

Public Administration as a Social Science

While Frederick C. Mosher was convinced that Wilson strongly advocated for the separation of public administration from politics. On the other hand, Fred Riggs insisted that Wilson believed politics and public administration were not only interconnected but that the implementation of administrative actions without the influence of political policies was inconceivable. Politics and public administration are like the two branches of government, and Wilson's influences on the relationship between these branches were as follows:

As the legal enforcement of policies considered "if," "but," "when," and "however," climbing the jagged peaks of privilege and descending into valleys, the interrelationship between the branches of government became apparent. There could be no boundary that completely separated administrative affairs from non-administrative matters. So, it can be said that politics and public administration are closely linked, and the distinction between the two is not absolute. Wilson's ideas emphasized the interdependence of these fields, where political policies play a vital role in shaping administrative actions:

No lines of demarcation, setting apart administrative from non-administrative functions, can be run between this and that department of government without being run uphill and down dale, over dizzy heights of distinction and through dense jungles of statutory enactment, hither and thither around "ifs" and "buts," "whens" and "howevers," until they become altogether lost to the common eye"

In 1891, Woodrow Wilson stated: "Administration cannot be divorced from its connections with the other branches of public law without being distorted and robbed of its true significance. Its foundations are those deep and

permanent principles of politics.” The concept of the separation of politics and public administration suffered during the

New Deal era and the World War, and it faced criticism on the global stage.

Critics like Luther

Gulick, L. D. White, and Paul Appleby rejected the notion of the separation of politics and public

administration. Gulick described the separation as "impractical, impossible, and undesirable," arguing that it had led to a tragic demise, as it is a fact that public administration is inherently

intertwined with politics and policy. Paul Appleby, a staunch supporter of the New Deal, opposed the separation of politics

and public administration, contending that policy formulation is part of public administration. He

dismantled the traditional concept of this duality, which is based on the belief that policy

formulation is a political act, and the implementation of that policy is an administrative act. According to Appleby, public administration theory is also a political theory. His book “Big

Democracy” brought the duality of politics and public administration to the forefront. Van Riper

wrote:

As we all should know by now, politics and administration are inextricably intermixed. Both are central to effective action. One problem is to bring them

together in a symbiotic association yet keep each in its proper place. The other is to understand that the “proper place” of each will vary through time.

There is no permanent solution, no fixed paradigm, to this or any other ends- means continuum. Therefore, it is evident that the concept of the separation of politics and public

administration was compromised after the Great Depression. However, R. K. Saprú points out

that this duality has not ended, and its significance remains today. He presents three reasons for

its persistence in the field of public administration education: