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The Scientific Tradition

Science of politics peaked in the 1950s and 1960s with the emergence, most strongly in the USA, of a form of political analysis that drew heavily upon behaviourism. For the first time, this gave politics reliably scientific credentials, because it provided what had previously been lacking; objective and quantifiable data against which hypotheses could be tested. However

The scientific credentials of behaviourism is objective and reliable is the claim that it is 'value free'

Behaviouralism, however, came under growing pressure from the 1960s onwards. In the first place, it was claimed that behaviourism had significantly ~~constructed~~ constrained the scope of political analysis preventing it from going beyond what was directly observable.