

Ques 1

Explain the political Sociology approach in the field of comparative politics and discuss its limitations.

Ans

Aristotle can be considered as the Father of Political Sociology. His Theory of Revolution explained how sociological factors like rising inequalities can be a cause for revolution. Thus, Political Sociology as a discipline is at the interface of politics and society.

good intro

The approach
This originated as part of the modern comparative approach which emerged post World War II as many developing and "IIIrd world" countries took birth. This approach distinguished itself from the traditional one as there was a shift from normativism to empiricism. In these countries there was a difference in theory and practice, and text & context. Hence the study of constitutions only was not sufficient to understand the political structure.

In the past scholars like Machiavelli have said that if the society is corrupt then the prince has to rule with an iron hand. Marx can be considered as the Father of Modern Political Sociology. He said politics can't be understood independent of the base or superstructure, with economy as the base.

However, his explanation was considered to be monocausal by the other prominent school of political sociology i.e. the Weberian school. Behaviouralist scholars like Easton also emphasised on the systemic perspective and understanding the socio-cultural environment i.e. caste, class, religion, political parties, electoral behaviour etc. Some prominent scholars in the Indian context are :- Andre (caste studies), Paul (religion), Christopher Jaffrelot (role of RSS), Yogendra Yadav (electoral behaviour).

1.0

Body part is too stretched
Articulation needs to be concise

However, soon it was feared that too much dependence on sociological aspects will make political science lose its independent identity. It will become a hybrid discipline. Theda Skocpol calls for "Bringing the state back in". It is true that society impacts politics but politics also shapes society. Like, under the leadership of Pt. ~~Nehru~~ Nehru, India transformed into a modern society. Hence this renewal in interest for the study of its institutions and centrality to state came to be known as Neo Institutionalism, mentioned ^{by} ~~in the~~ March & Olsen in their book

for 15 marker take 3 pages

"Reinventing govt" where they gave 3 dimensions : sociological : institution constraints ^{behaviour}
historical : origin of institution
rational choice : personality effect

No need for explanation

Conclusion should be better

Hence, the discipline has evolved over time.

Ques 2.

Discuss the subject matter of comparative politics. Outline the limitations of comparative political analysis

Ans

Comparative Politics, as the name suggests, is the comparison of the political systems.

Aristotle is regarded as the Father of Comparative Politics; he studied 158 constitutions and classified them.

Broadly, we can divide it into two phases → Traditional (upto world war II)
→ Modern (Post-World War II)

Traditional comparative Politics comprised the study of the constitutions of West.

Their society, culture & way of life had progressed in a similar manner hence this was a key area for comparison. The rest of the world was mostly colonised or without an independent political system.

Hence we can say the Traditional approach was a study of Govt and not politics.

It took the legal institutional approach. Scholars like Macridis have criticised it to be narrow in scope as it included political processes, formal & informal procedure etc. It is also considered static & descriptive i.e. not useful for research & suffers from ethnocentrism and parochiality.

After World War I, we saw the rise of socialism, communism, authoritarianism in USSR, Germany, Italy. Hence there was a growing need of evaluating socio-cultural and economic factors.

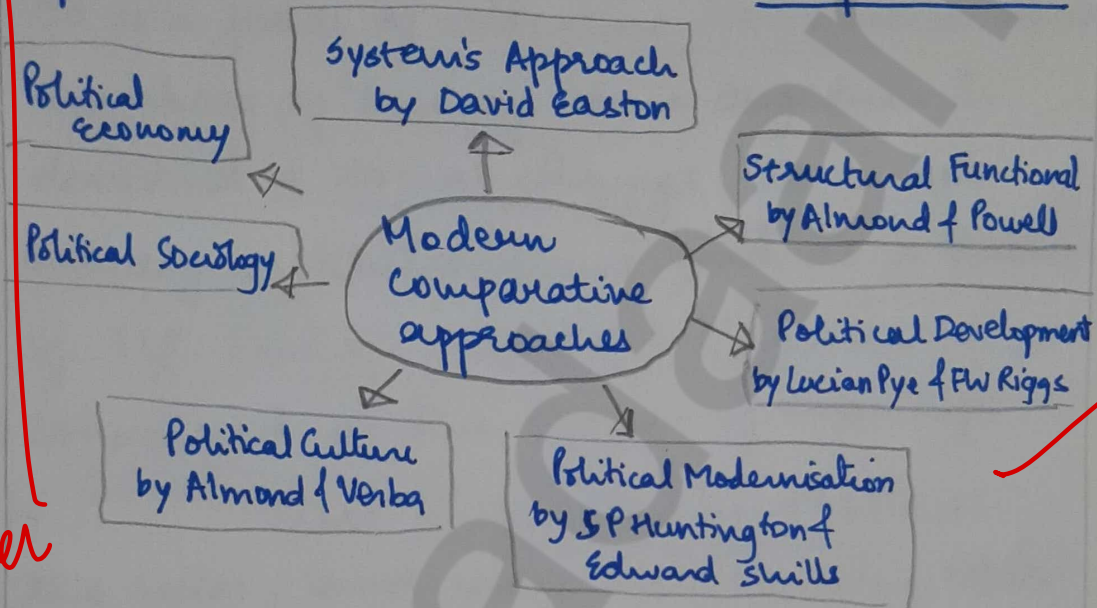
No short forms

Elaborate (LIT) & laws

Try to write short paragraphs

Further, after World War II, there was decolonisation and emergence of the IIIrd world. Here, the study of constitutions wasn't sufficient as there was a difference in theory & practice & text & context.

An inter-disciplinary approach was taken to ensure cross flow of information. It replaced normativism with empiricism.



Limitations of Comparative political analysis include availability of reliable data. Even if available, social data is highly complex, due to human interaction which causes unpredictability. Political studies are highly dynamic whereas scientific & empirical studies demand objectivity in observations.

Yet, the study is at the heart of political science and has been evolving.

4

Again too generic

Ques 3

Is the rise of social movements a sign of opening up of popular space in political process or a decline in representative politics? Examine.

Ans

Social Movements are an integral area of study for political sociologists as they lie at the interface of politics & society.

It is a form of collective behaviour where members of society come together to demand a social change. It is not entirely institutionalised and is a feature of Left Politics. (Herbert Marcuse is considered as the Father of New Left)

Intro
is
good

Extra
info
here

These originated in 1960s in the West, and were traditionally related to labour movements & concerned the materialistic demands. However with globalisation, issues related to quality of life emerged in the developing world as well, i.e. Environment, gender rights etc. from 1970s. In the Indian context, we have Sunderlal Bahuguna who championed protection of Himalayan forests, Jan Lokpal Bill ^{& RTI} against rising corruption, protests after the Nirbhaya rape case.

Hence we see the flow of democracy is becoming horizontal from vertical. This can be attributed to rise in popular political space as there has been a communication revolution. Social media enables expression

of problems to a large audience which gains momentum fast. Regional Information spreads across regions and support pours in soon.

Hence we cannot absolve the political representatives entirely. Political apathy and disconnect between the legislature & populace is exposed as there is an increase in awareness of rights. Further the information age has enabled the rise of a global civil society i.e. transnational MNCs, NGOs, political forums.

Hence both factors have contributed to the rise in social movements.

Elaborate more on decline of pol. parties & corruption of leaders

Climate change can be incorporated

Need more emphasis here

Here your analysis is less (It's a 15 marker)

Crisis representation?

6.5

Ques 4

Compare the nature of state as found in advanced countries with those in developing countries.

Ans

The advanced industrial states were the imperial powers of the past. They continue to have dominance in cultural, economic, political and ideological spheres. This can be called as neo-colonialism. They are also called as the Global North.

Marxists refer to them as the core countries. Dependency school scholars like Samir Amin and A.G. Frank call this as the development of underdevelopment. They believe that drain of wealth is continuing. Immanuel Wallerstein mentions how spread of globalisation has led to increase in poverty.

Since 2001, we see a decline in the hegemony of West and "rise of the rest". The centre of power has shifted from Atlantic to Asia Pacific. Economist Jim O'Neil termed the "BRICS" nations as emerging markets leaders. However, post 2008 Financial crisis, we see a collapse in the political & economic sphere. Rise in populist parties due to a combination of migrant crisis, transnational terrorism, polarization & Islamophobia is evident. We can see this in the Charlie Hebdo cartoonist case where

French President's support to freedom of expression created an uproar among Islamic countries esp Pakistan. The rise of Right is visible in Poland, Hungary and even USA.

Developing countries on the other hand are known as Global South

They suffer from colonial legacies of poverty and deprivation

FW Riggs refers to them as prismatic societies as they are in a state of transition. The economic model followed here is that of Bazaar & Canteen which creates scope for corruption.

The concept of modern state was thrust upon these traditional societies which led to creation of bureaucratic-military nexus. The Sala administrative model

is observed where family & community influence decision making instead of rationality. FW Riggs also talks about a development trap as not all spheres develop equally.

Samuel P Huntington's idea of Political Decay can also be observed. A lack of capacity to implement social discipline makes Gunnar Myrdal call India a soft state. The reluctance to enforce laws favours the rich.

In many of these countries, democracy couldn't sustain, there was

a rise in authoritarian regimes. Many even adopted the Communist model.

Post 1990s we see a shift towards liberal democracy with the exception of China, Iran, Cuba, Gulf and pockets of Africa. Still democracy remains fragile and in S.E. Asia we see semi-authoritarianism in the garb of Asian values. Further, they are not isolated from the global trend of decline in liberal order. There is a rise in Right & Left & populism.

Holistic analysis however structure can be made better

Suggested structure

Developed

Liberal

Market

Developing & Care of China

Liberal Market

After this add contemporary aspects

9.5

Ques 5 Differentiate b/w Pressure Groups and Interest Groups. Do interest groups help to promote democracy or undermine it?

Ans

The terms pressure groups and interest groups are often used interchangeably. They both comprise of group politics; aspiring for their specific cause.

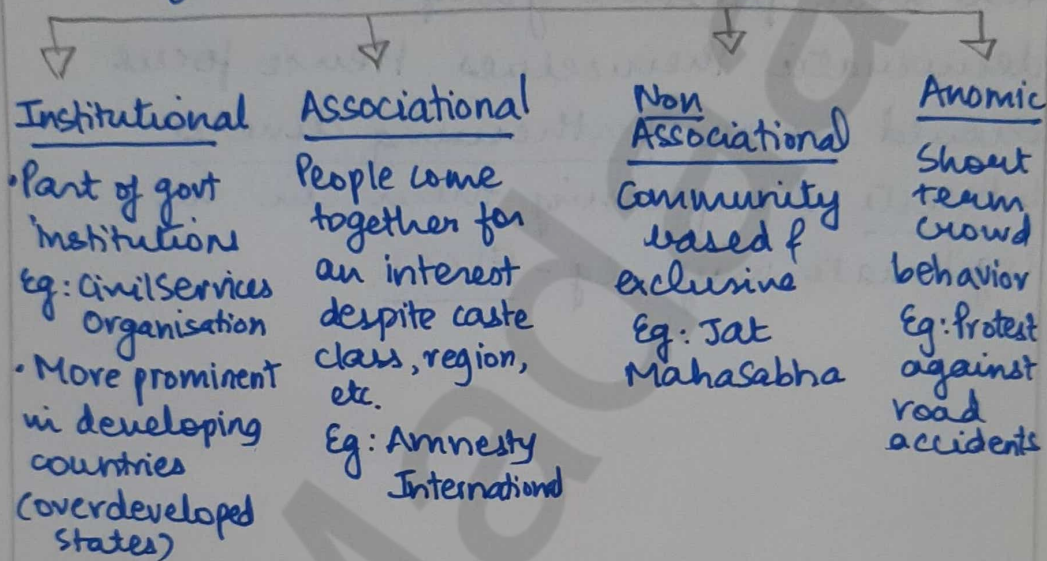
The scholar Samuel Finer refers to them as "invisible empires". They exert influence on govt policies by articulating their interests of society. According to V.O. Key these are informal and extra constitutional agencies that provide propulsion for the formal system. Due to their increasing role in liberal democracies, Robert Dahl refers to these societies as "Polygarchy".

There are minor differences in the terms. While traditionalists preferred to use "pressure groups", behaviouralists wanted a more standardized term like natural sciences and used "interest groups". The term pressure can be confusing as it is a tactic that is also used by opposition parties and social movements. Further, pressure is also the technique that they employ i.e lobbying or use of Public Interest Litigations, whereas interest groups focus on their purpose.

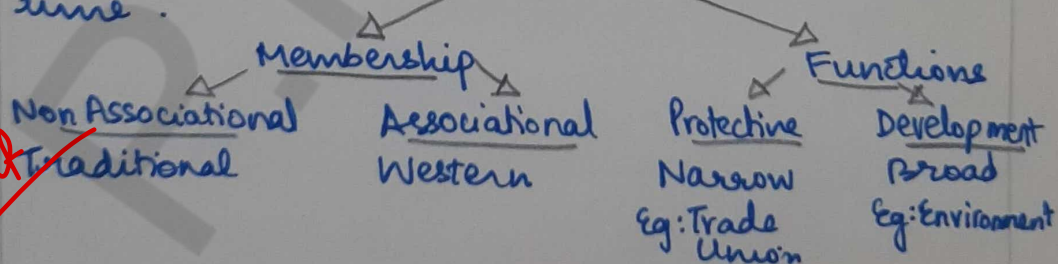
In USA, the term interest group is used to describe all organised groups.

However in UK, pressure groups is used to describe broadly all organised groups & interest group is used for those who forward the interests of their community.

Gabriel Almond has given a classification of pressure groups



Jean Blondel considered the above model to be static as pressure groups evolve over time.



Hence these are a mechanism for channelising the views of citizens and thus deepen democracy as not all sections of society may be adequately represented. Hence they are vital for a healthy democracy.

On the other hand they can also undermine democracy as a small section may make large donations to political parties & influence decisions.

Relevant

No need for this much details
Instead come to 2nd part

+ check power of pol. parties

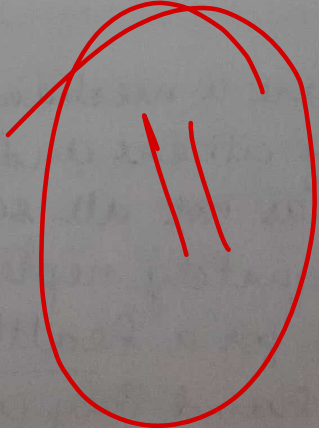
Their private interests can outweigh the benefits to society. Further the use of direct action and strikes can cause hardship to the community. This was evident in the recent Supreme Court judgement where it mentioned that indefinite occupation of a public place can cause grave inconvenience in context of the Shabheen Bagh protests. Also some pressure groups are not democratic themselves. Hence focus should be on synthesising diverse interests & expressing them in a legitimate way, eg - FICCI.

good connect with contemporary issue

You could have related to democratic pluralism here

From here you are starting conclusion so change paragraph.

Overall good attempt



Ques 6

Discuss one party, two party and multi party systems with respect to their nature and functional aspects.

Ans

Party systems are a result of Representative Democracy; first mentioned in the works of John Locke. A party system is not based on the number of parties, rather, ^{no. of} parties having systemic relevance.

A one party system is observed in countries like China, Russia. It is efficient as the government is free to enact its vision & implement long term policies. This system was also visible in India post independence however it was a one party dominant system. Rajni Kothari called it as the Congress System and a Party of Consensus. This is also visible in the form of soft authoritarianism in S.E. Asia.

However there is a risk that decision making may be hasty and not in the interest of the diverse sections of society.

In two party systems, the electorate largely gives votes to two major parties. USA is a classic example with its Democrats & Republican parties. It is said to promote govt stability.

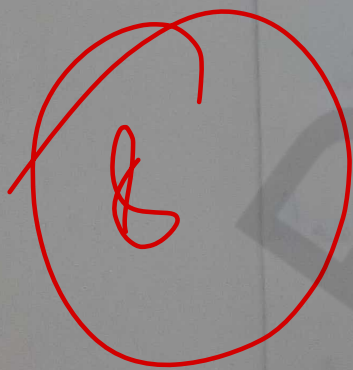
as a single party can win majority and govern. To win the support of majority, the party has to address the interests of a wide range of population, and also reconciling conflicting interests of different sections. This promotes a healthy democracy. However there are concerns regarding the "winner takes all" approach as it discourages independent or third party candidates. It is usually prevalent in the First Past the Post electoral system.

In multi-party systems, there is scope for accommodating wider and diverse viewpoints in government. It encourages dominant parties to make deals with weaker parties to form coalitions. This was visible in India especially in the period 2004-14. However it often led to policy paralysis as no decision making was slow. Further the stability of govt was in doubt and situation of hung parliament was experienced. This is prevalent in Proportional Representation electoral systems like Germany, Israel. As per Bidyut Chakravarty, in West

we see "coalition by design" but in India there is "coalition by political calculations." There is presence of negative coalitions only to prevent others from coming to power. Hence there is a need to bring healthy coalition culture ^{eg} by bringing the constructive vote of No confidence like in Germany.

Conclusion?

↳ Except this v- good attempt



Tchita!

Appreciate your attempt.

- ② Your handwriting & articulation is good. will work in your favour
- ③ Content is also largely good.

Areas of improvement →

- 1) Conclusion → Are abrupt. Try to be imaginative here. It is here that you can show your understanding. You need to innovate here.
- 2) Too much analysis & at places too less. You need to be balanced. Msg me on Telegram. I will suggest few more things.
- 3) Shorter paragraphs are better received.

Overall v. good potential.

All the best;