

Behaviouralism in political science was systematically developed only after the Second World War. The behaviouralism had its philosophical origins in the writings

of Auguste Comte in the nineteenth century and in the logical positivism of the

Vienna Circle in the 1920s. However, behaviouralism did not accept all the philosophical arguments of the positivists. The contribution of American political

scientists in this regard was quite significant. Some of the works of these American

political scientists is worth mentioning here, such as *The Impact on Political Science*

of the Revolution in the Behavioural Sciences (1955), *The Behavioural Approach*

in Political Science: Epitaph for a Monument to a Successful Protest by Robert

Dahl which was published in the *American Political Science Review* in 1961, *The*

*Impact of the Behavioural Approach on Traditional Political Science* (1962) by

Evron M. Krikpatrick, *The Correct Meaning of Behaviouralism in Political Science* (1967) by David Easton and Heinz Eulau's article on 'Political Behaviour'

in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Science*, which was published in

1968. It can be said that behaviouralism stood for a shift of focus in the study of

politics from the formalism and normative orientations of the legalistic and philosophical schools to political behaviour, that is, the behaviour of articulators in

the political field, such as, power-holders, power-seekers as well as voters. Thus,

behaviouralism is understood as more than the mere study of political behaviour,

though it was its main focus.

The growing importance of behaviouralism sought to account for the psychological and social influences on the behaviour of the individual in a political situation. It called for the study of such processes and factors as political-socializations, ideologies, culture, participation, communication, leadership, decision making, political violence, etc. These processes involve interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research. Behaviouralism as a movement in political science did not remain confined to the study of individual-based political behaviour but developed into a set of orientations, procedures and methods of analysis. In practice, it embraced all that lends a scientific character to the modern political science. A behaviourist like a positivist ascertains the correctness of an explanatory theory. It is the stress on empirical observation and testing that characterize the behavioural approach. A behaviouralist systematically compiles all the relevant facts, quantitative and qualitative, for an evaluation of a theoretical statement. Furthermore, behavioural analysis asserts that all scientific theories and/or explanation must in principle be capable of being falsified.