

TOPIC
COMPARITIVE
GOVERNMENT
AND
POLITICS

PRESENTED BY:
MRS. ALKA SHARMA
Asst.Prof. in Political Science

Arend Lijphart

argues that comparative politics does not have a *substantive* focus in itself, but rather a *methodological* one: it focuses on "the *how* but does not specify the *what* of the analysis."

In other words,

comparative politics is not defined by the object of its study, but rather by the method it applies to study political phenomena.

Peter Mair and Richard Rose

advance a slightly different definition, arguing that comparative politics is defined by a combination of a *substantive* focus on the study of countries' political systems and a *method* of identifying and explaining similarities and differences between these countries using common concepts.

- **Politics** is the struggle in any group for power that will give one or more persons the ability to make decisions for the larger group. **Power** is the ability to influence others or impose one's will on them.

- Comparative politics is a subfield of political science, characterized by an empirical approach based on the comparative method. When applied to specific

- When applied to specific fields of study, comparative politics may be referred to by other names, such as for example comparative government (the comparative study of forms of government) or comparative foreign policy (comparing the foreign policies of different States in order to establish general empirical connections between the characteristics of the State and the characteristics of its foreign policy).

- **Difference between Comparative Government and Politics**

- 1) Comparative Government is old subject
Comparative Politics is new subject.
- 2) Difference in Nature
- 3) Difference in method study
- 4) Difference in values
- 5) Difference in their scope
- 6) Difference in study of infrastructures

NATURE OF COMPARITIVE POLOTICS

- Studies of one country
- Studies of two or more countries
- Regional or area studies
- Studies across regions
- Global comparisons
- Thematic studies

SCOPE OF COMPARITIVE POLITICS

- All Political Structures
- Functional Studies
- Study of Political Behavior
- Study of Similarities and Differences
- Study of all Political Systems

- Study of the Environment and Infrastructure of Politics
- Study of Political Culture
- Study of Political Socialisation
- Study of Political Participation

Comparative Method

- The **comparative method** is a way to make comparisons and draw conclusions across case studies. It may rely on **inductive reasoning** (using case studies to generate hypotheses) or **deductive reasoning** (research that works from a hypothesis and tests this with data) to establish a **causal relationship** and develop **theory**.

- The **comparative method** is – together with the experimental method, the statistical method and the case study approach – one of the four fundamental scientific methods which can be used to test the validity of theoretical propositions, often with the use of empirical data i.e. to establish relationships among two or more empirical variables or concepts while all other variables are held constant

Aristotle

- In his work *The Politics*, Aristotle compares different "constitutions", by introducing a famous typology based on two criteria: the number of rulers (one, few, many) and the nature of the political regime (good or corrupt). Thus he distinguishes six different kinds of "constitutions": monarchy, aristocracy, and polity (good types), versus tyranny, oligarchy and democracy (corrupt types).

Operational aspect of Comparative Method

- Selection of proper units
- Classification of units
- Formation of hypothesis
- Testing of hypothesis
- Theory building

Scope of Comparative Method

- Comparative study of Political Systems
- Comparative study of Political Structures
- Comparative study of Infrastructures
- Horizontal and Vertical Comparison

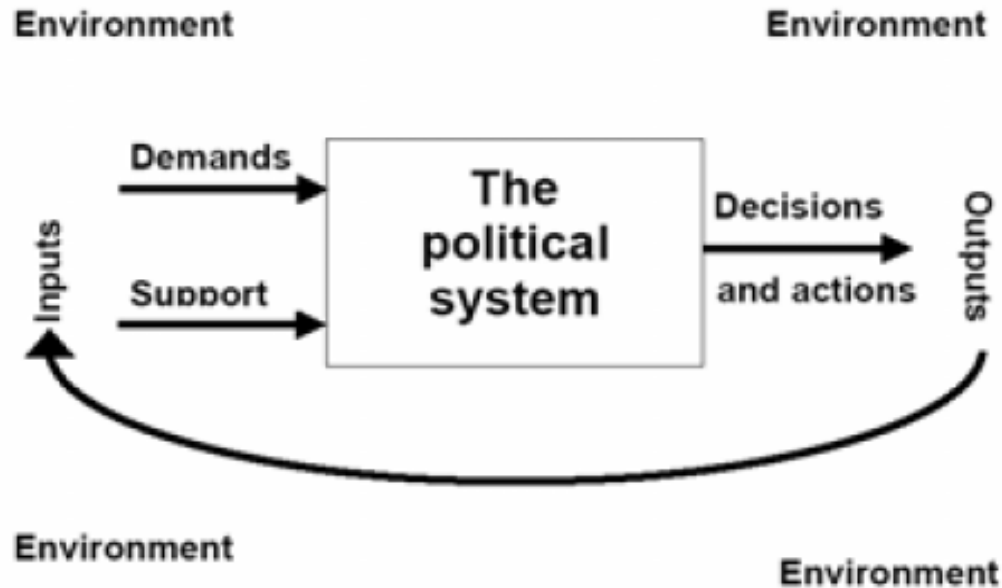
System Approach

a) David Easton

b) Alomnd and Powell

- David Easton was the first to think to analyzing politics from the point of view of system analysis in his work **Political System (1953)** .
- Acc to Easton , political system is an interaction in any society through which authoritative and binding allocations of values are made and implemented.

Politisches System nach Easton



Quelle: Easton, David (1965). A Systems Analysis of Political Life, New York u.a., S. 32.

- **Almond and Powell**

- Almond's model is popularly known to the students of political science as structural functionalism.
- In structural functionalism the structures of the political system (such as political parties, interest groups, legislatures, executives, bureaucracies and courts) are not clearly defined and properly patterned and yet in spite of this their importance is immense

Functions of Political Systems

The input functions are

The output functions are:

The input functions are

1. Political socialization and recruitment
2. Interest articulation
3. Interest aggregation
4. Political communication

The output functions are

- 1. Rule making
- 2. Rule adjudication
- 3. Rule application.