

Marxist Methodology for the Study of Comparative Government and Politics

remains either unclear or vague. But, on the basis of Marxian analysis, you can argue that common factors in the world are settled on by the world's economic order.

In comparing Third World countries, one should start from the existing world economic order and the production relations in the societies that are being compared. Finally, by using what Warner describes in Marx's method as 'the method of specification by comparison', you can understand the conditions for the appearance of a particular historical configuration or to emphasize the features of that configuration.

Therefore, to summarize, the Marxist framework is far better adapted to analyse different systems in terms of historical development of various social structures and their interrelationships, and particularly to tackle the problems of instability and change.

Marxist analysis provides a general framework within which one can search for historic process laws about particular structures that are applicable to limited and concrete situations. But one should remember that 'completeness of method, however, does not necessarily mean that one can find in Marx, everything in every specific context. Instead, these can come to light only through long, patient research, conducted on the basis of the Marxist method, which brings out the global, historical sense of a social evolution.' Again, all philosophers are the product of their own times and Marx was no exception. There were certain 20th century developments, which Marx could not visualize in his 19th century background.

This did not mean that he had been disproved or was ignorant. He himself said, 'Like all other laws, it is modified in its actual working by numerous conditions.'

SUMMARY

Comparative politics is a field of political science characterized by an empirical approach based on the comparative method. The study of comparative politics depends on conscious comparisons in the field of political experience, behaviour and processes.

One of the most important challenges in political science was to develop a broadly applicable theory of the political system. This theory was developed by David Easton.

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For a clear output, the study of comparative politics depends on conscious comparisons in the study of political experience, institutions and behaviour.

The study of governments is a significant part of the study of politics. The structure and behaviour of government makes an exciting and challenging area of concern for the students of political science.

The nature of comparative politics seeks to analyse and compare different political systems that work under different societies. It takes into account the following

associations of politics:

- Political activity
- Political process
- Political power

Political activity deals with the activities involved in the resolution of conflict or in the struggle for power.

Although the terms 'comparative politics' and 'comparative government' are usually used loosely and interchangeably, there still lies a point of difference between the two.

While comparative government deals with an extensive study of different political systems with special emphasis on their institutions and functions,

comparative politics has a much broader scope. It covers all that which comes under the study of the latter, along with the study of non-state politics. Hence, comparative politics covers a much wider area in the study of politics.

The study of contemporary comparative politics is characterized by the following features:

- Analytical research
- Objective study of political science
- Study of infrastructures
- Study of developing and developed societies

The traditional approach to the study of comparative government emerged as a response to the historicism of the 19th century. It stressed the historical examination of Western political institutions from the earliest to the modern times.

Under the influence of the behavioural reform, the institutional mode of analysis has been restored by the process mode. Behaviourists study the behaviour of people and groups rather than the structure, institutions, ideologies or events.

The outputs of a political system are authoritative decisions and actions of the political authorities for the distribution and division of values.

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 Marxist framework is far better adapted to analyse different systems in terms of historical development of various social structures and their interrelationships, and particularly to tackle the problems of instability and change.

Marxist analysis provides a general framework within which one can search for historic process laws about particular structures that are applicable to limited and concrete situations.