

Comparative Politics

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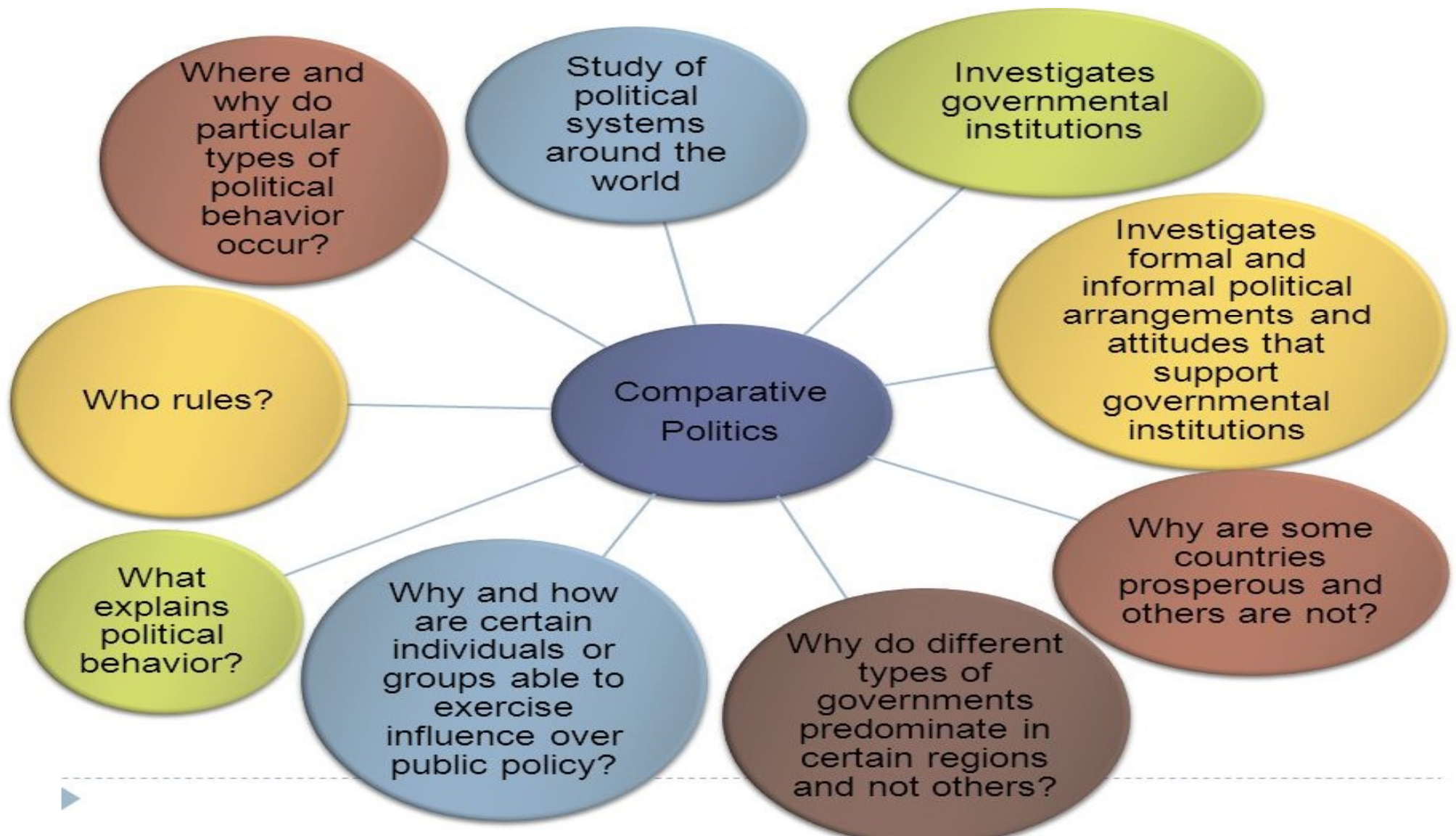
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WORLD MAP



AREA OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS



Introduction

- **Comparative Politics** is one of the **three core components of Political science**, the other two being **Political theory** and **International Relations**.
- The modern study of Comparative Politics **emerged in the late nineteenth century**.
- Evolved largely due to the research in US universities, the role and influence of US Academia research is high point in the 1970s.

Jean Blondel two forms comparative politics:

- **First** until the middle of eighteenth century – main approach was normative and philosophical.
- **Second** from the middle of 18th century to 1914- legalistic and Constitutional approach.
- **According the Blondel**, Montesquieu was the link between the two phases. Montesquieu took into account factors like climate, geography and location to explain the different consequence of constitutional rule.

Meaning of Comparative Politics

- Gabriel Almond defined Comparative Politics as “the study of the Political system, not as isolated cases but through generalization and comparisons.”
- Comparative Politics is the only one which carries a methodological instead of the substantive label.
- The content and Boundaries of comparative Politics are poorly defined, because the field is an ambiguous compound of methods and subject areas

Comparative Politics Involves:

- **1. A method of Study**
- **2. A Subject of Study**
- As a **method of study**, it premises on comparison;
- as a **subject of study**, it focuses on understanding and explaining political phenomenon that takes places within a study, society, country, or political system

Nature of Comparative Politics

- It is about comparing Political Phenomena, Political Institutions, Political Ideas, Political Behaviour.
- Emphasis is on both the method of enquiry, i.e comparison, and on the substance (subject) i.e Political Phenomena
- Its study extends to its relationship with other social science which means it is an interdisciplinary subject.
- Its methodology is not confined to analysing political phenomena but extends to examining, enquiring and enlisting the patterns and trends of what concerns politics.
- Its study is both general as well as particular.

Evolution : Comparative Government to Comparative Politics

- The change is significant, as there are number of differences between the two, which go much beyond that of nomenclature.
- The former is described aa the traditional approach while the latter is viewed as the modern approach.
- The traditional approach was much narrower in scope as it was based on legal approach.

1955 Roy Macarids differentiated

- In 1955 Roy Macarids differentiated between Comparative Government and Comparative Politics. He pointed out that the traditional approach was:
 - **Non- Comparative**
 - **Descriptive**
 - **Parochial**
 - **Static**
 - **Monographic**

CONCLUSION

- **Roy Macarids** also claim that the traditional approach is also excessively formalistic, historical and legalistic, and insensitive to the theory building and theory testing.
- In 1950s and 1960s, distinguished scholars such as **Harold Laswell** and **Gabriel Almond** , took on the task of carrying out the establishing the field of comparative Politics.
- The criticism of traditionalism prepared the platform for shifting the domain of Comparative Politics from ***Institution to process.***