

DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE: POLITICAL THEORIES IN THE CONTEMPORARY ERA

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Abstract

The development of political science in the contemporary era is marked by various shifts and advances in viewpoints and theoretical approaches. The influence of technology, changing dynamics of public participation, and unique geographical and temporal contexts, all contribute to the complexity of applying contemporary political theory, especially in the Indonesian context. The evolution of political thought has witnessed fluctuations from the classical to the contemporary era, with a transition towards behavioral approaches in the study of politics. The shift towards a behavioral approach to politics marked a significant departure from the previous emphasis on political thought as a philosophy closely linked to the history of philosophy. In contemporary politics, there are various trends and crucial issues such as globalization, environmental issues, inequality, human rights and technological developments. In the development of political science, there are several political theories that have developed throughout the contemporary era. Here are some of them, namely political realism, liberalism, constructivism, feminism, dependency theory, and postcolonialism. The research method that will be used in this article is a qualitative method with a focus on literature study. This research discusses political theories of the contemporary era and the challenges facing contemporary politics.

Keywords: Development of political science, political theories, contemporary era.

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INTRODUCTION

Shively, W. P., & Schultz, D. (2022) stated that the State is basically an institution that has formal legal power and has the right to legally use physical violence for collective order as quoted from Max Weber's definition. Prosperity, common good, peace, and so on. These are several aspects that must be fulfilled by the State for its citizens so that order and harmony can be achieved properly. However, in practice, there is a total deviation from what has been outlined together. The state seems to use its resources for the personal interests of the ruling elite, even arbitrarily oppressing society without any solution or justification regarding overall needs. The ideology of capitalism has become an "epidemic" that has infected almost all countries in the world, where this ideology has become a common enemy and must be destroyed due to its detrimental effects on a country, not only from its historical aspects but also aspects of societal progress. A theory that highlights the problems of capitalism with analysis from various aspects, namely by prioritizing several elements of each country itself in operating all forms of existing policies on each problem.

Political science, if seen as a branch of the social sciences that has a clear basis, focus and scope, can be said to be still young because it only developed rapidly at the end of the 19th century. At that time, political science grew together with other branches of social science such as sociology, anthropology, economics, and psychology, influencing each other (Dion, M. L., Sumner, J. L., & Mitchell, 2018).

However, if political science is understood as the rational study of the state and political life, then it is much older and is often referred to as the oldest social science in the world. In its early development, political science relied heavily on history and philosophy, with evidence from the works of Herodotus, Plato, and Aristotle around 450 BC. In Asia, quality political writings also appeared, such as the Dharmasastra and Arthasastra from India around 500 BC, as well as the teachings of Confucius, Mencius, and the Legalists school from China around 350 BC. Political writings in Asia, such as Negarakertagama from Majapahit and Babad Tanah Jawi, show intellectual developments in this region. Unfortunately, since the end of the 19th century, political literature in Asia has experienced a decline due to the domination of Western thought brought by imperialist countries such as England, Germany, the United States and the Netherlands (Fafard, P., & Cassola, 2020).

According to Kellstedt, P. M., & Whitten, G. D. (2018) in the 18th and 19th centuries, political discussions were strongly influenced by legal science, with a

main focus on the state. This topic is included in the Law Faculty curriculum as a State Science (Staatslehre) course. In England, political issues were considered part of philosophy, especially moral philosophy, and were always linked to history. However, with the founding of the Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques in Paris (1870) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (1895), political science began to be recognized as a separate discipline in universities. However, the influence of law, philosophy and history was still felt until the World War. In Europe, juridical pressures influenced political discussions, but then there was a strong desire to be free from these pressures and focus more on collecting empirical data. These developments coincided with advances in sociology and psychology, which also influenced the methodology and terminology of political science.

The government is an organization that works and carries out the tasks of managing the government system to achieve people's welfare as mandated by the constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Karno, A. M., Yahya, A. S., & Nooraini, 2020). Government is a system or structure that is responsible for the management and administering public affairs in a particular country or region. The function of government involves making policies, implementing programs, and monitoring various aspects of community life. Government usually consists of various institutions and branches, such as the executive, legislative, and judiciary, which work together to achieve certain goals. Government has the responsibility to maintain the stability, security and welfare of society. The main tasks of government include drafting laws, allocating resources, building infrastructure, public services, and making strategic decisions that influence the direction and development of a country. Important aspects of government include political, economic, social and legal aspects. Government can also operate in various forms, such as democracy, monarchy, or authoritarian system, depending on the political structure and values held in a society (Tomsa, 2018).

Government politics refers to the dynamics and interactions in the management of public affairs by a government. This includes the process of creating, implementing policies, and relations between government agencies. The political aspects of government involve policy formulation, resource allocation, and coordination between government branches. Citizen political participation, diplomacy, and concepts such as social justice are also key elements in government politics. Political systems, whether democratic or authoritarian, shape the way power is distributed and policies are made. Thus,

government politics reflects the power dynamics, values and aspirations of society which form the basis for state management (Gavazza et al., 2019).

Contemporary politics refers to the political practices and dynamics that occur in the current era. It covers various aspects of political life reflecting the latest developments in society, technology, and geopolitics. Contemporary politics is not only limited to the national level, but also involves international relations, global issues, and responses to significant changes in the world order (Aobdia et al., 2021).

In contemporary politics, there are various trends and crucial issues such as globalization, environmental issues, inequality, human rights and technological developments. These changes affect how policies are made, how power is distributed, and how political participation is carried out. Contemporary political systems encompass various forms of government, ranging from democracy to authoritarianism, and involve actors such as governments, political parties, civil society organizations, and individuals. This dynamic also reflects the complexity of relations between countries and the global challenges faced by governments in maintaining stability and meeting societal demands. Thus, contemporary politics is a reflection of a reality that continues to change and adapt to developments over time, technology and the dynamics of global society (Wilfahrt, 2018).

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method that will be used in this article is a qualitative method with a focus on literature study. A qualitative approach will enable research to gain an in-depth understanding of the development of political science and political theories in the contemporary era through studying concepts, arguments and findings in relevant literature. This literature study will involve a careful analysis of contemporary political theories and identify their application in Indonesian policy and political dynamics. By exploring it in depth, this research seeks to detail the extent to which this political theory is reflected and adapted to Indonesian political reality. It is hoped that this qualitative method can provide a rich and in-depth contextual understanding of contemporary political theories.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the development of political science, there are several political theories that have developed throughout the contemporary era. Here are some of them according to Honig, B. (2023):

1. **Political Realism:** This theory emphasizes the interests of states in international relations and the belief that states act based on their power and national interests. The main figures in political realism are Hans Morgenthau and Niccolò Machiavelli.
2. **Liberalism:** This theory emphasizes the importance of international institutions, free trade, human rights, and democracy in creating peace and prosperity in the world. Famous figures in this school include John Locke, Immanuel Kant, and John Rawls.
3. **Constructivism:** This theory emphasizes the importance of norms, identity, and trust in the formation of political behavior and international relations. Constructivism rejects the view that politics is determined solely by material forces. The leading figure in constructivism is Alexander Wendt.
4. **Feminism:** This theory highlights the role of gender in politics and emphasizes the importance of gender equality in all aspects of political life. Political feminism fights for the elimination of gender discrimination and increasing women's political participation. Figures such as Carol Pateman and Judith Butler played important roles in the development of feminist theory.
5. **Dependency Theory:** This theory emphasizes the relationship between advanced industrial countries (center) and developing countries (periphery). This theory argues that economic relations between these countries are unfair and tend to make peripheral countries continue to depend on the center. Andre Gunder Frank is one of the main figures in dependency theory.
6. **Postcolonialism:** This theory criticizes and explores the impact of imperialism and colonialism on politics, culture and economics in countries that were once colonized. Postcolonialism highlights the injustices and inequalities inherited from the colonial past. Edward Said and Frantz Fanon are key figures in this theory.
7. **Political Ecological Theory:** This theory explores the relationship between the natural environment and politics, including how political policies affect the environment and vice versa. This theory also highlights the importance of sustainability in political decision making. Prominent figures in this theory include Rachel Carson and Murray Bookchin.

These political theories continue to develop and change along with changes in the global political and social context.

Structural Theory

Art, R. J., Crawford, T. W., & Jervis (2023) state that this theory sees politics as the result of the social and economic structures that exist in society. This theory highlights the basic structure that is the basis of the State and its relationship with capitalism. David Miliband stated in his book *Marxism and politics* that this theory does not just highlight the goals and behavior of state elites, but also what obstacles occur structurally, where the socio-economic system will shape the context or meaning within a state itself. From a macro perspective, this theory divides state structure into two parts, namely political and economic structuralism. Political structuralism takes the basis that the structure within a country will create a cohesiveness between production factors and aspects of capitalism in a region. As explained by Poulantzas, the basic political structure in a country will overlap with other aspects, in the sense that it is to ensure that there is free space for the State to enter and start carrying out its roles and functions to position itself against capitalism. The dominant class will continue to contract due to a basic change in the structure of state capitalism, and is influenced by political fragmentation so that the dominant class does not realize that its hegemony is starting to slowly collapse (Keane, 2018).

Political structuralism still assumes that political power will be divided so that the lack of unity between one aspect and another will produce a dominant class and can strengthen the role of the state in regulating and gathering its power. And in the course of this approach, relative autonomy is possible, namely the existence of equilibrium of the main class so that order is created in the formation of political power (Galtung, 2023). This is indeed possible when there is negotiation and compromise between the State and its power elite, so that the structural basis can be organized within a certain period of time. Second is economic structuralism, the highlight of this approach is the basic basis of the production process which is very important in a country's economic activities. Capitalism is an effect of the development of globalization which increasingly blurs boundaries and tends to unite or collect capital at one point.

According to Wacquant, L. J. (2019) structural theory has several advantages, including providing a holistic view of society, offering a systematic approach to meet social phenomena, emphasizing the importance of the social, emphasizing the importance of language, being influential in the field, and providing a framework for analysis. Structural theory has several advantages that have been identified by experts. Some of these advantages are:

1. Provides a holistic view: structural theory provides a holistic view of society by examining the relationships between various parts of society and how they work together to maintain social relationships.
2. Offers a systematic approach: to understand social phenomena by analyzing the basic structures that shape human behavior.
3. Emphasizes the importance of language: in linguistics, structural theory emphasizes the importance of language and how language shapes our understanding of the world.
4. Influence in various fields: structural theory has been influential in various fields, including literature, sociology, and anthropology.
5. Provides a framework for analysis: structural theory provides a framework for analyzing cultural artifacts, such as literature, art, and music, by examining the basic structures that form them.

Structural theory has several shortcomings, including being too rigid, overemphasizing social aspects, ignoring individuals, and lacking empirical evidence. Disadvantages of structural theory that have been identified by experts. Some of these shortcomings are (Escobar, 2018):

1. Too rigid: especially in explaining social change. This theory assumes that society is a stable system that maintains balance, and does not explain rapid change.
2. Too much emphasis on social aspects: of human behavior and ignoring other factors such as power and conflict.
3. Ignoring individuals: and treating individuals as passive actors shaped by social structures.
4. Lack of empirical evidence: to support its claims, and relies heavily on concepts, and abstract models.

Agency Theory

This theory sees politics as the result of the actions of individuals or groups in society. Agency theory explains the behavior of a company from the perspective of various contracts between various parties. Shareholders who contribute funds for the company to operate are not considered owners of the company; they are the company's risk takers. Agency theory explains that an agency relationship arises when one or more people employ another person to provide a service and then delegate decision-making authority to the agent (Mitnick, 2019).

Based on the assumption of basic human nature, managers as humans will most likely act opportunistically, namely prioritizing their personal

interests. According to Bebchuk, L. A., & Hirst, S. (2019), the existence of agency problems gives rise to agency costs which consist of:

1. The monitoring expenditure by the principle, namely monitoring costs incurred by the principal to monitor the behavior of agents in managing the company.
2. The bounding expenditure by the agent (bounding costs), namely the costs incurred by the agent to ensure that the agent does not act to the detriment of the principal.
3. The Residual Loss, namely a decrease in the utility level of the principal and agent due to the existence of an agency relationship.

According to Howlett, M. (2019) Agency theory has several shortcomings in explaining the relationship between the people and state institutions in politics, especially in developing countries. Some of these shortcomings are:

1. Limited applicability: Agency theory may have limited applicability in developing countries, where the relationship between people and state institutions is more complex and influenced by cultural, social, and historical factors.
2. Ignores non-economic factors: Agency theory can ignore non-economic factors that influence the behavior of agents in politics, such as ideology, culture, and social norms.
3. Assumes rational behavior: Agency theory assumes that agents behave rationally and are motivated solely by self-interest, which may not always be the case in politics, especially in developing countries.
4. Lack of empirical evidence: Agency theory may lack empirical evidence to support its claims, especially in the political context of developing countries.
5. Oversimplifying relationships: Agency Theory can oversimplify relationship between the people and state institutions by reducing it to a principal-agent relationship, which may not fully capture the complexity of the relationship.
6. Ignores power dynamics: Agency theory can ignore the power dynamics between the people and state institutions, which can influence the behavior of agents and their ability to act in the interests of the people.

Marxist Theory of the State

This theory sees the state as a tool to maintain the interests of certain classes in society. There are several sociological figures who explain state theory, one of which is Karl Heinrich Marx. The understanding of class had a

broad impact on Marx's thinking about the state. Marx differentiated social classes into the bourgeoisie or ruling class and the working class or proletariat. Marx's idea of class is the elimination of classes and the encouragement of workers to no longer be oppressed by those in power. Marx understood the presence of the state as part of the dynamics that occur in society, especially relations between social classes which are prone to conflict. For Marx, the idea of the state must always be linked to two factors (Block, 2021).

In the book "Main Theses of Marxism" it is explained that proletarian class unity has advantages, this is because capitalism supports proletarians and concentrates them in increasingly large companies, instilling industrial discipline in them and at the same time encouraging elementary cooperation and solidarity in the workplace (Van den Berg, 2018). But all this is aimed at seeking maximum profits for each capitalist enterprise and for the bourgeois class as a whole. Capitalists are clearly aware, shown by the explosion of the workers' struggle, that the concentration and unity of the class marks a major threat to itself. For example, recently several labor unions have participated in commemorating Labor Day. These workers, who are often called proletarians, have a very large mass, the targets of their actions are usually the government or the companies where they work. There are many demands that workers want to fulfill, including the elimination of contract workers, increasing the number of company supervisors. It can be seen above that with the strength and unity of the working class or the proletariat they can pressure the parties in power to fulfill their demands or rights. In this case, Marxist theory has the advantage of carrying out social unification or the unity of a movement, privileging the role of the proletariat and the discourse that is built will be strong, detailed and in-depth in explaining specific phenomena (Dowling, 2020).

There are several strengths in this theory, the following are the strengths contained in the Marxist theory according to Rioux et al., (2020):

1. Marxist theory discusses in full the aspects contained in a conflict phenomenon, starting from the causes of a conflict, the groups in conflict, the development of the conflict itself, the resolution of the conflict, to developments in society after the resolution of the conflict.
2. The superiority of Marxist theory lies in Marx's intelligence in classifying social classes in society which are in principle very contradictory.
3. Another strength of Marxist theory is its analysis in explaining the causes of class conflict.

4. Marxist theory looks at the process of development of a conflict up to how the conflict is resolved and also the ability of Marxist theory to predict the end of a conflict.

Non-Marxist State Theory

This theory sees the state as an institution that has an important role in society, but not always as a tool to maintain the interests of certain classes as seen in Marxist state theory. Contemporary non-Marxist theory is the sociological theory of conflict which not only refers to Marx's thinking, but also to Weber and Simmel. In contrast to Marxist conflict theory, non-Marxist/analytical conflict theory assumes that social science and political action are not separate and that facts and values are related. Apart from that, non-Marxist/analytical conflict theory also pays attention to the study of power and actor relations in power as well as Weber's more complex concept of social stratification, not just Marx's economic-based model. Some of the main figures in non-Marxist/analytical conflict theory are Ralf Dahrendorf, Lewis Coser, and Randall Collins, and analytical conflict theory refers to their thinking (Vilkov, 2021).

According to Sperber, N. (2019) Non-Marxist conflict theories focus on objective analysis and are led by key figures such as Ralf Dahrendorf, Lewis Coser, and Randall Collins:

1. These theories emphasize the collaboration of individual interests with group interests in the institutional dimension, which strengthens the group's position.
2. Non-Marxist theories also recognize stratification in society not solely shaped by economic factors, but also by other factors such as authority and power.

Discourse Of Development Theory

The meaning and concept of development may be very familiar to our ears. In general, this word is interpreted as an effort to realize progress in national life. However, in most societies, development is always interpreted as a physical manifestation. Even in small communities, development has a unique meaning, such as the meaning of the word development which we often find in various places written on warning boards on the sides of roads (Leipold et al., 2019).

Development discourse refers to the ways in which development is discussed and represented in society. Some of the advantages of development discourse according to Marinelli, M. (2018) include:

1. **Challenging colonial discourse:** Postcolonial approaches to discourse development challenges the meaning of development that is rooted in colonial discourse, which depicts the North as a developed country and the South as a backward country. This helps create a more just and equitable understanding of development.
2. **Examining the impact of postcolonialism:** Development discourse analysis can examine the impact of postcolonial conditions and the desire for integration in the institutional dimension. This can help identify power imbalances and inequalities in development.
3. **Highlight the role of representation:** Development discourse can highlight the power of representation in shaping development policy and practice. This can help ensure that marginalized voices are heard and development is more inclusive. Overall, development discourse can help create a more just and equitable understanding of development by challenging colonial discourse, examining the impact of postcolonialism, and highlighting the role of representation.

Challenges of Implementing Contemporary Politics

Challenges in implementing contemporary politics involve a number of complex and dynamic aspects. In facing ever-changing political realities, governments and policy makers are faced with various challenges that can affect the effectiveness and success of policy implementation. The following are some of the key challenges that need to be overcome in implementing contemporary politics (Coaffee et al., 2018):

1. **Global Uncertainty:** Turmoil in global geopolitics, including economic uncertainty and international conflict, can hinder the implementation of national policies. The application of contemporary politics must be able to navigate and respond to rapidly changing global dynamics.
2. **Technology and Privacy:** Advances in technology, machine learning, and the use of big data are opening up new potential in contemporary politics. However, challenges arise related to individual privacy, data security, and the potential misuse of technology for unethical political purposes.
3. **Political Polarization:** Challenges in mitigating political polarization in society, which can hinder policy consensus and implementation. Rising inter-party tensions and the polarization of public opinion pose challenges

to achieving the political agreement necessary to implement effective policies.

4. **Climate Change and the Environment:** Environmental crises, including climate change, present major challenges for political implementation. Finding a balance between policies that support economic growth and environmental protection is a key challenge in the contemporary political context.
5. **Social and Economic Inequality:** The problem of economic and social inequality is a challenge that needs to be overcome by political policies. Inequality can create societal dissatisfaction and threaten political stability, so implementing policies that support social inclusion is crucial.
6. **Global Health:** Global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, show the complexity of dealing with health problems involving political, economic and social aspects. Implementing policies that are responsive and adaptive to the health situation is a major challenge.
7. **Human Rights Issues:** Contemporary political practices must address human rights issues, including protecting individual rights, freedom of expression, and overcoming discrimination. Ensuring policies are in line with human rights principles is a crucial aspect.
8. **Demographic Change:** Demographic changes, such as population aging and migration, influence social and economic dynamics. Implementing policies that can respond to demographic changes and ensure the inclusion of diverse communities is a complex challenge.
9. **Digitalization Challenges:** Increased reliance on technology and digital transformation raises challenges in aligning these developments with policies that involve all levels of society and support digital inclusion.
10. **Public Participation:** Increasing effective public participation in political decision-making processes is a challenge, especially to ensure that the voices of all groups in society are heard and taken into account.

CONCLUSION

The development of political science in the contemporary era is marked by various shifts and advances in viewpoints and theoretical approaches. The influence of technology, changing dynamics of public participation, and unique geographical and temporal contexts, all contribute to the complexity of applying contemporary political theory, especially in the Indonesian context.

The contemporary political landscape has been shaped by the rapid development of information technology, particularly the emergence of social

media and the use of data, which has changed political dynamics in unprecedented ways. Increasing public participation and developing public expectations are determining factors in contemporary political dynamics.

The evolution of political thought has witnessed fluctuations from the classical to the contemporary era, with a transition towards behavioral approaches in the study of politics. The shift toward a behavioral approach to politics marked a significant departure from the previous emphasis on political thought as a philosophy closely linked to the history of philosophy. The study of contemporary political theory covers a variety of concepts, including society, social classes, the state, power, sovereignty, rights and obligations, freedom, state institutions, social change, political development, modernization, and many more.

In the contemporary democratic era, the dynamism of political life has attracted great interest in the scientific study of political theories and their practical applications. The application of contemporary political theories in Indonesia faces unique challenges and dynamics, which are influenced by rapid technological advances, changes in the nature of public participation, and changes in societal expectations. These factors contribute to the complexity of applying contemporary political theories within Indonesia's unique time and geographic framework.

In the development of political science, there are several political theories that have developed throughout the contemporary era. Here are some of them, namely Political Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Feminism, Dependency Theory, and Postcolonialism.

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