

Commentary

Political behaviour and its influence on political orientation

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Received: 19-Aug-2022, Manuscript No. AJPS-22-75167; Editor assigned: 22-Aug-2022, Pre QC No: AJPS-22-75167 (PQ); Reviewed: 08-Sep-2022, QC No: AJPS-22-75167; Revised: 16-Sep-2022, Manuscript No: AJPS-22-75167 (R), Published: 23-Sep-2022

DESCRIPTION

Political science's theories of political conduct make an effort to measure and explain the factors that shape a person's political beliefs, ideologies, and degrees of political activity. Human conduct that involves politics and power is known as political behaviour.

Long-term influences on political orientation

Peers also influence one's political stance. Friends frequently, though not always, benefit from belonging to the same generation, which as a whole develops a distinct set of societal issues. According to Eric L. Dey, socialization is the process by which people acquire knowledge, habits, and value orientations that will be helpful in the future. The ability to connect on this basic level is what supports and facilitates further ideological development. Age and the development of political sentiments are a topic of discussion among sociologists and political scientists. According to the impressionable year's hypothesis, early adulthood is when political inclination is firmly established. The "life-long openness hypothesis" contends that attitudes are adaptable regardless of age, in contrast to the "growing persistence hypothesis," which holds that views become less likely to change as people age.

Short-term influences on political orientation

Electioneering behaviour includes casting ballots. Political scientists' primary focus has been on how and why the electorate makes decisions, but understanding voter behaviour can also shed light on how and why public decision-makers make decisions. Expertise in both political science and psychology was required to interpret voting behaviour, leading to the development of the area of political psychology, which includes electoral psychology.

Voting behaviour is also influenced by immediate variables, including the influence of the media and particular election

topics. These variables are distinct from the long-term variables since they frequently pass quickly. They can, however, be just as important in changing political attitude. The way that these two sources are understood frequently depends on the unique political ideology that has been developed by the individual based on the long-term causes. The majority of political scientists concur that voting behaviour is significantly influenced by the media. Few would contest the idea that the institutions of the mass media are significant to contemporary politics, according to one author. Election-related issues are the second. These include debates, ads, and campaign-related topics. Depending on the candidates running, certain political behaviours might change during election years and during political campaigns, with varying degrees of success in swaying voters.

The goal of interdisciplinary research in political science and biology is to find correlations between political behaviour and biological factors, such as the relationship between biology and political orientation, as well as other factors like partisanship and voting behaviour. Although it is occasionally called "biopolitics," this area of research is more commonly known as "genopolitics."

Political participation

Political scientists also seek to comprehend what motivates people to engage in democratic activity, such as voting, campaign volunteering, signing petitions, or protesting. Rational action alone cannot always account for participation. The voting paradox, for instance, argues that voting cannot be in a citizen's self-interest because doing so almost always outweighs the benefits, especially given that one vote is unlikely to have a significant impact on the outcome of an election. Instead, political scientists suggest that people cast their ballots due to social or psychological factors. As per studies, people are more likely to cast their ballots if they witness their peers doing so or if someone in their home has encouraged them to do so.

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