

Introduction to Comparative Politics

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Introduction

- The theme of comparative politics fundamentally establishes the growing perspective of political science.
- It has acted as a significant discipline with adding up new methodologies, definitions and new research methods.

Definition and Meaning

- Freeman, “Comparative politics is comparative analysis of the various forms of government and diverse political institutions.”
- Braibante says comparative politics is “identification and interpretation of factors in the whole social order which appears to affect whatever political functions and their institutions which have been identified and listed for comparison.”

- In the arena of comparative politics, the term 'politics' has three implications—
- 1-political activity
- 2-political process
- 3- Political power.

Different stages of development-

- First Stage
- 1-Aristotle, Machiavelli, de Tocqueville, Bryce, Ostrogorski and Weber
- 2-They developed the comparative method for the key purpose of understanding the working of the political organisations.

- Second Stage
- 1-Samuel H. Beer, M. Hass, Bernard Ulam and Roy C. Macridis
- 2-They studied politics by using comparative method plus a respectable quantity of self-consciousness and also a measured disposition to present a more valuable study of different political institutions.

- Third Stage
- 1-David Easton, Gabriel A. Almond, James C. Coleman, Karl Deutsch, G.B. Powell, Harold Lasswell, Robert A. Dahl, Edward Shils, Harry Eckstein, David Apter, Lucian W. Pye, Sidney Verba, Myron Weiner
- 2-It may be defined as the mark of a gradually cultured phase in the growth of comparative politics.

The main characteristics of the subject

- 1-Analytical and Empirical Investigation
- 2-Study of the Infrastructure
- 3-Emphasis on the Study of Developing Societies
- 4-Focus on Inter-Disciplinary Approach
- 5-Value-Free Political Theory

Problems in Study of Comparative Politics

- 1-Difficulty in collecting information
- 2-Difficulty faced due to the background variables
- 3-Problems as a result of the role of norms, institutions and governmental behaviour

References-

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