

Institutional Approach

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WHAT IS INSTITUTIONAL

Institutional theory

- Institutional theory is "a widely accepted theoretical posture that emphasizes rational myths, isomorphism, and legitimacy." (Scott 2008)



INTRODUCTION

- Emphasises on the formal structures and agencies of Government.
- The influence of history, culture, situations, circumstances, are integral components of this approach.
- It restricts the role of individuals, however powerful.
- It is based on the assumption that institutions have an autonomy and independent behaviour pattern of their own that subordinate's individual preference.
- Characterised by a preoccupation with Constitutions and Legal-formal institutions of government and normative values of liberal democracy.

Pioneers of Institutional Approach

- **Lord James Bryce**
- *The American Commonwealth (1888)*
- *Modern Democracies (1921)*
- **A. Lawrence Lowell**
- *Government and parties in Continental Europe (1896)*
- *Public Opinion and Popular Government (1913) – Study of France , Germany, Switzerland.*

Pioneers of Institutional Approach

- **Moisei Ostrogorski**
- Democracy and organisation of Political Parties (1902)
- **Harman Finer**
- Theory and Practice of Modern Government (1932)
- **Carl Friedrich**
- Constitutional Government and Democracy (1932)

TYPE OF INSTITUTIONALISM

- [Institutional economics](#), an economic school approaching economic issues from a macro sociological point of view
- [New institutional economics](#), an economic school that analyzes social norms, organizational arrangements etc.
- [Historical institutionalism](#), a social science method of inquiry that uses institutions as subject of study in order to find, measure and trace patterns and sequences of social, political, economic behavior and change across time and space

TYPE OF INSTITUTIONALISM

- Institutionalism in political parties, an approach that sees political parties as having some capacities for adaptation, but also sees them as being "prisoners of their own history as an institution"
- Liberal institutionalism, an approach to international organizations in international relations
- Legal institutionalism, a judicial and legal school of thought

Limitations and Criticism of Institutional Approach

- In the 1950, the approach came under attack from David Easton and Roy Macridis.
- Roy Macridis described the orientation of Institutional approach as non-comparative, Parochial, Static and monographic.
- Limited in its focus to well-established Western democracies only.
- David Easton call it inadequate as it missed out the real currents of Political and Social Change, which were often better understood by informal mechanism.