

New Approaches to the Study of Government and Politics

the state for any given time. For example, we may regard the Indian people as one such political community.

The administration consists of Indian constitutional foundations, basic values of

the politico-economic system, political parties, periodic elections and other institutions

that are allied with the Indian system of government. The ruling elite in New Delhi consists of major political authorities. The general systems theory provides a broad

structure for the examination of politics. It provides the theoretical equipment for both, looking at political phenomenon on a macro-level and the setting in which micro-analysis

can be carried out. It keeps us conscious of the broad implications of political acts and

institutions and of the relation between events. It provides a large-scale map of the

political world, a new pattern for the discipline.

In the general systems structure, there are certain fundamental concepts that

may be divided into three categories. Some concepts are primarily explanatory, as for

example, those distinguishing between open and closed systems, organismic and non-

organismic systems, such hierarchical levels as subsystems, orders of

interaction and

scale effects, such organizational aspects as integration, differentiation, interdependence

and centralization and also such terms as boundaries, inputs and outputs dealing with

interaction of systems with their environments. Some concepts focus on factors that

control and maintain systems. In this connection, the concepts of stability, equilibrium

and homeostasis are introduced. Lastly, there are concepts that focus on dynamics or

change, both disruptive and non-disruptive. Here, the notions of adaptation, learning and

growth, disruption, dissolution and breakdown, systemic crisis, stress and strain, overload

or decay, are introduced and utilized.

The general systems theory appears to be striking from the point of view of

empirical research. It gives us an excellent opportunity for fusing micro analytical studies

with macro analytical ones. The notions developed by this theory opens up new questions