

Decision-Making Theories

Decision-making in certain respects is the least successful of all new approaches to the study of government and politics. Politics is a process of allocating values through the making of decisions. Process refers to the sum of techniques, methods, procedures and strategies by which a given decision is made. A political system is a mechanism for decision-making. The efficiency of a political system can be measured in terms of its ability to make decisions that are widely accepted. The interplay between social configuration, ideology and governmental organs constitute the dynamics of politics, the making of decisions.

Marxist Methodology for the Study of Comparative Government and Politics

In spite of claims by some political scientists that the field of comparative politics has experienced swift progression, no effort has been made towards the construction of sophisticated empirical models. There is no doubt that the sub-discipline is still seeking the right methodological direction and theoretical orientation. Systems analysis and structural-functionalism, along with other approaches, have been found to have fallen short of satisfactory methodological orientations and requirements. The primary questions are: To what extent does Marxism provide a scientific methodology? Can we use it in the field of comparative politics? Roughly speaking, the whole doctrine of Marxism is based on dialectical and

historical materialism. Based on the three laws of dialectics— the law of transformation of quality into quantity and vice versa, the law of negation, and the law of the union of opposites— Marx identifies the following general pattern of social phenomena: their interdependence, their movement and development, positive interconnection between opposite forces and intrinsic disagreements within the social process. To him, ' the mode of production in material life determines the general character of social, political and intellectual processes of life. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence; it is their social existence that determines their consciousness.'