts of democracy.

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Q 10: Mention the names of any two countries of the developing world that have adopted a blend of socialist and liberal democracies.

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6.6 LET US SUM UP

- Democracy is a form of government and a way of life where people are the source of power. They themselves choose or elect their rulers and rulers are accountable to people.
- Today indirect or representative democracy is more convenient for populous and big nation states.
- Liberal perspective of democracy has its roots in the theories of John Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Jeremy Bentham, J.S.Mill etc
- People's consent for governance, individual rights, Rule of law, responsible government, public opinion and people's participation in

free and fair election, independent mass media are crucial elements of liberal democracy.

- Both representative democracy and liberal democracy are used interchangeably now a days. The concept of representative democracy was developed by J.S.Mill.
- The writings of Karl Marx and Engels are the basis of Marxist perspective on democracy. The Marxists criticize liberal democracy as a farce as it grants civil and political rights amidst social and economic inequality.
- According to the Marxists, true democracy is possible only in the classless communist society where majority working class will be the ruling class and there will be no inequality.
- Vladimir Lenin introduced in Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution the communist one party model of democracy
- The motto of socialist democracy is abolition of feudal social system and establishment of rule of the people.
- There are basic differences between Liberal and Marxist perspectives on democracy. These perspectives represent two antagonistic political ideologies-Liberalism and Socialism.



6.7 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). Political Theory-Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

6.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: John Locke and Rousseau

Ans to Q No 2: True

Ans to Q No 3: J.S.Mill

Ans to Q No 4 :

i) Political and legal equality is a determining principle of classical democracy. Equality before law and equal protection of law for all must be observed without any discrimination by the democratic state. There is no discrimination in a liberal state on the basis of religion, class, creed, gender, ethnicity, place of birth, status, educational qualifications, etc. The government must work for the welfare of all sections of the people.

ii) Political pluralism is another feature of liberal democracy. In liberal democracies there takes place free and open competition between political ideologies, political parties, political movements and so on. Freedom of thought and expression is the hallmark of liberal democracy.

Ans to Q No 5 : True

Ans to Q No 6 :

(i) Election for the legislature and executive are held periodically, but multi party system is not allowed to operate in Marxist democracy. The only political party is the communist party which acts as the vanguard of people's interests. As such there is no opposition too.

(ii) Marxist democracy does not believe in separation of powers among legislature, executive and judiciary. There is close relationship and cooperation among the three organs of government.

Ans to Q No 7 : With the establishment of a classless society, the state will become obsolete and it will ultimately disappear as the society will be able to govern itself without the state. This is what Marx called "withering away of the state".

Ans to Q No 8 : Vladimir Lenin

Ans to Q No 9 :

(i) Liberal democracy emphasizes individual liberty and limited state, whereas Marxist democracy advocates for communism and the State is allowed to exercise control over society and individuals. Individual liberty is subordinate to the larger social interest in Marxist democracy.

(ii) Multiparty system is the hallmark of liberal democracy while Marxist democracy is a one party system. The Communist party rules forever. There is no opposition in such a political system.

Ans to Q No 10 : India and South Africa



6.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: Who harmonized Liberal democratic ideals with representative government?

Q 2: According to Marx, the socialist society would be run by which class?

Q 3: The countries of the developing world have provided what model of democracy?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Write four characteristics of Liberal democracy.

Q 2: Explain the commune system in a Marxist socialist democracy.

Q 3: Explain the model of democracy adopted by countries of the developing world.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Discuss the meaning and characteristics of liberal democracy.

Q 2: Discuss the meaning and characteristics of Marxist democracy.

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UNIT 7 : ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT

UNIT STRUCTURE

7.1 Learning Objectives

7.2 Introduction

7.3 The Executive

7.3.1 Meaning of the Executive

7.3.2 Types of Executive

7.3.3 Functions of the Executive

7.4 The Legislature

7.4.1 Meaning of the Legislature

7.4.2 Types of Legislature

7.4.3 Functions of the Legislature

7.5 The Judiciary

7.5.1 Meaning of the Judiciary

7.5.2 Independence of the Judiciary

7.5.3 Functions of the Judiciary

7.6 Montesquieu's Theory of Separation of Powers

7.7 Let Us Sum Up

7.8 Further Reading

7.9 Answers to Check Your Progress

7.10 Model Questions

7.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the meaning of the Executive

- discuss the types of Executive
- discuss the functions of the Executive
- explain the meaning of the Legislature
- discuss the types of Legislature
- discuss the functions of the Legislature

7.2 INTRODUCTION

A government is the machinery through which the state is run. The government has to perform these functions in the interest of the collective welfare of the people of the state. The three main types of functions that a government performs are- the legislative, the executive and the judicial. The executive function means implementing the laws and policies of the state, legislative function means making of laws for the state, and judicial function means interpreting the laws while judging various cases. In a modern democratic state, these three types of functions are performed by three separate organs, namely the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. All these organs are to perform their respective duties so that the government could function properly. At the same time there should be a separation of powers between all the three organs in order to prevent concentration of powers in one single organ and facilitate enjoyment of liberty.

7.3 THE EXECUTIVE

7.3.1 Meaning of the Executive

The executive is one of the important organs of the government. The executive is the main decision making body of a state and is responsible for the implementation of the laws and policies of the state. Without the executive, the effects of the laws cannot be realised by the society. The executive includes both the political executive (the President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, etc.) and the non-political executive (the bureaucracy and the officials engaged in administration). The executive is the centre around which the entire administration of the state revolves.

The executive can be understood in both the broad and narrow sense. In the broader sense, the executive includes the totality of all the functionaries who are involved in the execution of the policies and laws made by the legislature. It includes the top to bottom ranges of functionaries who are executing the laws and policies for the administration of the state. In the narrow sense, the executive means the head of the state, his ministers, advisers and the departmental heads.

7.3.2 Types of Executive

The executive can be of different types, such as, real and nominal, single and plural, hereditary and elected or nominated, political and non-political, parliamentary and presidential.

- **Real Executive and Nominal Executive**

A real executive is an executive who exercises power in the real sense in policy making and governance of the country. On the other hand, a nominal executive is one who exercises power only in name and act as per the advice of the real executive. The power of the nominal executive is exercised by some other authority constituting the real executive. In India the President is the nominal executive and the Union Council of Ministers is the real executive. Whereas in Britain the Queen or the King is the nominal executive and the Cabinet is the real executive.

- **Single Executive and Plural Executive**

A single executive is one in which only a single individual exercises the executive power. One important thing to be mentioned here that in case of a single executive, the power may be vested on one or several individuals, but the power is exercised in a collective capacity as one single unit. On the other hand, in case of a plural executive, the executive power is exercised by more than one individual. The difference between these two types of executive is not on the basis of number, but on the basis of responsibility. Countries like India, USA, Britain, and France have a single executive organ. Switzerland has a plural executive.

- **Hereditary Executive, Elected Executive and Nominated Executive**

A hereditary executive is one wherein the executive power is assumed through inheritance. An elected executive is one who is elected by the people directly or indirectly for a definite time. The King or the Queen of Britain represents a hereditary executive. The Presidents of India and the USA are elected executives. On the other hand, nominated executive is one who is nominated in a different country, for example the Viceroy and Governor General in British India were nominated by the British Government.

- **Political Executive**

The political executive is elected by the people to exercise executive power for a definite term. They generally come from political parties and are also known as temporary executive. According to the result of the election the political executive changes from time to time. A non-political executive consists of the civil servants who are recruited through open competitive examinations on the basis of qualifications and merit. They hold office for a definite tenure. They are called permanent executive since they continue to function in office till the age of their retirement irrespective of rise or fall of the political executive. In India the President and the Council of Ministers are the political executive and the bureaucrats are the non-political or permanent executive.

- **Parliamentary Executive and Presidential Executive**

A parliamentary executive is chosen from among the directly elected representatives of the people and remains also to the legislature. The parliamentary executive continues to remain in office as long as it has the majority support or confidence of the legislature. A presidential or a non-parliamentary executive is chosen by the people directly and remains responsible to the people. It works independently of the legislature. India and Britain have parliamentary executive while the

executive of USA is an example of presidential or a non-parliamentary executive.

7.3.3 Functions of the Executive

The functions of the executive can be mentioned as follows:

- The main function of the executive is to execute the laws and policies. The execution of the laws and policies is very important for the proper administration of the state. The executive is also responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the state. The executive has to ensure the smooth functioning of the governmental machinery. Accordingly, it is responsible for appointment, direction, transfer and removal of officers and issues instructions and orders.
- The executive makes important appointments in various departments of the government. It also prepares the rules and regulations regarding appointments, retirements, transfer and other service conditions of the employees of the departments.
- The executive has to perform some legislative functions. Sometimes it has to make certain bye-laws and rules. It can also issue an ordinance. The executive in a parliamentary government summons, prorogues and dissolves the legislature.
- The executive is also entrusted with certain financial functions. It prepares the budget and places it in the legislature. It has to get the budget passed in the legislature. The executive collects taxes and uses them for the welfare of the nation.
- The executive has to maintain foreign relations. It has to prepare foreign policy and take measures for maintaining good relations with countries of the world. It appoints diplomatic officials to be sent to foreign countries and concludes treaties and agreements with other countries. The executive has to take decisions on war and peace.
- The executive is not only responsible for maintaining internal peace but also to defend the country from foreign aggression. For that purpose it

has to keep a well-equipped and sufficiently strong army, navy and air-force which can meet any eventualities.

The sphere of the executive has also extended to the legislative field by way of growth of the principle of delegated legislation. The legislature is burdened with increasing workload. At the same time, laws are becoming increasingly complex. Accordingly, the legislature is resorting to the practice of passing bills only in their skeletal framework. Now it is the executive which supplements the law by issuing the detailed rules and regulations or orders-in-council in pursuance of the law passed by the legislature. This is what is known as delegated legislation.

- The executive has the power to make judicial appointments. It is also vested with the power of prerogative of mercy and grants pardon and reprieve.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1 : What is the difference between single executive and plural executive?

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Q.2 : Discuss any two functions of the executive.

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7.4 THE LEGISLATURE

7.4.1 Meaning of the Legislature

One of the important organs of the government is the legislature. This organ is responsible for the making of laws. Laws are very essential

for running a state. Legislature is also known as 'parliament'. The literal meaning of parliament is a body of persons assembled for discussion. In a democratic state, legislature works as a platform for discussing various significant issues of the state by the representatives of the people. On the basis of the discussions and deliberations in the legislature, laws are made whenever necessary.

7.4.2 Types of Legislature

Legislatures are of two kinds- unicameral and bi-cameral. A unicameral legislature is one which has only one chamber or house in it. An example of unicameral legislature is the Chinese legislature. The Chinese legislature is known as National People's Congress. On the other hand, a bi-cameral legislature is one which has two chambers or houses in it. Of the two chambers one is called the first chamber and the other is called the second chamber. The legislature of India is an example of a bi-cameral legislature. The Indian Parliament has two houses- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

7.4.3 Functions of the Legislature

The foremost function of the legislature is to legislate, that is, to make laws for the country. Besides this, it has to perform some other functions also. The functions of the legislature can be discussed in the following way.

- The legislature makes laws for the welfare of the people. Sometimes it has to reform or modify some old laws as per the demands of changing time and the requirements of the society. It has to make new laws to meet new needs of the society.

- The legislature in a parliamentary form of government has the responsibility to monitor and control the executive. It has to see whether the executive is working properly or not. In a parliamentary form of government, the executive is responsible for all its work to the legislature and the legislature can pose questions to the executive, move a resolution and even pass a no confidence motion against the executive.

- The legislature has important financial functions. It has to pass the budget of the government. Without the approval of the legislature, the executive can spend no money at all. The legislature also decides upon the rate of revenue or tax. In a democratic country no tax can be levied or expenditure authorised without the proper approval of the legislature.

- In some states, the legislature performs some judicial functions also. It can remove the higher officials of the judiciary by passing a resolution against them. The impeachment of executive in several countries is also made by the legislature. In India both houses of the Parliament can introduce a charge for the impeachment of the President. In USA the Senate sits as the court of impeachment for the trial of the President and Vice-President. Again in Britain, the House of Lords acted as the highest court of appeal until the establishment of Supreme Court in October 2009.

- The legislature has some constitutional functions as well. A legislature also bears the responsibility of amending the constitution from time to time.

- The legislature has to perform some electoral functions also. The legislature usually elects its own officials. Besides this, it also elects some high executive officials. For example, in India the President and Vice president are elected by both the houses of the Parliament.

- Legislature also works as an organ of inquires. The legislature often appoints various Commissions and Committees for inquiring various issues in different departments.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.3 : What are the two kinds of legislature?

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Q.4 : What do you mean by bi-cameral legislature? (within 75 words)

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7.5 THE JUDICIARY

7.5.1 Meaning of the Judiciary

Another important organ of the government is the judiciary. It is that branch of the government which is responsible for the interpretation of the laws made by the legislature to decide and adjudicate cases. It is responsible for settling civil and criminal disputes and providing justice in the society. In a federal form of government, the judiciary acts as the guardian of the constitution and settles disputes between the federal government and state governments. The judiciary also plays a very important role in protecting the rights and liberties of the people. It protects rights and liberties of individual from all possible public and private encroachments and violations. The judiciary issues writs and orders for the enforcement of people's fundamental rights.

7.5.2 Independence of the Judiciary

For the success of democracy an independent and impartial judiciary is necessary. There are many means to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

For maintaining the independence of the judiciary the judges are to be appointed by the executive on the basis of qualification. Only well-qualified, meritorious, efficient persons with high integrity should be appointed as judges.

The removal procedure of the judges should not be easy, so that they can perform their duties independently. They should be given security of tenure as long as their behaviour conforms to the norms prescribed

by the constitution.

The judges should be paid fixed and adequate salary and emoluments, including retirement benefits to ensure their financial satisfaction. Further, judges should be kept above criticism in matters of performance of their duties.

Besides, all the mentioned provisions one most important way of securing independent of judiciary is to ensure separation of judiciary from the executive. There should be separation of judicial functions from executive functions.

7.5.3 Functions of the Judiciary

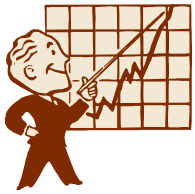
The functions of judiciary can be discussed as follows:

- The main function of the judiciary is to provide justice to the people according to the law. The judiciary hears appeals in constitutional, civil and criminal cases. It settles disputes between individuals, between the state and individuals and provides justice to the people or parties concerned.
- Another important function of the judiciary is to interpret laws to decide cases. The judges determine the precise meaning of the laws in trying cases and settling disputes.
- The judiciary not only interprets the laws made by the legislature but sometimes it has to make new laws also when there is no existing laws to decide certain new cases. These judge made laws can be used in future in similar cases.
- The judiciary protects the rights and liberties of the people. It has been given the power to protect the law-abiding people and punish the law violators. When the rights are violated people can approach the courts of law for their protection.
- The judiciary also acts as the custodian of the constitution. Neither the legislature nor the executive can violate the provisions of the constitution. If any violation of any provision of the constitution occurs

then the judiciary can declare it as unconstitutional. This power of the judiciary is known as the power of judicial review.

- Sometimes the judiciary has to advise the executive on legal matters. The executive on some important legal issues can seek the advice of the judiciary. However, it is the up to the executive whether to accept such advice or not.

- The judiciary also performs some executive functions. The court can appoint the guardian of a minor and receivers to manage properties in disputes between individuals or corporations, grant licenses and register marriages.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 5: Mention any two means to ensure independence of the judiciary.

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Q. 6: Mention any two functions of the judiciary.

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7.6 MONTESQUIEU'S THEORY OF SEPARATION OF POWERS

The theory of separation of powers is an important theory in Political Science. According to the theory of separation of powers, the functions of government should be differentiated and there should be distinct organs to perform the different functions. Each organ should be independent in its own sphere of action and no organ should encroach upon the sphere of the other organs.

It is a theory of functional division of powers between the three organs of the government. The French writer Montesquieu is called the father of

this theory. He discussed this theory in his book *The Spirit of the Laws (1748)*.

According to the theory of separation of powers, the three organs of the government, i.e. the executive, the legislature and the judiciary should be separated from each other. The government has to perform three types of functions and these functions should be given to three separate organs. The advocates of this theory believe that if all three functions are performed by one individual or only one organ then there will be misuse of power. Then the government will become all powerful and rights of the people may be violated. Again, one individual or one organ may not be able to perform all the legislative, executive, and judicial functions efficiently and properly. Thus in order to have a good government the three functions must be separated and the executive, legislative and judicial functions must be performed separately by three separate organs. In the process, one organ operates as a balance against the other and there will be a check on power.

- **Basic Principles of the Theory of Separation of Powers**

The theory of separation of powers has certain basic principles which are:

- Power should not be concentrated in the hands of one person or one organ, rather it should be vested in separate persons or organs of the government.
- Through division of powers and functions, concentration of power can be prevented. According to this theory, each person or organ of the government must be assigned its own functions and powers. Accordingly each organ of the government remains confined to its only designated sphere of functioning and does not trespass into the sphere of the other organ or organs.
- Although under the theory of separation of powers, each organ of the government can function independently in its own sphere, yet a significant feature of the theory is the principle of check and balance. Check and balance principle implies that each organ of the government wields a limited degree of control over the other organs. Through this principle every organ of the government can put a check on the other

organs so that no organ can become too powerful and go beyond its allotted jurisdiction. For instance, in India, through the power of judicial review, the Supreme Court and High Courts can examine the constitutional validity of any law passed by the parliament or any executive order.

- **Criticisms against the Theory of Separation of Powers**

However, there are certain criticisms against this theory. These criticisms are:

- Firstly, it is not possible to keep the three organs of the government completely separate. Because they are the parts of the same system and if they remain separated then the whole system will fail.
- Secondly, without any co-operation and co-ordination between them, it will be very difficult for the three organs to perform their respective functions also. There will be deadlock between them. The three organs of the government must cooperate with one another and work harmoniously for efficient performance of the government.
- Thirdly, it is also wrong on the part the advocates of this theory to assume that all the organs can have same amount of power. On the other hand, in most of the states, the legislature is made more powerful than the executive and the judiciary.
- Again, it is also incorrect to say that for the enjoyment of liberty, powers of the government should be separated. Without the separation of power, people can enjoy liberty if granted by the constitution of the state.

Though, the theory of separation of powers has its criticism yet the theory of separation of powers must be appreciated for its concern for upholding importance of the liberty of the people and good government. This theory wants to achieve three main objectives- (a) specialization in administration, (b) good governance, and (c) protection of individual liberty.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.7 : Who is called the father of the theory of Separation of Powers?

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Q.8 : Mention any two principles of the theory of Separation of Powers?

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7.7 LET US SUM UP

- The executive is one of the important organs of the government. The executive is the main decision making body of a state and is responsible for the implementation of the laws and policies of the state. Without the executive, the effects of the laws cannot be realised by the society.
- The executive can be understood in both the broad and narrow sense. In the broader sense, the executive includes the totality of all the functionaries who are involved in the execution of the policies and laws made by the legislature. In the narrow sense, the executive means the head of the state, his ministers, advisers and the departmental heads.
- The executive can be of different types, such as, real and nominal, single and plural, hereditary and elected or nominated, political and

non-political, parliamentary and presidential.

- The executive performs several functions including, execution of the laws and policies., making important appointments in various departments of the government, making certain bye-laws and rules, preparing the budget and placing it in the legislature, maintaining foreign relations, etc.
- One of the important organs of the government is the legislature. This organ is responsible for the making of laws. Laws are very essential for running a state.
- Legislatures are of two kinds- unicameral and bi-cameral.
- The foremost function of the legislature is to legislate, that is, to make laws for the country.
- The legislature has the responsibility to monitor and control the executive.
- The legislature has important financial functions. It has to pass the budget of the government.
- In some states, the legislature performs some judicial functions also. It can remove the higher officials of the judiciary by passing a resolution against them.
- nother important organ of the government is the judiciary. It is that branch of the government which is responsible for the interpretation of the laws made by the legislature to decide and adjudicate cases. It is responsible for settling civil and criminal disputes and providing justice in the society.
- In a federal form of government, the judiciary acts as the guardian of the constitution and settles disputes between the federal government and state governments.
- The judiciary also plays a very important role in protecting the rights and liberties of the people. It protects rights and liberties of individual

from all possible public and private encroachments and violations. The judiciary issues writs and orders for the enforcement of people's fundamental rights.

- For the success of democracy an independent and impartial judiciary is necessary. There are many means to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

- The main function of the judiciary is to provide justice to the people according to the law. The judiciary hears appeals in constitutional, civil and criminal cases. It settles disputes between individuals, between the state and individuals and provides justice to the people or parties concerned.

- The judiciary also acts as the custodian of the constitution. Neither the legislature nor the executive can violate the provisions of the constitution. If any violation of any provision of the constitution occurs then the judiciary can declare it as unconstitutional. This power of the judiciary is known as the power of judicial review.

- The theory of separation of powers is an important theory in Political Science. According to the theory of separation of powers, the functions of government should be differentiated and there should be distinct organs consisting of different bodies of persons to perform the different functions. Each organ should be independent in its own sphere of action and no organ should encroach upon the sphere of the other organs.

- It is a theory of functional division of powers between the three organs of the government. The French writer Montesquieu is called the father of this theory. He discussed this theory in his book "The Spirit of the Laws" (1748).

- According to the theory of separation of powers, the three organs of the government, i.e. the executive, the legislature and the judiciary should be separated from each other. The government has to perform

three types of functions and these functions should be given to three separate organs. The advocates of this theory believe that if all three functions are performed by one individual or only one organ then there will be misuse of power.

- In order to have a good government the three functions must be separated and the executive, legislative and judicial functions must be performed separately by three separate organs.



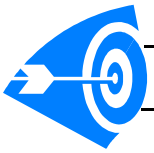
7.8 FURTHER READING

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2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



7.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1 : A single executive is one in which only a single individual exercises the executive power. One important thing to be mentioned here that in case of a single executive, the power may be vested on one or several individuals, but the power is exercised in a collective capacity as one single unit. On the other hand, in case of a plural executive, the executive power is exercised by more than one individual. The difference between these two types of executive is not on the basis of number, but on the basis of responsibility. Countries like India, USA, Britain, and France

have a single executive organ. Switzerland has a plural executive.

Ans. to Q. No. 2 :

(i) The main function of the executive is to execute the laws and policies. The execution of the laws and policies is very important for the proper administration of the state. The executive is also responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the state. The executive has to ensure the smooth functioning of the governmental machinery. Accordingly, it is responsible for appointment, direction, transfer and removal of officers and issues instructions and orders.

(ii) The executive makes important appointments in various departments of the government. It also prepares the rules and regulations regarding appointments, retirements, transfer and other service conditions of the employees of the departments.

Ans. to Q. No. 3 : Unicameral and Bi-cameral.

Ans. to Q. No. 4 : A bi-cameral legislature is one which has two chambers or houses in it. Of the two chambers one is called the first chamber and the other is called the second chamber. The legislature of India is an example of a bi-cameral legislature. The Indian Parliament has two houses- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Ans. to Q. No. 5 :

(i) For maintaining the independence of the judiciary the judges are to be appointed by the executive on the basis of qualification. Only well-qualified, meritorious, efficient persons with high integrity should be appointed as judges.

(ii) The removal procedure of the judges should not be easy, so that they can perform their duties independently. They should be given security of tenure as long as their behaviour conforms to the norms prescribed by the constitution.

Ans. to Q. No. 6 :

(i) The main function of the judiciary is to provide justice to the people according to the law. The judiciary hears appeals in constitutional, civil and criminal cases. It settles disputes between individuals, between the state and individuals and provides justice to the people or parties concerned.

(ii) Another important function of the judiciary is to interpret laws to decide cases. The judges determine the precise meaning of the laws in trying cases and settling disputes.

Ans. to Q. No. 7 : Montesquieu

Ans. to Q. No. 8 :

(i) Power should not be concentrated in the hands of one person or one organ, rather it should be vested in separate persons or organs of the government.

(iii) Through division of powers and functions, concentration of power can be prevented. According to this theory, each person or organ of the government must be assigned its own functions and powers. Accordingly each organ of the government remains confined to its only designated sphere of functioning and does not trespass into the sphere of the other organ or organs.



7.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q.1 : What are the three important organs of the government?

Q.2 : What is meant by nominated executive ?

Q.3 : Mention the three main objectives of the theory of Separation of Powers.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q.1 : Write briefly about (a)Political executive and Non-Political executive (b) Parliamentary and Presidential executive

Q.2 : Write briefly about the means through which the independence of the judiciary can be ensured.

Q.3 : Write a short note on the basic principles of the theory of Separation of Powers.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q.1 : Discuss the theory of Separation of Powers. What are the criticisms against the theory of Separation of Powers.

Q.2 : Discuss the functions of the legislature.

Q.3 : Discuss the functions of the executive.

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