

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: Bachelor of Arts (Third Year)

Subject: Political Science

Paper Code: POD105

Paper Title: Comparative Government

Unit: I

Module Name: Scope and Evolution of Comparative Government

Module No: 02

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Notes

Scope of Comparative Government

1) Comparative Government is the study of political systems

- Political scientists analyze, compare and explain political systems of different countries in comparative government and develop theories.
- The study enables to organize observations and create foundation on which future observations and analysis can be based.

2) Political Institutions

- Study of comparative government includes the study of various constitutions, various systems of government, their similarities and dissimilarities.
- Eg. Whether it is Parliamentary, Presidential, Democratic Centralism form of government

3) It is the study of Power, Authority, Influences, Political Activities and Political Processes

- Comparative government uses empirical approach to observe and analyse political activities and institutions as they are in a scientific way.

- It analysis power, authority, influences, political activities and political processes in a scientific way on empirical techniques.

4) It study Political system and its environments

- Varied political systems exist and functions in different environment.
- Comparative government studies them on Input-Output functions.
- The policies of one system have an impact on the other systems.
- These are influenced by economic structure, social institutions and the whole environment in which the state functions.

Evolution of Comparative Government

- **Historical development of Comparative Government could be traced into three phases:-**
 - Unsophisticated phase.
 - Sophisticated phase.
 - Increasingly Sophisticated phase.

1) Unsophisticated phase of Comparative Government

- Thinkers contributed to the development of Comparative Government in Unsophisticated phase are Aristotle, Machiavelli, Bryce and Weber.
- This phase started with Aristotle study on 158 constitutions and developing the classification of formal and informal structures of the government.

2) Unsophisticated phase of Comparative Government

- Thinkers of this phase used comparative method for understanding the working of the political institutions.
- The writers of this phase studied the existing politics as well as past political institutions of different countries in order to discover the ideal types and progressive forces of political history.

3) Sophisticated phase of Comparative Government

- Thinkers contributed in second phase are Samuel H. Beer, M. Hass, Bernard Ulam, Roy C. Macridis.

Sophisticated phase of Comparative Government

- The reasons for calling this as 'Sophisticated Phase' as various strategies of comparison were used in the study which are as follows.
 - Comparative analysis of different area of studies.
 - Configurative approach, institutional and functional comparison.
 - A problem based orientation in terms of conceptualisation, the establishment of agreed categories for comparison, validity as a problem, cross- cultural difficulties and the availability of data.

4) Increasingly sophisticated phase of Comparative Government

- The contributors to this phase are David Easton, Gabriel A. Almond, James C. Coleman, Karl Deutsch, G. B. Powell, Harlold Lasswell, Robert Dahl, David Apter.

5) Increasingly sophisticated phase of Comparative Government

- This phase saw the growth of comparative government in much wider manner as comparative politics.
- Writers of this phase used inter-related set of concepts for the sake of presenting their contributions on the basis of comparative analyses though they have provided a specialise vocabulary in their own ways.
- Various political process were studied in a much wider manner.