

Topic: Political Parties

Presented by

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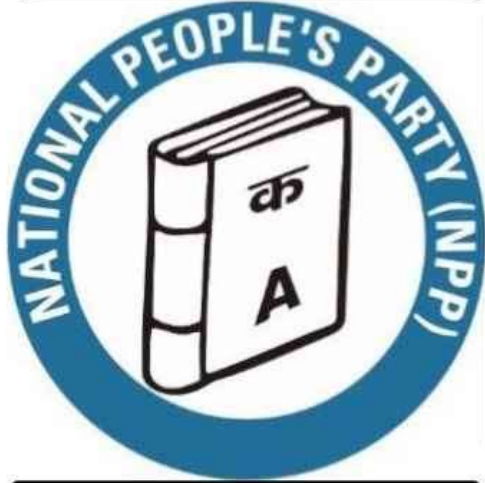
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NATIONAL PARTY OF INDIA

- **Political Parties are an indispensable part of modern democratic institutions. The study of political parties is called 'Statistiology'. They provide a link between the government and the citizens. It indicated political modernization in the sense that it calls for the involvement of more and more people in its process.**

Introduction

- A political party is a *voluntary organization* joined by **person's**
- "Political Parties are *lifeline* of modern politics" – **Sigmund Neumann**
- "Groups organized for the purpose of *achieving and exercising power* within a political system" – **Duverger**

Meaning

- **Historical:**
- **Socio-Economic:**
- **Ideological:**

Determinants of Political System

- • They unite, simplify and stabilize the political process.
- • They strive to form order out of chaos. They work as interest aggregators.
- • They provide a link between the government and the people.
- • They perform an important function of recruiting people.
- • They while presenting issue of the political system, set values goals for the society.
- • They do the job of political modernization.
- • They at times perform social welfare functions which can be termed as non-political activities.

Functions of Political Parties

- ➤ **Maurice Duverger** has given a simplistic classification of party systems in his work '**Political Parties**'.
- ➤ He studied the classification and evolution of political parties in the **west European** countries.
- ➤ He classified political parties as **one, two and multi-party systems**

Duverger's Model

- • This category is characterized by parties trying to absorb the political opposition or in extreme case suppressing all the opposition groups which they regard as counter-revolutionary.
- • Single party systems have worked out in **Italy and Germany.**
- • This category has **two sub-categories: Totalitarian and Democratic.**
- • He has given the following characteristics of these parties:
 - ▪ They are both elite and bond.
 - ▪ They have direct contact with the government and the masses.
 - ▪ They are a result of Marxist doctrines and Soviet Union.

Single Party:

- • This category exists when there are only two sufficiently strong parties taking part in the power struggle.
- • If a country has **simple majoritarian type electoral system, it will have a two-party system.**
- • This type of party system exists in United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom.

Bi-Party System:

- • It is a category in which no party is able to secure clear majority.
- • If a country has a **proportional representation, it will have Multi-Party system.**
- • **Coalition governments that may form may either have stable or unstable political culture.**
- • This category is further divided into – **Stable and Unstable parties.**
- • Duverger has given the case of **Switzerland, Holland and Denmark.**

Multi – Party System:

- **1. Branch Type (West European)**

- • Mass parties with open membership and hierarchical structure.

- • It is dominated by central leadership. It represents the highest policy making body.

- • German social democratic party, British labor party.

- **2. Cell Type (Communist)**

- • This is a feature of **communist parties**

- • They are smaller and cohesive than the branch type.

- • Secretive and highly disciplined.

**Duverger 4 types of parties
(structural analysis)**

- **3. Caucus Type (American)**

- • Also called '**Committee Type**'
- • They are a small group of leaders and elites.
- • The emphasis is more on quality than quantity.

- **4. Militia Type (Fascist-Nazi)**

- • They are modeled on **Army command**
- • The organization is Hierarchical.
- • Fascist party of Mussolini, Red Guards of Communist party of China.

**Duverger 4 types of parties
(structural analysis)**