

POLITICAL CULTURE

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INTRODUCTION

- Cultural is a way of life. Transmission of culture into political action is known as Political Culture. In order to understand the political system it is necessary to understand the political culture of that particular country. Political Socialization is the means and Political Culture is the end of the Political System. After the Second World War, new concepts like political system, political socialization, political culture, power and authority emerged. Political culture consists of attitudes, beliefs, values and behavior of people towards the political system.

DEFINITIONS

- According to Eric Rowe, “Political Culture is a pattern of individual beliefs, values and emotional attitudes”.
- According to Almond and Powell, “Political Culture consists of attitudes, values and skills which are current in entire population and those propensity and pattern which may be found in separate parts of the society.”
- Almond defines Political Culture as set of attitudes, beliefs, notion, faith, and understanding of political system, political issues, political ideology and political characters.

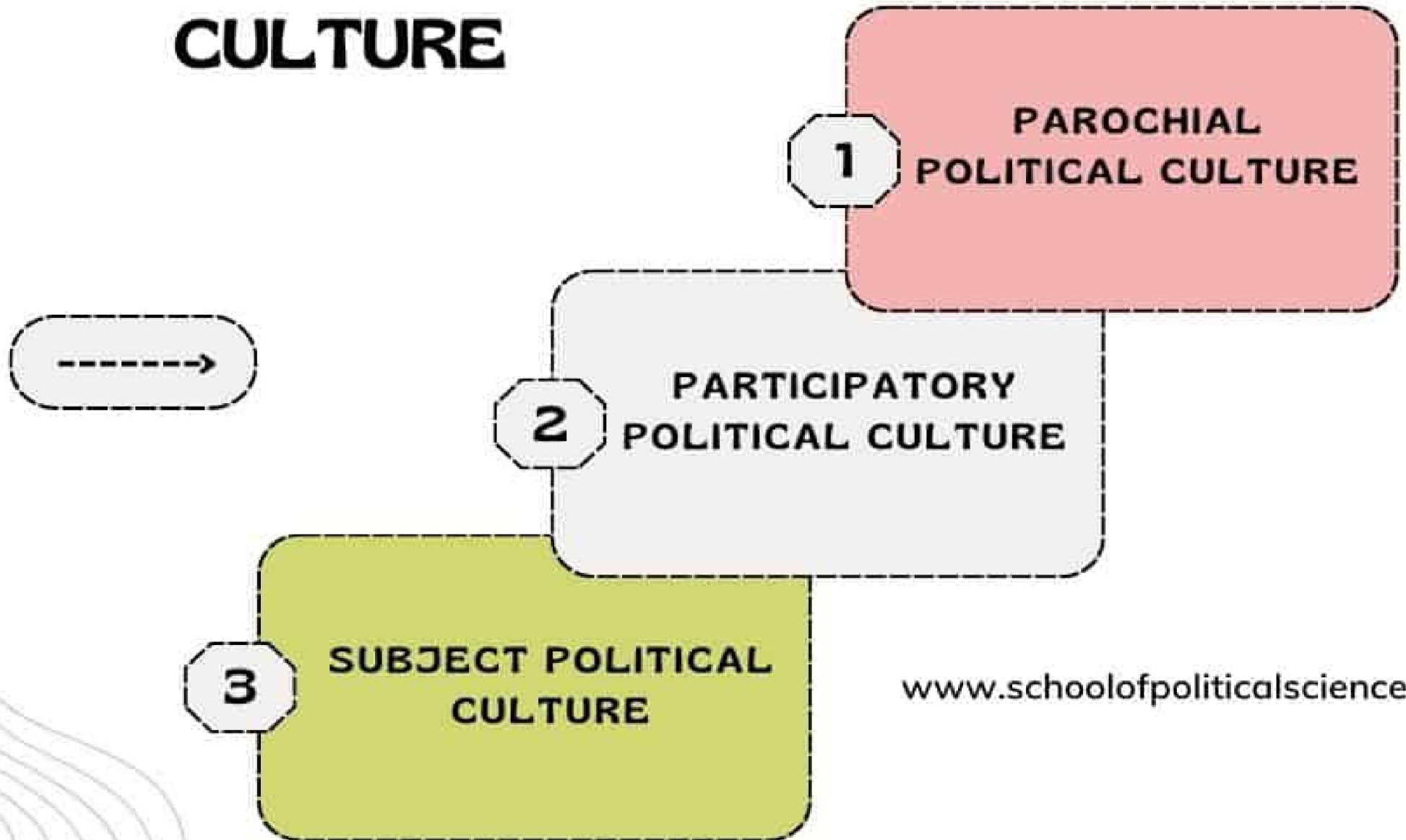
ORIENTATION OF POLITICAL CULTURE

- There are different orientations of Political Culture:
- **1. Cognitive:** The knowledge of and belief about the political system, its objects, inputs and outputs.
- **2. Effective:** The feeling of attachment, involvement and rejection to a political system.
- **3. Evaluative:** It involves decisions regarding the political system.

*** According to Robert Dahl, there are five orientations of Political Culture.

- 1. Orientation to Problem Solving:** This means how people think about their problems and how they find solutions to those problems.
- 2. Orientation to Collective Action:** It means the willingness on peoples' part to work collectively in a political system.
- 3. Orientation to Political System:** It demonstrates the attitudes and behavior of people towards a political system.
- 4. Orientation to Others:** The faith of person in other person or individuals.
- 5. Self-Orientation:** It shows the ability of individual to present their own and original proposals regarding the political system.

TYPES OF POLITICAL CULTURE



Participant

- Actively involved in political culture, obey laws
- Votes, Runs for office, supports parties/candidates, writes legislature

Subject

- Obey the laws, but do NOT participate actively in the culture
- Passive – Political Couch Potatoes

Parochial

- Barely aware of the political system, culture or how it impacts them
- Separated from the system
- Too many of these can cause the system to lose legitimacy and stability

TYPES OF POLITICAL CULTURE

- According to Almond and Verba, there are three types of Political Culture:
- **1. Parochial Political Culture:** In this type of Political Culture, people have no knowledge of input and output. They are not aware about their political system. Example: Few Countries of Asia and Africa.
- **2. Subject Political Culture:** The people in this type of Political Culture have no knowledge or little knowledge about the input but have the full knowledge of the output . Example: Major countries of Asia and Few countries of Africa.

TYPES OF POLITICAL CULTURE

- **3. Participant Political Culture:** Participant Political Culture is mainly found in the developed countries where people are fully aware and have the knowledge of both input and output. Example: the USA, France and the European Countries.
- **4. Mixed Political Culture:** There are mixed type of Political Culture found in Political System which contains the features of more than one type of Political Culture.
 - **i. Subject-Parochial:** Such type of Political Culture is found in India where the features of both Subject and Parochial Political Culture are found.
 - **ii. Participant-Subject:** Such type of Political Culture is found in the developed countries like the USA and the European Countries where features of both Participant and Subject Political Culture are found.
 - **iii. Parochial-Participant:** Such type of Political Culture is found in the Regimented and Totalitarian Countries where features of both Parochial and Participant Political Culture are found.

IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL CULTURE

- 1. Political Culture enables to understand the connection between the social and economic factor on one hand and political development on the other hand.
- 2. Political Culture helps to understand the process of political socialization and transmission of political culture from one generation to the other generation.
- 3. Political Culture enables to understand how the laws and constitution of different countries are observed by different individuals and groups.
- 4. Political Culture shows the attitude of people towards a political system.
- 5. It enables to understand the reason that similar phenomenon in the different countries do not produce the same result.

CRITICISM

- 1. It is difficult to draw full picture of political culture as the opinion and attitudes of people are not very clear and cannot be represented as whole.
- 2. The actual performance of the political beliefs and attitudes in a country of political researchers may be different from their expectation.
- 3. The concept of political culture is hardly better than new labels for old ideas.
- 4. The political attitudes, beliefs, values and behavior are not sufficient to understand the classification of political system.
- 5. Basic concept of political culture is not fully worked out and it is difficult to test the different theories of political culture.