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P.G. Pol. Sc. Sem-I

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Behaviouralism Approach

Main Points

- Emerged in 1930s
- Paradigm shift in the field of Comparative Politics
- Three Approaches -
 - (i) Traditional
 - (ii) Behavioural
 - (iii) Post-Behavioural
- Mostly used to study in Comparative Politics
- During the early 20th orientation shifted to the study of the institutions
- Traditional Approach became non-comparative, descriptive, anarchic and static (Macridis-1955)
- The Traditional Approach focused on structure of state, elections and political parties
- Behavioural Approach according to Eulau (1963) "Why people behave politically as they do, and why, as a result, political processes"

and systems function as they do! Page - 2

- Separates fact from value
- Nonprescriptive
- Objective
- Empirical
- Quantitative
- Concerned with uniformities
- Regularities
- Comparative
- Focuses on several countries
- Ethnocentric
- Especially concerned with Anglo-American Model
- Abstract
- Ideologically conservative and static
- Focuses on formal and informal (group) structures and functions
- Ahistorical
- Tendency towards the construction of logically consistent models.
- Empirical Reality
- Truth
- Formal models
- Mixture of experience and theory

- Rigorously scientific discipline models
- Methods of Natural Sciences

Major Tenets

- ① Regularities or Uniformities in Political Behaviour
- ② Verification or Testing
- ③ Techniques for interpreting data
- ④ Quantification and measurement in the recording of data
- ⑤ Values
- ⑥ Systematization of Research
- ⑦ Pure science
- ⑧ Integration of Political Research with other social sciences (David Easton 1965)

- It was an alternative to Traditional Approach
- In the 1960s, there was a great deal of dissatisfaction with Research and Teaching.
- Making the study of Politics into more rigorously scientific discipline
- Main theorists are David Easton, Gabriel Almond, G.B. Powell Sr., Sydney Verba, Eulau Heinz, Kirn, Michael Kuhn Thomas
- Major force in 1950s and won in 1960s