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The role of political Science

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CHAPTER ONE: THE ROLE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

OVERVIEW

Political science is the study of politics and its surrounding environment. This implies that the essence of political science is to open widely on the perspective of what goes round in the social order of any democratic state. There are considerable questions that emerge out of the political sphere to contend the manner in which politics is exhibited. These entails; what attitudes and values produce political conflicts and decent, what political organizations are active in the struggle to realize political maturity, what is the nature of socio-economic relationships inside a polity, how adequate are the resources to meet the needs of the society, hoe equitable are the resources distributed to suit the needs and the aspirations of the people, what are the constitutional structure and the decision making process of each nation and how well suited are they to that nations needs, what internal structures and procedures exist for the debate and resolution of the problems with that nation, why are some countries rich and developed in terms of democratic practices while others are not. These among other questions bet explain the relevance and undertaking enshrined in the study of political science.

Political science is a social service discipline that focuses on the analysis of political trends and values contained in the leadership arena and how state administers the hegemony over others to influence decisions or direct a course of action on how the government or state can be managed or controlled. (Brown Keller, 2001)

Kevin Bright (1999) defined political science as the study of government and the politics. Politics on the other hand is the authoritative allocation distribution of resources to society in order to realize sanity and goods governance. (David Easton 1978)

According the oxford advanced learners dictionary (7th edition, 2006), politics is the activities involved in getting and using power in public life, and being able to influence decisions that affect a country or society.

Political science has been broadly perceived as a discipline that shapes and train political actors or practitioners with an aim of enhancing political knowledge and skills that enable the politicians administer and execute their political obligations and duties.

This module political science prepares the student to face the political challenges and how to rejuvenate the political system so as to bring the socio-economic service nearer to the local people. The essence of political science is therefore to provide a platform and training ground for future leaders and revolutionarists who can pick the courage to serve or lead others within the political environment.

Political science also analyses how the economy of the state can be regulated and tries to dig deeper on how nations organize the production and use of wealth to create social order and increase socio-economic output. (Dr. Mushemeza M. 2000, MUK – Department of Political Science and Administration)

APPROACHES TO STUDY POLITICS

Behavioral, structural, philosophical, documentary and predictive. Each of these approaches is related to each other.

Political behavioral approach

The political behavioral approach to politics means focusing on how individuals act politically and seeking explanation for that behavior with in those individuals. Behaviorists are not especially interested in what the rules say or what philosophies are discovered about a political action; they want to know what human beings really do when they act

politically that is when they discuss politics, vote, contact government officials, demonstrate rule or otherwise act out of their political convictions.

The behavioral approach emphasizes the need to carry out investigations and come out with realistic evidence and facts about some political situations before concluding to a particular stand or position. This political approach maintains the art of description and put political actors on pressure to explain their political actions and ten advocates of this approach believe that the political government in power is meant to perform its political obligations otherwise short of that they can organize demonstrative expressions and mobilize the local populace to challenge the undertakings of such government. But this can be realized after intensive research and viable evidence and facts gathered on state of affairs of such government. This is done in collaboration with the civil society, radicals, political parties and individual personalities.

Political structure and functions

It is the work of the legislature (parliament) to make the laws and the Executive arm of government to carry them out. When the political scientists adopt the political structural functional approach, they focus on the important roles established in society, what functions they perform and how they carry out those roles influences the quality life.

The structural functional approach helps us focus on what is really happening. It helps us to work on the structural objectivity. It reminds us that certain functions are probably being performed when persons with positions are inside the structures who are responsible for executing those tasks.

Someone is creating political issues, some one is choosing the leaders, some one is making the rules and some one is carrying them out, some one is deciding disputes arising under those rules who is doing what; in what office or role and in what effect.

Political Documents

The art and practice of reading political documents from constitution to campaign speeches is one of the oldest for of political science and currently one of the least appreciated political scientists have learnt the hard way that documents can't always be trusted as guides to political practice, constitution and statutory law treaties, party statutes and platforms, records of legislative proceedings, authorized biographers, judicial decisions and news paper accounts of political scientists have discovered they must approve with caution.

Adolf Hitler came to power under the terms of the well respected constitution of the Weimar republic of Germany. Democratic governments have also shown surprisingly gaps between the constitutional theory and political practice. Documentary politics is mainly centered on how the political actors implement what is on paper in form of documents. For example recoding of the parliamentary minutes that lead to the resolution of the bill tabled on the floor of the parliament, documented procedures on how parliament should execute its tasks, executive or even how political parties can organize or arrange for party elections. The most important advantage of the political documentary approach is that information about certain issues passed is retained for purposes of future reference. For instance the documentary information of political referendum, national censuses, etc

THE LANGUAGE OF POLITICS

The study of politics is rich in the language about the concepts some political scientists argue that the discipline is still too young for us to have achieved full agreement on the concepts we use and the language we employ. Such terms can be dividing for convenience into three categories, these that name certain qualities of dial life that are the subject to political determination.

Structures

The word structure itself refers to a set of patterned role relationships. Three structures which are very commonly used in political service are organizations, institutions and states.

Organizations

An organization is a body of persons working together in a structural way to achieve a common purpose. In a case of political organizations, that purpose is the organizational revolutionary movements and even terrorists groups are examples of political organizations. Political organizations may be long lived or short live, large or small, important or not.

Institutions

When a structure becomes an institution, its activities are widely viewed as helping to meet one or more of the basic needs of society. An institution is a structure with established important functions to perform, well specified roles for governing the relationship between the people who occupy those roles. Organizations may be institutions but not all the organizations are institutions. The members of the organization may have a common purpose, but may not be viewed by society as having important functions to perform; the people working through an institution may have common and important functions. A single political party is an organization. Political parties collectively may or may not have the

status of institution in a given polity. If they are expected to carry out such functions as recruiting political leaders in a political way, political parties in that system have achieved the status of an institution.

Any given institution may be wholly or partly political or absolutely non-political. Courts legislative council, civil societies and political parties are examples of wholly political. Most institutions are at least partly political when the occasion arises, they will engage as institutions in the political process. Many of the world's corporations, trade unions and religious and educational institutions routinely commit a portion of their resources and attention to attempt influence political decisions.

State

A state is a structure that has a legal right to make rules that are applied over a population within a territory. As such, it has geographical as well as political characteristics. A state is a political institution, but it differs from other political institutions in having sovereignty that is to say, it has the power to make decisions that can not be over ruled by any other body.

CONCEPTUALIZATION RELATIONSHIPS OF CONTROL SYSTEMS

Engaging in politics means taking part in efforts to control the acts of others. Many of the key concepts of political science have to do with the interplays in the control mechanisms. We briefly consider four aspects; power, influence, authority and legitimacy

Power: according to the oxford advanced learners dictionary, (2007) power is defined as the ability to control people and things. The aim is to give people more power over their own lives. From the political science point of view, power is the political control of a country or an area.

Influence: this is the effect that some body or something has on the way a person thinks or behaves or on the way that something works or develops. Influence is also defined as the power that some body has to make something behave in a particular way. One vital resource for exercise of influence is the occupancy of public office. Public office is the proper home of political decisions. If one occupies a public office, one is authorized to make certain practical decisions, one has authority. On the other hand, influence peddling is the illegal activity of a political doing something for some body in return for payment i.e. corruption.

Authority: this is the right to exercise the power and influence of a given position that comes from having been placed in that position according to regular known and widely acceptable procedures. The oxford advanced learners dictionary defines authority as the power to give orders to the people the ability to direct the course of action.

Legitimacy: this means the approval of others. It's the condition of being regarded as correctly placed in a particular role and carrying out the functions of that role correctly. If the president for example is seen as failing to take adequate steps to resolve an economic crisis such as widely fluctuating financial market or a seemingly unending recession he/she may lose legitimacy without losing authority. When the people authorized to rule lose legitimacy, the chances are good that an attempt will be made to replace them with others if a change in the basis of authority that change way will be made.

POLITICAL CONCEPTS REGARDING THE QUALITY OF LAW

Politics is a fascinating subject and of itself but the reason of us to care enough about politics to study it's both more personal and more global. We are aware that the quality of life we are leading is strongly influenced by the quality of our politics. We rely heavily on political process to organize our interactions with one another. We need one another to live and prosper but we do not always find that aspect of human conditions entirely satisfactorily, particular questions arise here how different are we here?

Should we be from one another? How free from one another by one another? Those questions give rise to the concept of equality, freedom and order.

Equality

Contemporary political systems nearly all give at least lip service to some version of the thought that all men are created equal. Some even go so far as to include women in the blessing. Rational observers may protest that there are obvious differences from birth in the physical and intellectual abilities of human beings. All of us need food, shelter, sleep, safety, various forms of social responsibility i.e. love, sex, affection, kindness and respect.

Political equality means an equal right to participate in the political process and to be treated fairly by it. The Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines equality as the fact of being equal in rights, status, advantage, etc.

Freedom

It is imperative to determine what governments role should be in ensuring any form of equality confronting the concept of freedom. Freedom means something more than liberty, which suggest simply the absence of constraint, however the two terms are used interchangeably

It is the responsibility of the government to keep their citizens free in the sense of out of bondage. In some way most people would agree that there are times when governments must limit individual liberty, freedom comes in different form.

Political freedom means the freedom to dissent without fear of punishments. Social freedom means the freedom to behave as one wishes. Economic freedom means the freedom to acquire and dispose of one's personal wealth without hindrances. None of the freedoms is absolute in any land, but the extent to which each is protected varies enormously from nation to nation and from time to time.

Governments in underdeveloped nations are sometimes so determined to maintain political stability that they use brutal means to stifle the free expression of ideas while encouraging a shift to greater economic freedom at the time in order to stimulate the competitiveness essential for joining a capitalistic global economy. On the other hand, some people prefer limiting economic freedom to ensure that the gap between the rich and the poor does not become too great while taking the freedom of expression even for more dangerous opinions absolutely for granted.

Order

The problem of balancing governments' responsibility to aid the needy with its responsibility to protect individual's freedom is compounded by our need for order and stability. Our life as a social, interesting species requires us to organize our relationship with one another to create order out of chaos. We develop some ability to predict what will happen next. Order is essential yet it is always difficult to establish without satisfying other desired conditions. One way order is achieved is through the division of labour, certain persons are authorized to perform certain functions, and some functions prove more essential than others to the collective good and it is likely that those functions will be better rewarded than others which means that the loss of what associate economic equality may have existed.

CHAPTER TWO: POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

LIBERALISM

The chief difference between liberalism and conservatism is the view each takes for human nature. Where those who are conservative are at best cautiously hopeful with the admirable characteristics of loyalty, patriotism and piety, liberals take a much egalitarian view (principle of equal rights for all). The liberalists believe that the human beings are capable of reasoning, but that they are often caught up in different situation in real life.

The responsibility of the government in power is to make it possible for all men and women to exercise reason, work for a better life and make their own important in real life.

The liberal approach emphasizes the need for governments to respect the liberty and freedom of man. That means that, governments from the liberal thinking are obliged to ensure that it is citizens enjoy liberty and freedom of expression, the right to associate with a political organization of their choice as well as express their independent opinion on how the state is administered.

SOCIALISM

For socialists, the most important characteristic of human nature is each individual's natural sociability. Socialists believe that human beings engage in cooperative activities when given chance. Unfortunately, some individuals have selfishly established structures to control that make it impossible for this natural cooperative instinct to flourish. These thinkers believe that property and natural resources should be enshrined in the public control and not private lands i.e. they agitate for communal ownership of property and natural assets and resources as a way of discouraging the exploitative tendencies of the private rich individuals.

The socialist perspective believe that an economy believe to cater for the needs of its citizens as such, create an economic environment where resources are communally or socially owned and benefited. For instance, Tanzania under the late Prof. Julius Nyerere Kambalaga (1970-1986) believed in a socialist ideology where natural resources and infrastructure was established in the interest of a "common man" (the poor) thus extending all the social services like water, electricity, education, hospitals, roads, farms and gardens, etc in the hand of the community members without any description. The country came up with what was referred to as the Ujama villages where all the resources were communally owned an act that discouraged selfish interests vested in private ownership of businesses. The ideology I aimed at ensuring that every citizen shares the National cake in form of extended social services and resources at village or community level where every local citizen has a stake in the general management and maintenance of those resources

CAPITALISM

The capitalistic ideology is mainly centered on "survival for the fittest" implying that such an economy is supported by how much derived from a person for him or her to penetrate the labour market. The capitalistic tendencies create a class above or part from those that do not have anything to produce or to sell. In capitalistic countries, the economy is controlled by the wealth class of people who produce for consumption, those determine the prices, what to produce, when to produce and indeed any one who does not work or contribute to the market in terms of production does not survive and he or she is under looked.

Capitalistic ideology is greatly practiced in the developed economies where the factors of production are sustainable and where the private sector dominates the economy's survival.

Poor countries who rely on donor aid (dependence syndrome) can not survive in this kind of environment since they will be exploited and vulnerable to the labour market as a result of the fact that they can contribute to the economic sector, resources are controlled by the rich businessmen who determine the economies of scale.

POLITICAL ECONOMY

Political economy is the relationship between the economic conditions and the political choices we make. The specific economic factors that shape political choices are the size of the nation, the natural resources available to it and its level of economic development. The more common mode of political response to economic domain is the way different political systems based on different ideologies have addressed the problem of providing material welfare by institutionalizing different economic systems, capitalism, market economy and socialism.

We shall focus in particular on the problems posed to the world at large by the environmental crisis by increasingly interdependent international trade and by the indebtedness of undeveloped nations.

The emphasis of the interrelationship between economic factors and politics are not the only areas of political consideration, we have already identified the power of political thought in guiding political development and we are to examine how cultural and social factors and individual initiative can also help to determine the course of political action.

CHAPTER THREE: ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT COMMONLY INFLUENCE POLITICS

A nation size, its supply of natural resources and its level of economic development are the three major characteristics that help shape its internal politics as well as its political and economic relations with other nations.

THE SIZE OF THE NATION

The size of the nation can be measured as its territory extent or as the number of citizens inhabiting its territory. Both measures are influenced by geographical as well as economic trends. Geographical conditions help determine how large a state will be as well as how many people will seek their living within the boundaries. Climate, natural resources and the likelihood of natural disasters determine the stability of any terrain for habitation. Once size is established, it inevitably becomes an economic factor.

As such, size often has a profound impact on the cause of political life. The territorial extent of a nation limits the number of people who can be fed and sheltered, gives the society's particular level of domain area inadequate to its population needs, then the economic struggle for such resources may lead to political strife. The relationships between the economic consequences of size and choice of politics works both ways, the size of the system affects the national politics and the natural size affects the size of the system. Political factors change territorial extent.

NATURAL RESOURCES

One of the reasons why small states are at a disadvantage is inadequate natural resources. These of course have no direct relationship between size and natural wealth. Countries engage in wars because of resource exploitation. For example, Iraq invasion of Kuwait in 1990's was for oil, USA's intervention was that it flows in the right direction. Iraq had exhausted its resources during the Iraq-Iran war. The invasion of Congo by the UPDF and RPA (Rwanda Patriotic Army) in the Kisangani incidence was due to the exploitation of Gold and Copper by the army generals of the two countries.

The question of importance of natural resources to the economics and politics of the nation is not always unambiguous. The politics of Hong Kong and Singapore are only the examples of the small polities. Further the abundant natural resources mean little so long as they remain entirely natural resources, must be transformed into final products if they are to bring economic returns.

LEVEL OF WEALTH ACHIEVED

Economic developments mean acquiring the ability to transform natural resources into various more valuable processed goods to provide valuable services and to market those goods and services domestically and internationally in order to improve the material well being of the nations' own people. Wealthier nations are more influential in world politics than poor nations, often use that political strength to further their economic dominance and may do so in a way that makes it difficult for smaller and poorer nations to achieve the diversified labour force so clearly related to economic development. This is referred to as a "political hegemony"

POLITICAL DETERMINATION OF ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Politics and economics are mutually interrelated and support each other in the context of political science. The politics of the day influences the economic developments and how the economy is led. Borrowing the definition of David Easton (1978) politics is the "authoritative allocation and distribution of resources to society"

How would political decisions determine economic conditions?

1. The power to tax (regulating the tax policies in the country)
The power to spend revenue including the power to subsidize particular sectors of the economy agriculture price supports, tax exemptions to some institutions and business personalities.
2. The power to regulate the conduct of the business
3. The power to issue and regulate the currency
4. The power to determine the interest rates.
5. The power to make economic impact within the nations
6. The power to control the entry and the exit from the natural territory of people and goods.
7. The power to make comprehensive long range plans incorporating
8. The power to discourage the consumption of certain products or goods and services which may be harmful to human health.
9. The power to access and evaluate the performance of business and to recommend on how and what mechanisms to be applied in business developments.
The power to develop infant industries from external dominance and exploitation (protectionism)

Each of those powers is an imperative means of shaping the direction of an economy and the distribution of its wealth. The decisions each nation makes about exercising political control over its economic life will depend on large part on nature of the economic system to which it's committed.

The choice of economic system and whether to keep or change the existing system is itself a political decision often based on a particular ideology. i.e. capitalism, socialism, liberalism or conservatism.

ALTERNATIVES TO CAPITALISM, SOCIALISM AND MIXED ECONOMY

In its purest form, socialism carries the natural connection between the political and economic spheres to its logical conclusion. It calls for the absolute merger of the two. In the ideal socialist system, the state would control all the means of production and could itself control the workers. With absolute control, the state would in the theory be able to establish and carry out long range comprehensive plans of economic developments. The socialist economy is planned economy. Further more knowing that the state acted only in their own interest and that in working for the state would no longer be alienated from their jobs. They would thus produce as well and as much as possible. Effort to put some form of socialist economic system into operations were undertaken in nearly every part of the world once the failings of unrestrained capitalism became apparent. Even where the socialist presentation were consistently rejected, some form of mixed economy was bought on board. This is based on the mixture of public and private ownership of the regulations of the private sector. The mixed economy allows both the public intervention and private actors determining the factors of production and thus controls resources within the labour market. In a mixed economy, no parties are restricted as long as they can offer something in the market area. Therefore under this arrangement, the state does not control the resources or determine what to produce, when to produce and how, this is determined by the market.

The society form of socialism fell apart and the entire former eastern block has started shifting to capitalistic economy. The continued existence of communist regimes in China and Cuba of strong social democratic parties in much of the Western Europe means that socialism is far from collapsing but for now the capitalistic system is clearly ascendant

CHAPTER FOUR: THE THREE ARMS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE ROLES THEY PLAY

When someone talks about the arms of the government he refers to the executive, legislature and the judiciary. Those are sometimes known as the organs of the state and each organ plays its autonomous functions but complement each other in an effort to dispense their constitutional tasks in conformity with the existing laws of particular nations. In fact the politics of any country or state is engineered by those three arms of government because they provide a yardstick upon which states are governed and thus responsible for the success or failure of the state. The three arms are explained in details below.

LEGISLATURE

This consists of elected political representatives and is constituted at central, regional and local level of government. At central government of south- Sudan, policy making is done by the parliament (legislative assembly). At regional level, policy making is done at the provincial level (state legislature/assembly). At local government levels (counties/municipalities), the responsibility for policy making lies within the municipal council.

The legislature makes laws that are later implemented by the executive arm of the government. It is also the duty of the parliament to oversee the performance of the cabinet, investigate any national matter or issue that may arise from time to time as well as pass approvals that are submitted to the “august house” by cabinet.

It is the duty of the parliament to approve the national budget, make necessary amendments of any relevant bill as well as represent the views and opinion of the people they represent (constituents, electorate).

The legislative arm of the government is the platform in which political decisions are debated and where necessary counteract the executive. In some countries, the parliament can censure the head of state and indeed the cabinet ministers who fail to respect the constitutional obligation plus those who may misbehave.

Within the political spheres, in some countries the legislative assembly determines the future of the ruling party most especially in terms of the majority in numbers. Parliament in the democratic nations guides the state in its bid to extend service delivery. This is mainly seen at committee levels where certain issues are debated and analyzed before they are forwarded to the main house for final approval or resentment depending on the situation.

EXECUTIVE

This is made up of the Head of State (the president) and the commander in chief of the armed forces, the vice president, the prime minister who is the leader of government business and the entire cabinet.

The executive arm of government implements the laws and policies made by the parliament (the legislature). The executive arm of the government plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the policies are put into considerations.

Executive councils and committees: these consist of executive political office bearers who are entrusted with the formulation of the government policy. This includes bodies, for example, the council of ministers or cabinet. The office bearers are the political heads of various government departments. Political office bearers may sometime appoint commissions and committees of inquiry to advise them on political issues. These committees and commissions may be appointed to investigate a specific event in order to identify the possible shortcomings in the policy structure.

The executive arm of the government tries to implement policies like health through establishing health centers, facilitating the acquisition of drugs, equipment; the policy of education through extending the education programs and designing the curriculum, the land policy where the squatters and tenants are protected from the exploitation by the land lords and streamlining the land procedures and tenure system; environmental conservation policy, etc.

All those roles impact on the political situation of nations from time to time and indeed reflect the contribution and responsibility of the executive arm of the government.

THE JUDICIARY

This is the legal organ of the government where the laws are interpreted and protected. The judiciary interprets the laws and tries to create harmony between the legislative and executive arms of the government. This is where the laws are protected. The courts of law arbitrate in the various cases in order to make a final ruling as well as ensure the legal sanity in the country. There are various legal structures which are headed by the Chief Justice under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. The Supreme Court is the highest court of the land; below it is the Court of Appeal, the High Court in that order and so on and so forth. The judiciary is very important because it is the custodian of

interpreting and protecting the law of any domestic state, the duties and grievances are addressed by this arm of government.

NB

What is very notably observed is the fact that all those arms of government are independent of each other in the execution of their duties but they compliment each other thus they are interrelated since they constitute the operational tasks of government.

For example, the executive is not to overlap its duties and interferer in the affairs of the judiciary likewise the legislature should not dictate the ruling made by the judiciary. In administrative law, this is called “the doctrine of separation of powers”

CHAPTER SIX: RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT

Becoming a leader:

There are four main ways of becoming a leader; by ascription, by appointment, by election and by force

Ascription; in some societies the route to power is open only to those who possess certain characteristics, if they are believed to have these characteristics they may become leaders if not they can't. The system of hereditary monarchy which ensures that only one person can be next in line is the most obvious example. ASCRIPTION can be defined as assigning people to leadership positions on the basis of their attributes rather than on the basis of anything they have accomplished. The other way ascription is perceived is in some systems in order to be chosen for a leadership role you have to be the right sort of person belonging to the group or have the right kind and quantity of belonging. All governments even the most democratic specify and abide by some measures of ascription. Criteria of race, ethnicity, sex and geographic community are also very common, even in systems that claim otherwise.

Appointment: some people become leaders through political appointment and end up assuming leadership positions. For example, some one may not be elected by the local people but end up being appointed as minister, district commissioner, and political advisor by the head of state. There is a rule for determining which position will be filled by appointment, more autocratic the regime the greater use of the appointment power. The reason for this is obvious one of the best ways to stay in power is to control who works for you and to understand to whom they owe their jobs. Political appointments are made ready by those already in leadership positions like president, executive prime minister, etc.

Elections: some people assume leadership positions through election process by the power of the "ballot box", they contest with other political opponents from other parties and layout their manifesto, canvas for votes, mobilize the local populace to elect them in power or assume political positions in government.

These include contesting for presidency, parliamentary seat, leadership councils, etc. these elections are monitored by the international community, conducted by respected independent minded electoral commission liaison to the polling agents, residing officers to ensure that the elections are free and fair with collaboration with security agencies like police and local defense forces.

Force: some people become leaders through coercive means (forcefully) they either stage a coup d'état, terrorism or guerilla war to overthrow a legislative government in power. This means that they can do anything it takes to acquire state power, whether it necessitates killing, staging bombs in strategic positions, kidnapping people or government. An example of such include; the NRA bush war (guerilla war 1981-86) in Uganda politics, the Rwanda genocide of 1994 that ousted the government of the late Habyalimana by RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) led by General Paul Kagame, the coup that overthrew Dr. Appolo Milton Obote in 1971 on 25th January by Field Marshal General Idi Amin Dada, the coup that was staged by General Omar El Bashir in 1986 that overthrew the government, etc. Therefore, some people become extremists and others revolutionaries after engaging in a coercive political pressure thereby overthrowing regimes or governments to assume or cling to power. Other countries where force has been applied to take over power include; Guinea, Mozambique, Angola, Congo, etc.

MAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Scientific approach to the study of man;

For a long time, but especially since the late 19th century with the development of the theory of biological evolution, scientists have been interested in tracing the origins of human beings.

Modern knowledge of human evolutionary development is largely derived from findings in such studies as anthropology (the study of human place in nature and his culture), and Genetics (the branch of biology that deals with heredity).

The physical evolution of human being was accompanied by development of culture, including tools. Languages and social activities.

SOCIAL CHANGE AND EVOLUTION;

From the arguments above evolution has been viewed as a generic term meaning development by a process of gradual and continuous change from previous existing form. Hence the primary mover of social evolution is technological progress. There are three basic factors responsible for social evolution.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL EVOLUTION;

The first is the environment in which the social animal is living. This means social evolution depends on the environment to which any given society has to adapt and which can also enhance the general reservoir of its techniques of adaptability.

The second is the institutions and forms of organizations which have adaptive capacity to borrow, transplant from one society to another, therefore enhancing their adaptive potential.

The third factor is the extent to which human society can use the existing resources to create new ones or to adapt the existing resources so that they can be effective in the environment. Social evolution, involves specialization and continuous differentiation. In broad evolutionary terms, such continuous differentiation has been usually conceived as a continuous development in which specialization and differentiation are enhanced. Basically specialization facilitates technological and scientific innovations, cultural and religious creativity, expansion of political power and development of complex social structure. Differentiation, on the other hand, denotes the Degree to which the major social and cultural activities, as well as certain basic resources; man power, economic resources, have been freed from kinship, territorial and other inscriptive units. It is this freedom of resources and activities that constitutes the basis for transformative capacity of society. Such as changes in the number and variety of positions and social roles, changes in obligations or duties attached to positions, new ways of organizing social activities and redistribution of facilitates and rewards. Short lived changes do not however, produce social change, such as fashions, temporary behavior and ideas.

STAGES OF SOCIAL EVOLUTION

(1) PRIMITIVE COMMUNALISM.

1.1 Savagery stages;

This is a stage when human beings lived in their habitat and dwelling at least partially in trees and caves. Fruits, Nuts and roots saved them as food. At the end of this, human beings invented bows and arrows, whereby wild animals become another item of food.

1.2 Barbarism stage;

This started with discovery of pottery. The characteristic feature of this period is the domestication and breeding of animals and cultivation of plants.

Melting of iron ore and invention of alphabetic writing and its utilization in communication and record keeping are some of the achievements in this stage.

From Savagery to middle barbarism, the periods are characterized by low level of productive forces (crude tools), limited division of labour based on age and sex, and absence of exploitation of man by man. Using the historical materialism analysis, these stages are known as primitive communalism mode of production.

SLAVERY;

Slavery started during the upper barbarism stage when production was split into two main branches, namely, agriculture and industry.

Slavery emerged when there was improvement in tools making which allowed surplus production. This system emerged from social divisions and gave birth to social classes of slaves and slave masters.

Production for exchange emerged since agriculture developed in the country side and industry in urban centers. In the first instance, slaves were those people captured in inter-tribal wars. Captives of war were used as domestic slaves and in agricultural plantations.

Later on other sources were used to acquire slaves, these were piracy, kidnapping and buying slaves from slaves markets. Slavery emerged with development in social organization and formation of chiefdoms, kingdoms and Empires. For the first time in history there emerged exploitation between human beings through slavery and kidnapping.

(3) CIVILIZATION STAGE.

Civilization stage is the period in which science and technology become advanced. Human beings started to intensify the use of science and Technology in working up of Natural products; starting proper manufacturing industries; and developed diversified arts

FEUDAL SOCIETIES;

The concept Feudalism can best be defined by looking at its characteristics, these include; Strict division of society into classes, i.e. Nobility, clergy, peasantry, and later the Burgesses.

Private jurisdiction based on local customs.

The land holding system dependent upon the fee.

This system was basically agrarian based on contracts made among nobles. In an ideal Feudal Society, the ownership of all land was vested in the king.

RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION.

The term Renaissance is used to refer to the rich development of Western Europe Civilization, the period that marked the transition from Medieval to industrial revolution.

The Renaissance emerged by 14th century and reached its height in the 16th and 17th centuries. In this period, emphasis was on individual expression, self consciousness, and the worldly experience.

During this period, a good number of western states gained relative political stability and there were also economic advancement. Separate state Governments established Diplomatic relations with one another to maintain a delicate balance of power.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION;

The term applies the social and economic changes that mark the transition from a stable agricultural and commercial society to a modern industrial society relying on complex machinery rather than tools.

It is used historically to refer primarily period in British history form the middle of 18th century to the middle of 19th century. From about 1750 there are several changes in the society. Those changes included.

Rapid growth in self sustaining population;

National income which was raising;

Diversification of industrial products,

Rapid growth of production using machines in factories;

The changes were directly associated with competitive capitalism as well as improvement in science and technology.

Vivid division of the society in to social classes could be observed from the time of industrial revolution. The industrial Bourgeoisie who were the minority on the means of production (wealth classes) .

The majority were workers in industries referred to as proletariats, dispossessed of means of production except labour which they had to sell in order to live.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

Meaning of culture;

This is the distributive way of life of a group of people or a design for living.

Culture can be defined as that complex whole which includes: knowledge, belief. Art, morals, customs and other abilities acquired by an individual as a member of a given society.

Culture is the acceptable way of doing things; it involves Norms, Values, beliefs and ideologies that bind the society together. Social changes refer to those alterations which occur in the society (patterns of social actions and interactions) including consequences and manifestation of such structures and embodied in norms (rule of conduct), values and cultural products and symbols. Furthermore, as wealth accumulates, markets expand and people cross the boundaries of their societies in search for bigger markets. Their interactions with other people not increase and expand their knowledge, skills, experiences, creativity and inventions, but also causes change in their beliefs, ways of thinking and analyzing issues. It also influences their languages, fashions of dressing, working behavior, working tools and the stand of living as a whole.

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

What is development?

Development is value of work which implies change that is desirable.

Development can also be defined as a ventor of attributes which society seeks to achieve or maximize. For example indicators of ventor could include;

Increase in real economic per capita , improvement in health and nutritional status , educational achievement , access to resources , a fairer distribution of income , and increase in basic development .

People’s participation.

Development is a ventor of objectives that society seeks to achieve or a process of social transformation that seeks not only to meet the materials needs of people, but to also to enhance their creativity faculties and their growth as human beings.

In view of this, people’s participation in development process is essentially necessary.

Participation entails people's conscious reflection of action they consider possible and desirable as well as resources mobilized to attain those ends. This contrasts the idea of involving people in the deliberation or action initiated, designed or controlled by others.

STRATEGIES OF INVOLVING PEOPLE;

If the society or community seriously aims to involve people their development process, the leadership should;

Let plans, actions or ideas originate from people;

In project or programmes terms, the Government or any other organizations should ensure that they involve people right from planning stage through implementation and evaluation. This will include consultations for defining; identifying and/ or conceptualizing people's problems from their grass root perspectives.

If further entails people deciding on priorities and action to be taken in ways considered feasible; organizing effective monitoring projects, as well as evaluating results and redefining the problems generated.

People's decision should be given priority;

The process of decision – making is as vital as its output in the form of tangible achievements. Development takes place first in minds of people and occurs when people make use of their faculty their will, ability to decide, to take fate in their own hands so as to assume responsibility for the outcome of their decisions.

Change people's attitudes;

If people are to be diverted from reliance on government or any other foreign assistance, they must be helped to overcome the inertia of passivity and foot-

Dragging

The realization that they can identify their own problems and solve them partially or wholly, transforms them in to active citizens.

Inculcate in people a feeling of an ideal society;

To stimulate people's desire to creativity work for their progress, they should be concertized to have a vision of bright future, that which should be shared by the whole community

Strengthen community organization;

A society comprises of groups with varying interest and priorities. There is need to develop a unifying approach to enable community members under go together the experience of tackling issues and taking actions.

STATE AS AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE;

A state is organized political community with its apparatus of government which will be referred to as state organs.

FUNCTIONS OF A STATE;

Educative role;

Every state has issues on which it wishes its citizens to be educated. Such are policies, ideologies, techniques and skills of performing certain function. The state therefore uses its administrative organs such as schools and any other learning institutions to perform this duty.

Conscientization role;

It is the duty of state to raise its people's sense of being to a certain cultural or moral level. For example if the state wishes to orient its people to the culture of keeping clean environment or that of caring for their culture, it will use the existing institutions, formal or informal to conscientize them.

The role of articulating social interests;

Social interests are needs which are required by all or majority of society members. For example articulation on the emphasis on education for all (Universal education that is free), Conservation of the environment by the state in order to benefit the entire community, provision of utility services like water, electricity etc.

The role of enforcement;

In every society there are a few individuals who go contrary to what is stipulated as being right in regards to society's values and Norms. To these, forceful means have to be used to make them adhere to governments institutions E.g.

Forceful means can be taken upon parents so that they send their child to school. Enforce the community to pay taxes and failure to do so, the state may use punitive measures to effect the law.

MULTI- PARTISM AND DEVELOPMENT

Meaning of Democracy;

The term democracy is defined as a system of Government in which the ultimate political authority is vested on the people.

Direct Democracy;

This is a form of government in which the citizens make political decisions together in an assembly. In this form of democracy, political decisions are made by the people directly rather than by their elected representatives.

This form of democracy can only be practiced in a relatively small setting. An example where direct democracy was practiced was in Greek city states of Athens.

Representative democracy;

Due to the large size and scale of contemporary societies, most political decision making is carried out by elected representatives of the people.

In large communities, it is impossible for all the people to meet in a group; instead they elect a certain member of their fellow citizens to represent them in making decisions about laws and other cases affecting them. This form of democracy is known as representative democracy.

NB. Democracy is a political system in which a majority of the people controls the government directly nor through representatives.

Multi- parties and democracy

A political party is an organized group of people who control or seek to control a government. In order to understand how-parties can enhance democracy, we have to comprehend the functions of a political party under multi- party system

Functions of political parties; (under multi party dispensation);

The selection of candidates to run for public office. In such circumstances, such candidates can be a councilor, Member of Parliament, mayor or president. A political party, during elections, informs voters what their party stands for, its ideologies.

Articulation of problems to the voters that affect the people and that have not received attention. Political parties and candidates look for such problems in order to win votes. In this way, [political parties force the government to act on neglected problems.

Providing opposition when not in power by criticizing the policies and actions of the party in power. The opposition party offers alternative programmes. It should be noted that some times in a single party system criticism of the party in power may be labeled as treason.

Mobilization of the masses to engage in meaningful economic activities and projects that can sustain household incomes and social welfare. This can be done through organizing workshops, seminars and crusades, carrying out civic education and literacy programmes most especially in their strong hold areas.

Mobilization of funds and support through fundraising exercise, selling of party cards and T- Shirts, Caps, Auctioning, Mobilizing funds from the party sympathizers, western in communities. (Friends of the party) etc.

Opening up party branches down at the grass root and registering new entrants in order to strengthen and consolidate the party. Streamlining the party political structures in order to create accountable administration and transparency.

FEATURES OF DEMOCRACY

In order for democracy to be realized under multi- party political dispensation , there are some essential features that have to be present. Among these include;

Free elections;

People have to be given the opportunity to choose their leaders. Elections have to be held periodically to ensure that elected officials truly represent the people. The possibility of being voted out of office helps to ensure that the officials pay attention to public opinion and also make them accountable to the electorates.

Democracy is not to be equated with just voting and elections but rather a coexistence of a plurality of opinions guaranteed by freedom of expression under the rule of majority. The elected leaders should be accountable both within the government and the people directly;

Having a free press and a free information media.

This is the freedom to print and publish matters affecting people's welfare in the socio-economic and political spheres and also having an unrestricted flow of information.

Freedom of worship;

Democracy gives the masses the right to express their religious interests at will i.e. to worship and pay allegiance to religious beliefs of his/her choice. The freedom to preach, to pray and to express the religious faith.

Respecting the rule of law;

The other feature of democracy is respecting the rule of law and ensuring that the law applies to all persons without fear or favor. This feature envisages that the principle laws should be supreme and should not be selective or subjected to prejudice. The constitution is the supreme law of the land, and that it should be upheld.

Peaceful transfer of power from one leader to another;

Democracy calls for transformational leadership where transfer of power and instruments of authority are exhibited from the incumbent to a new office bearer through a peaceful electioneering process superintended by an independent electoral commission that is not compromised by the incumbent forces.

Collective participation in government programs;

Democracy is a manifestation of allowing the citizens to participate collectively and willingly in all important government development programs and projects. For instance the local populace should engage in income generating projects, determine their next leaders through elections, give their public opinion on which policies or laws should be considered such laws that suit their interests, participating in peaceful demonstrations and crusade expressing their concerns before their leaders and proposing alternative policy changes.

THE STATE AND POLITICAL PARTIES;

In order for the state to function in democratic manner under multi-party system, a special relationship has to be built between the state and political parties.

Unlike in a single political party state where it is difficult to distinguish between the state and the party, under multi-party system, the state and its organs should be separated from political parties.

The state has to maintain neutrality in the treatment of political parties. The state should therefore not be identified with one political party.

How is state neutrality practiced?

In order for the state to play this neutral role in its relationship with all political parties, some conditions have to be met. Some of these conditions include;

Having a constitution that stipulates and guarantees the rights of the people. This will ensure the autonomy of individual citizens who are the likely to be party members.

The stipulation of freedoms such as freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly and petition will assure the proper functioning of political parties under multi-party system and political dispensation. The state that guarantees and observes human rights and hence respects the autonomy of individual citizens will treat the political parties fairly.

Separation of powers between the organs of the state.

The separation of power will work as checks and balances in making sure that there is no abuse of power of each organ at the expense of the citizens. It also means that each organ of the state is independently accountable to the authorities either the citizens or as provided by the constitution but not answerable to the other organ because, this may compromise its functional mandate.

Having a strong legal system and an independent judiciary.

For the judiciary system to work effectively the judges must be protected against any attempt by the other arms of the state to manipulate, bribe, intimidate or coerce them.

Lawful recognition and guarantee of the existence of all political parties even those in opposition. All political parties have to be given the opportunity to compete an equal footing in carrying out political activities.

Political parties should be free to design suitable political economic and social programmes which will enable the party to win majority support of the people at the time of elections.

Allowing free competition between political parties.

There should be laws that ensure equal access to the media. For example, all political parties have to be given the opportunity to mobilize the electorate prior to elections through public meetings, radio broadcasts and other approved methods. The resources under the state should be used by all parties and should not favour one political party.

Having a Neutral civil service.

Civil servants should be socialized to be neutral in performing their professional duties so as not to favor the interests of a given political party be it in power or in opposition. Government ministers and other civil servants should for example, not use state resources to further the interests of their political party.

Having an independent and impartial electoral commission;

Such commission should be neutral thus uncompromising and not favor one political party during elections. Such an election commission should perform its activities to ensure fair multi-party elections and provide the necessary guidance in an effort to create fair play in the entire process.