

Towards the Concept of the Political System

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ABSTRACT

The political process developing includes any actions to implement governance of people, community and public affairs. This article contains a historic review of political system formation, and identifies its elements. The author has analyzed foreign scientists' opinions on the “political system” concept. Then, concluded that in order to ensure stability of a political system it is necessary to consider the interests of all political players and contradictions arising among them, coordinated efforts of classes and social groups existing in the society and political parties representing their interests. As a result, the author made a complex comparative analysis and revealed the key elements of a political system. The analysis of a political system concept allowed him to establish a specific definition of the term. The scientific novelty is determined by the politic tendency to change the theory in case of the practice.

KEYWORDS

Political system; politics; elements of political system; political system as a term

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Introduction

The theme of this study is a nature of the political system. It can provide a different response to the demands from the population. While a democratic system uses them to improve its performance, a totalitarian suppresses them, creating the image of powerful and infallible authority. That is why the term “political system” uses to characterize relations of the state and society, various subjects at non-governmental level.

Foreign and Soviet literature often refers to the four key groups of elements of a political system. They are political institutes (organizations and institutions), political relations, political principles, political consciousness and political culture.

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A systematic approach allows making distinguish between political life and public life as a separate subsystem in addition to a political system, social, economic, ethnic, legal, cultural and other systems exist in human society.

A recent trend in contemporary western political theory is to criticize it for implicitly trying to "conquer," "displace" or "moralize" politics. J. Wiley (2016) takes the "next step", from criticizing contemporary political theory, to showing what a more "politics-centered" political theory would look like by exploring the meaning and value of politics.

For instance, D. Rye (2016) assures that in the context of a flexible ontology, underlying approach could be summarised further by saying that power is concerned with the capacities of human beings to formulate, express and realise goals (specifically, political ones).

In political parties these capacities can be developed, impeded or imposed in a variety of ways, including through the actions of (other) individuals, the direction and operation of formal and informal rules and administration, through the cultural norms and practices of party life or the application of specific techniques of organisation, communication and so on.

Modern literature contains a variety of political system definitions. Some scientists (Easton, 1965, Pulkkinen, 2015) consider a political system to be a set of ideas underpinning politics, others guess (Bertalanffy, 1969, Lyubashits Smolensky & Shepelev, 2006) it as a system of interactions. A third group of scientists considers (Lenin, 1963) it is an aggregate of certain elements, subjects of politics, etc. The desire to reach universal interpretation of political life, its independence from history, social situation is natural for all these definitions.

The study's actuality may be explained as necessity to follow the political trends, determining the future of management. Thus, this work enriches modern science by its contemporary character of analyzed works.

Aim of the Study

The aim of the study contains in accumulation and unification the political system's theoretical knowledge and formulation the new full definition of the political system.

Research Questions

The main question of the study is to reveal the key elements of the political system. The next step of the scientific way is to review the contemporary positions about the political system.

Methods

The historical review of the political theory explains how contemporary politics exists without the full definition of the political system. Moreover, the main method of the study is the comparative analysis, basing on the classical logical methods.

Data, Analysis and Results

The novelty of this study contains a list of scientific mind's transformation about political system.

The state is a central part of a political system that serves the key governance link in policies ensuring unity of various components. It is designed to be not only an independent subject of political relations. It also performs the tasks to manage public affairs but also to create necessary conditions for a real provision of constitutional principles of political system organization and functioning, real enforcement of a citizen's political rights and freedoms. A central link of any political system is a state.

State power is the backbone of a political system. By definition of Marxist theory founders, it is a sense of politics and political struggle. Identification of state power as a fundamental element of a political system allows the establishment of the system's components – in other words, the identification of its structure and borders. Furthermore, there is a lot of place to rethink the ethical value of content of the political system.

The preceding allowed us to formulate the following definition of a political system: complex universal mechanism ensuring a mutual relationship between the state and society, interaction of state authorities, political parties in state power practicing with the participation of religious associations, local self-governance bodies, and labor groups.

Discussions and Conclusion

A political system is a component of the state system. The political process developing includes any actions to implement the ruling of people, community and public affairs in governance.

The term “political system” consists of two components - in particular, “politics” and “system.”

The word “politics” if translated from Greek means the art of state governance, or a certain method to attain the objectives of the state both domestically and internationally.

Aristotle (1983) stressed a specific feature of politics meaning its direct or indirect connection with authority. “Politics” as a term means relationships among classes, “the area of all the classes and strata attitude to the state and to the government”.

Lenin considered “the structure of state power” (1963) as the most important thing in the politics. In our opinion, these statements by Lenin have the most important methodological meaning for identification and analysis of the relations among the subjects of political system of any state.

The word “system”, when translated from Greek, means something whole, made of components, which are connected (Tikhomirov, 1997). It is a multitude, naturally interrelated elements (subjects, phenomena, views, etc).

The term “system” was introduced into scientific language by German biologist Ludwig von Bertalanffy in the 20th century to identify metabolic processes between the cell of the environment. He considered the systemic aggregate of interdependent elements as an integrity comprising of “elements involved into interaction” (1969). The relations of interdependence mean that if one element of the system changes, the entire integrity would change.

American scientist D. Easton was one of the first political scientists to survey political system. In his monographs “Systemic Analysis of Political Life” (Easton, 1965), “Political System” (Easton, 1974a) and “Threshold of Political Analysis” (Easton, 1990) he studied the fundamentals of political system theory. According to D. Easton (1974b), a political system is a developing and self-regulating organism composed of a variety of components which, in aggregate, create an integrated whole. The system has its entry, which receives outside impulses or the requirements impulses or support impulses. Political decisions, underpinning political actions are at the exit of the system.

In our opinion, the views of V. Malakhov & V. Kazakhov (2002) that the factors setting certain characters of a political system of society, forming certain views are multidimensional, deserves support. They include not only organizations of state power, not only political establishments (parties, political movements and other public associations), their fight for powers and control over state institutions in own purposes including army, police, governing institutions, mass media, but also other deeper layers of these factors.

The elements of political system of society include political consciousness and political culture (Malakhov & Kazakhov, 2002). Mirroring and forming first of all under the impact of certain social and political practice, the ideas, value orientations of political life of participants, their emotions and prejudices have a significant impact on their behavior and the entire political dynamic. It is extremely important to consider political moods of masses in the process of managing and governing society.

Based on the analysis and generalization of existing opinions regarding the term “political system”, we made a conclusion that a political system is a mechanism of universal nature including several levels of communication and interaction of institutes of state and society.

According to M. Farukshin (2005a), thanks to the mechanisms of a political system, society as a whole (or the ruling elite) opposed to destructive social forces, respond to infringements on the principles and foundations of a state system. A politically literate and socially active person should know how a political system looks like and how it functions, what are its external attributes and hidden mechanism, what are the real factors impacting its dynamics.

In contrast to M. Farukshin (2005b), we believe that a political system of any society, as a complex mechanism, is characterized with the presence of certain sub-mechanisms, guaranteeing its existence. Such sub-mechanisms allow it to settle social contradictions and conflicts, coordinate the efforts of various public groups, organizations and movements, harmonize public attitudes, and reach consensus with the regard of the key values, objectives and directions in social development. In the research of the term “social system,” special attention is devoted to its elements as concepts and their meaning.

According to M. Farukshin (2005), a political system of society includes directly political and non-directly political organizations. The latter relates to a political system with the aspects of their activities directly related with the participation in political authority practice.

Modern theory on state and law pays huge attention to the political system of society considering it as objectively developing unity of various social institutions, mutual connections of a certain type. So, according to V. Lyubashits, M. Smolensky & V. Shepelev (2006), a political system is a system of interacting norms and political institutes, institutions organized of functioning based thereon.

A. Pigolkin et al. (2007) posits that a political system of society is a complex set of state institutions, political parties and public associations, where political life of society is developing and state and public authority is implemented.

The relation between politics and ethics is studied by C. Schmitt (2008), which conceives that politic system is an ethical system.

T. Parsons (2013), an American sociologist transferred the term “system” to society research, presented society as interaction of four subsystems: economic, political, social and moral that are interdependent and exchange mutual relations. Every subsystem performs certain functions, responds to requirements it receives from inside and outside and together they ensure existence of society in general.

The renowned Russian scientists A.B. Serykh & M.E. Orgeeva (2014), in our opinion, correctly identifies the following elements of a political system including religious organizations, local self-governance authorities, labor groups and criminal organizations. Religious organization is a voluntary association of citizens, other persons permanently and legally residing in the territory of Russian Federation established with the aim of joint practicing and spreading their beliefs and registered as a legal entity.

Although, political system uses as a synonym of the specific group of people and society in context of recognition and self-establishment. We cannot ignore this aspect of the sociology (Daase, 2015) because its mental value of the definition.

Furthermore, modern studies interpretate Hans Kelsen and Max Weber, which are conventionally understood as initiators not only of two distinct and opposing processes of concept formation, but also of two discrete and contrasting theoretical frameworks for the study of law. I. Bryan (2015) place the conventional understanding of the theoretical relationship between the work of Kelsen and Weber into question. Focusing on the theoretical foundations of Kelsen’s legal positivism and Weber’s sociology of law, and guided by the conceptual frame of the juridico-political, the contributors to this interdisciplinary volume explore convergences and divergences in the approach and stance of Kelsen and Weber to law, the State, political science, modernity, legal rationality, legal theory, sociology of law, authority, legitimacy and legality.

T. Pulkkinen (2015) confronts the transcendental subject-assumptions of modern political theory in both its liberal and Hegelian-Marxian form. She argues that both traditions are bound by subject-philosophy which postmodern thought needs to question in order to fight modern universalism and in order to

address difference. For T. Pulkkinen (2015), the postmodern is an extremely political way of thinking, a specific political system.

Also, a political system includes the institutes (organizations, institutions, parties) related to political authority's function. The rate of its involvement in political life, the practice of powers makes it possible to identify three types of organizations: directly political, non-directly political and non-political.

Moreover, political principles and norms are significant elements of a political system. They compound its regulatory framework. Political regimes (for instance totalitarianism and political pluralism) differ from each other to the same extent as the principles and norms underpinning the functioning of appropriate political systems.

Thus, the results of the study seem to be convenient in the obtainment of the current thing's picture.

The place of this knowledge in political science is very essential because of its theoretical actuality.

Implications and Recommendations

The scientific value of this study is a determination of political system, which is enough for the modern politic society's demands.

The study's abilities are wide in case of managing sphere. The last one involves everybody and that fact allows concluding the empirical implications of the study.

Based on the survey and generalization of opinions with the regard to the political system concept, we concluded stability and appropriate functioning of a political system. It is necessary to consider the interests of the political life, including participants and contradictions arising among them, reaching an optimum alignment of interests, coordinated efforts of classes and social groups existing in the society and political parties representing their interests. A political system must integrate various elements of social and national structures based on consensus on the key values and ideals as leading political forces in society.

The advantage of the offered study's method contains in contemporary character involving analyzed current tendencies.

Theme of the study may be prolonged in next politic studies in the discourse of political interactions.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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