

A SEMINAR ON BASIC FACTORS IN
POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

An analysis of the major factors
Operative in the political process-their nature,
Incidence, interrelationships, and forms
of employment.

I. Political Ideologies

Science, hypothesis, fiction, myth, and ideology
Use of myths in politics
Conflicting and self-contradictory ideologies
The "inevitability" and "ethics" of non-realism

II. Institutional Determinants of Political Behavior

Constitutions and formal Law
Representative and elective systems
Class and status systems
Traditional procedures and biases: influence on the
employment of political weapons

III. The Political Class

Theories of elites and elite circulation
Composition and location of ruling groups
Relations of political class to socio-economic class
Relations of elites to ruling ideologies
Source of ruling group directives

IV. Political Leadership

Theories of leadership
Relationship of leaders to myth
Relation to selective elements of structure
Relation to ruling groups and community

V. Skill in Procedures and Organization

Party organization as political instrument
Vocational aptitudes and vocational affiliations
Skills in parliamentary procedures
Rationalization of the political process: experts,
planning

VI. The Electorate

Theories of the suffrage
Suffrage and participation
Motives and effects in voting
Limitations of the electoral process

Political Science 220w
Political Power in the Modern World;

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VI. The Constituent Community

The majority theory and idea of the crowd
Critiques of the majority theories
Social specialization and the problem of consensus
Theories of public opinion
The auto-dynamism of opinion.

VII. The Electorate

Theories of the suffrage
Suffrage and participation
Motives and effects in voting
Limitations of the electoral process

VIII. Political Propaganda

Nature of propaganda
Propaganda techniques in public attitude formation
Propaganda techniques in the political forum
Influence of media of communications
Awards and honors

IX. Political Violence

Violence and legal authority
Origin of rebellious groups
Cases of the political use of violence
Coups d'etat and revolutions
Passive resistance and limits of violence

X. Political Organization of Wealth

Distribution patterns and political effects:
Feudal Europe, Jacksonian America, modern USSR, modern USA
The Use of wealth in politics: prestige, strategic controls,
planned expenditures, political specialization
Limitations of wealth as a political weapon

A. Selected Bibliography

(Most useful items for this course are starred thus*)

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