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«KHARKIV POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE»

Department of sociology and political science

CONTENT OF LECTURES

 ON POLITICAL SCIENCE

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**Theme 1 The essence and role of politics and political science in the life of society. Object and subject of political science**

**Questions**

 **1. Politics as a social phenomenon.**

 **2. The formation of political science as a science and discipline. Its subject and interconnection with other sciences.**

 **3.Categories and functions of political science. Applied Political science.**

 **4. Methods of political research.**

The object of political science is the sphere of political relations in society.

The sphere of political relations is much broader than what might be called pure politics. It covers the processes of functioning and development of power, the involvement of the masses in politics, the economic, social and spiritual interests of society. The political sphere is the interaction in the political process of large and small social groups, associations of citizens, individuals, as well as socio-political institutions and organizations through which the interaction between individual subjects of politics.

The subject of political science is the laws of formation and development of political power, forms and methods of its functioning in society.

The peculiarity of political science lies in the fact that it considers all social phenomena and processes in accordance with political power. There can be no politics without power, because it is the power that is the means of its realization. The category "political power" is universal and covers all political phenomena. For example, the problems of reform of the political system, which are very much discussed in our country. From the point of view of legal science, they represent a dispute about the content of legal norms, from the point of view of political science is a theoretical reflection of the struggle of different social forces for the possession of economic and political power in society.

Thus, political science is a system of knowledge about politics, political power, political relations and processes, about the organization of political life of society.

Like any scientific discipline with a subject of study, political science has its own system of categories, that is, the nodal concepts by which the subject of science is revealed.

The system of political science categories is in development, it is constantly being enriched both at the international and national levels. However, some elementary concepts have already taken hold and have become widespread in practice. The most important categories of political science include: politics, political power, political system of society, political regime, civil society, political parties, political culture, political elite, political leadership and others.

Political science concepts and assessments, the impact of political science on the life of modern society are becoming more widespread and significant. This testifies to the presence of various connections of political science with society, and to the fulfillment of a number of important functions by it. We distinguish the most obvious functions

Research methods are techniques and methods for achieving certain results in practical and cognitive activities. Depending on the specific purpose of the study, political science chooses different techniques and methods of analysis.

The group of general theoretical methods include institutional, historical, systemic, comparative, psychological, behavioral and others

The institutional method is focused on studying the interaction of political institutions: the state, its bodies, political parties and other public organizations. The analysis is based on established and socially entrenched political forms and formal decision-making rules.

The historical method is based on the study of political phenomena in their development. The advantage of the historical method lies in the fact that it makes it possible to study political processes in the context of the historical circumstances in which they arise and develop.

Comparative method. In order to understand the true essence of the political world, it is necessary to study the forms of its manifestation in different countries and regions, socio-economic, socio-historical situations, nations and peoples. In this context, not only the political system as a whole, its forms, types and varieties, but also its specific components can serve as objects of comparative analysis.

There are several varieties of comparative studies: cross-national comparisons are focused on comparing states with each other; comparative-oriented description of individual cases; binary analysis based on a comparison of the two (most often similar countries); cross-cultural and cross-institutional comparisons are aimed at correlating national cultures and institutions.

The systematic method focuses on the integrity of the policy and the nature of its relations with the external environment. The most widely used system method is for the study of complex, multi-level, typically self-organizing objects. These include, in particular, political systems, organizations, and institutions.

Psychological method is focused on the study of subjective mechanisms of political behavior of people, their individual qualities, character traits, as well as the elucidation of typical mechanisms of psychological motivation, the role of subconscious factors in political life.

The mechanisms of subconscious motivation have been studied by many scholars, but S. Freud has a special role in this direction. According to him, unconscious cravings for sexual pleasure (libido) are at the heart of human actions. Dissatisfaction and internal conflicts arising on this ground lead to sublimation (ie switching) of the energy of instincts into various spheres of life, including into the socio-political.

A kind of revolution in political science was made by the behaviorist method. Behaviorism (literally "behavior") is literally the science of behavior. The essence of behaviorism is to study politics through a specific study of the diverse behaviors of individuals and groups. The starting point of behaviorism is the assertion that human behavior is a reaction to the influence of the environment. This reaction can be observed and described Behaviorism has played a significant role in the development and development of comparative and applied political science. It is in the context of behaviorism that the specific empirical methods used by political science have been comprehensively developed.

The group of specific empirical methods include: population surveys, analysis of statistical material, study of documents, game methods, mathematical modeling, study of folklore, etc.

Surveys of the population, both in the form of questionnaires and interviews, provide a wealth of factual material to identify various patterns. And their careful analysis makes it possible to make political predictions.

The analysis of statistical materials allows to obtain quite reliable results in identifying trends in the development of political processes.

The study of documents includes the analysis of official materials: programs of parties, transcripts of meetings of the government and parliaments, various reports, as well as diaries, memoirs.

**Theme 2 Political power, systems, regimes**

**Questions**

 **1. The essence of power: the basic theoretical approaches.**

 **2. The structure of political power**

 **3. Types of power Specificity of political power.**

**4. Problems of the power legitimacy.**

Power is the ability and ability to exercise one's will, influence the activity, behavior of people through various means - law, authority, coercion, persuasion, violence.

Political power is the power exercised through the state and in the state system, in the system of political parties, organizations and movements. It is in one way or another related to the state and state regulation, but not necessarily a state power.

One of the most meaningful classifications of power is its division according to the resources on which it is based, on economic, social, cultural, informational, coercive and political.

Social power is the ability to share locations within a social structure - statuses, positions, benefits, privileges. Modern states have great social power. Through social policies, using social resources, they can influence the social status of the general population, thereby gaining their loyalty and support.

Cultural-information (spiritual-information) power is, first of all, power over people through scientific knowledge, information and means of their dissemination. It also includes moral, religious and other powers related to authority subordination. In today's society, scientific and informational power is emerging from all kinds of spiritual influences in leading positions. Knowledge is used both to prepare government decisions and to directly influence people's consciousness in order to ensure their political loyalty and support. Such influence is exercised through educational institutions and especially through the media (newspapers, magazines, radio, television, the Internet).

Delegitimization is the process of declining authority of a leader and institutions of political power.

The most important signs of a fall in the legitimacy of power are:

• increasing the degree of coercion;

• restrictions on rights and freedoms;

• banning political parties and the independent press;

• Increasing the corruption of all institutions of government, merging them with criminal structures;

• Low economic efficiency of the government.

The last sign is the most significant indicator of the deligitization of power.

The legitimacy of the power can be denied by its opponents both openly and secretly. The extreme point of the fall of the legitimacy of power is revolutions and coups.

An important indicator of the effectiveness of power is the clear interaction of all its branches, the rationality of vertical and horizontal structures.

Equally important in the relations of citizens to power is economic well-being, ensuring the level and quality of their life, which is recognized as a norm in this society.

In general, power is recognized as effective, and therefore legitimate, if it manages to ensure stability, certainty, order. Power that is not able to prevent major political conflicts, civil and international wars, opposition to the legislative and executive power, the center, regional and local authorities, loses its legitimacy.

In modern society various means of legitimization of power have been developed: political, ideological, economic, etc. Political means include, first of all, seeking support, expanding the social base of power. An important tool of this form of legitimization is the democratization of public life, the expansion of citizen participation in government. This creates a sense of people's overall involvement in government-led policies, allowing citizens to feel to some extent about their subject.

A sense of ownership may be facilitated by the propaganda of the current political course, the ideological treatment of the masses.

The most effective means of legitimizing the government is the successful implementation of state policies and economic programs, sustainable growth of incomes and the overall standard of living

The totalitarian regime is characterized by the absolute control of the state over all spheres of public life, the complete submission of man to political power and the dominant ideology.

Totalitarian regimes most often emerge in extraordinary circumstances: growing instability, deep economic and political crisis in society, the need to quickly address strategic goals. Its establishment is seen as a way of overcoming these problems and achieving certain goals. Among the main features that characterize totalitarianism as a political regime are the following:

1. Too centralized power structure with a pyramidal shape, topped by a leader (leader) or group. The ruling group is not responsible to any elected body, concentrating in its hands the legislative, executive and judicial branches.

2. The state power is formed on the channels closed from the society, surrounded by the "halo of secrecy" and inaccessible for control by the people.

3. Monopoly state control over economy, mass media, culture, religion, etc., up to personal life, to motives of actions of people.

4. Complete disempowerment of the person. Political rights and freedoms are formally fixed, but they are not real. The laws protect only the interests of the ruling elite, represented as the interests of the state. There are serious restrictions not only on political but also on other rights, such as the right to hold public office, freedom of movement, choice of residence, choice of profession, etc.

5. The police and special services, along with law enforcement functions, perform the functions of punitive bodies and act as a tool of mass repression. Where necessary, an army is used for these purposes.

6. Possession of one party, the actual splicing of its professional apparatus with the state, the prohibition of opposition forces.

7. The dominant methods of governance are coercion, violence, and terror.

Fear and blind faith are the main resources of totalitarian government. The image of the enemy is intensely created in the minds of the people, with which there can be no reconciliation. The fighting moods, the atmosphere of secrecy, the non-relaxing state of emergency, the loss of alertness are strongly supported. All this is justification for command and control methods. Examples of totalitarian regimes are the communist totalitarian regime in the USSR, DPRK, Cuba; Italy of B. Mussolini, Germany during the reign of A. Hitler.

The authoritarian regime occupies an intermediate position between democratic and totalitarian political regimes. Like totalitarianism, authoritarian political regimes are distinguished by virtually unlimited governmental authority. This manifests itself in a firm political government, resisting if there is a need for coercive and forceful methods to regulate social processes. At the same time, like democracy, authoritarianism is characterized by the preservation of the sphere of civil society, private initiative in the economy, and market competition. The main social support of an authoritarian regime is usually the military ("security forces") groups and the state bureaucracy. Often, their actions aimed at strengthening the monopolization of power appear to be quite effective. However, these regimes are poorly adapted to establish effective communication between the authorities and ordinary citizens. This poses a danger to the very existence of an authoritarian political regime.

Authoritarianism is characterized by the following characteristic features:

1. In the center and on the ground there is a concentration of power in the hands of one or more, closely interdependent bodies, while alienating the people from the real levers of state power.

2. The political rights and freedoms of citizens are largely restricted. Laws protect mainly the interests of the state, not the individual. There is a principle in the legislative sphere: "All that is not allowed is forbidden."

3. There is no clear separation of powers. Considerable concentration of the executive and most of the legislative power is in the hands of the Head of State while restricting parliamentary control over state policy.

4. There is partial pluralism, the opposition is not allowed, there can only be imitation of multiparty because all existing parties should be guided by the line drawn by the ruling party.

5. Formation of authorities not through a democratic means, but through the appointment of a “top”. As a result, the environment of the authoritarian leader is selected on the basis of personal sympathy and dedication to him, and not in accordance with business qualities and abilities.

6. The "power" structures of society are almost uncontrollable and sometimes used for purely political purposes.

7. How are the methods of public administration dominated by command and administrative; at the same time there is no terror, practically no mass repression, brutal violent methods of exercising political power.

An authoritarian political regime has its advantages and disadvantages. Its advantages are especially noticeable in extreme situations. Authoritarian power can ensure public order, political stability, mobilize public resources to fulfill certain tasks. The disadvantages of authoritarianism include the full dependence of politicians

The main features of a democratic regime:

1. The recognition of the people as a source of power, sovereign in the state. People's sovereignty is expressed in the fact that it is the people who have constitutional, constitutional power in the state.

2. Free expression of the will of the people in elections, election of state authorities. This principle is seen as a key condition of a democratic regime. It provides for free and fair elections that exclude all coercion and violence.

3. Priority of human and citizen's rights and freedoms over the rights of the state. Public authorities are called upon to protect the rights and freedoms of a person acquired by birth.

4. Citizens have a large amount of rights and freedoms that are not only proclaimed but also legally assigned to them.

5. Clear division of power into legislative, executive and judicial branches. The supreme legislative body of the country is Parliament, which has the exclusive right to legislate. In a certain sense, this authority has a priority role and, therefore, there is a potential danger of political concentration in it.

6. Police, special services and the army - perform the functions of ensuring the internal and external security of the state and society. Their actions are regulated and limited by the law. The main functions of law enforcement support do not belong to the police and courts, but to the army and special services.

7. Political pluralism, multi-partyness. In a democratic regime, there is a multi-party system whereby one party can change the other legally in power as a result of elections. All political parties should be put on equal legal terms in their struggle for the votes of the electorate and for their representation in public authorities.

**Theme 3 State as the basic institution of the political system.**

**Questions**

 **1. Features of the state as a political organization**

 **2. Formsofgovernment.**

**3. Formsofstatestructure**

**4. Rule-of-law state: the essence and basic principles.**

Signs of the state:

• The presence of special public authority embodied in state bodies acts as state power. It is carried out by special layers of people who perform the functions of control and coercion (officials, army, police).

• Territorial organization of the population. The state power is exercised within a certain territory and extends to all the people living there. The integrity of society and the interconnection of its members is ensured by the institution of citizenship (or citizenship, that is, the identity of a person in a state with a monarchical form of government). It is in the presence of the institute of citizenship that the essence of the state is expressed for the individual.

• Organizing public life on the basis of law. Only the state creates laws and other legal acts that are binding on the entire population.

• State sovereignty, that is, the independence of state power from any other power within the country and in relations with other states. The rule of government is manifested in: a) the general binding nature of its decisions to the population; b) the right to cancel the decisions and decisions of non-governmental political organizations; c) the presence of special means of influence on the population, absent in other organizations (apparatus of coercion and violence).

• The monopoly right to collect taxes and fees from the public. Taxes are required for the maintenance of the administrative apparatus and for the material support of public policy.

Based on the above, the following definition can be made: the state is a universal political organization that exercises power in the interests of the people who reside in the territory and regulates their relations through legal norms.

The state performs a number of functions that distinguish it from other political institutions. Functions reveal the main directions in the activities of the state to fulfill its purpose. Traditionally, the functions of the state are divided into internal and external. The internal functions of the state are:

Political - related to the exercise of political power: ensuring political stability, regulating national (inter-ethnic) relations, interacting with political parties and other social institutions. The political function includes the development of programmatic and political goals and objectives of social development.

Economic function - at different stages of society, its size and content may differ significantly. In modern conditions, the participation of the state in the economy is manifested in the development and implementation of tax policy, the granting of loans, the use of economic sanctions, incentives for the development of a sectoral economy, the direct impact on transport, energy and more.

Social function - aimed at meeting the needs of people in work, housing, health support, providing social guarantees for the elderly, disabled, unemployed, youth; life, health, property insurance.

Legal function - includes the provision of law and order, establishing legal rules governing public relations and behavior of citizens, protection of the social order.

Educational function - realized in the activity of the state on democratization of education, its continuity; giving people equal opportunities to receive education. Many modern states have the task: to implement a fundamental reform in the field of education, covering the whole process of education from pre-school to university.

Cultural and educational function - aimed at creating the conditions for meeting the cultural needs of the population, involving him in the achievements of world artistic culture, giving him the opportunity of self-realization in creativity.

Among the external features are the following:

- the defense function of the country, which is to ensure the integrity, security and sovereignty of the state;

- the function of mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries in economic, trade and other spheres.

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The state occupies a certain territory in which its citizens live. Ways of uniting the population in the territory, communication of citizens through political and territorial formations with the state expresses the notion of the form of state system.

States in the form of their structure are divided into unitary and federal. A union between several states is called a confederation. Each of these entities has its own peculiarities.

A unitary state is a simple, united state, parts of which are administrative-territorial units and have no indication of state sovereignty.

In a unitary state there is a single constitution, the rules of which apply throughout the country; a unified system of higher bodies of state power; single citizenship; a single system of law; centralized judicial system. The territory of a unitary state is subdivided into administrative-territorial units (departments, regions, districts, etc.) that do not have political autonomy.

Most countries are unitary states. In decentralized unitary states, large regions enjoy wide autonomy and even have their own parliaments, governments, and administrative structures, and independently address the issues referred to them by central bodies, especially in the fields of education, utilities, public order, and others. However, unlike the subjects of the federation, their competence in the field of taxation is very limited, which puts them in a strong financial dependence on the center.

A federal state is a complex, union state, parts of which are state entities and have some political independence and other features of statehood. The unifying beginnings of the federation are a single socio-economic space, a single monetary system, federal governments and administrations, the federal judiciary and the legal system, federal citizenship. But at the same time, the subjects of the federation have their own constitutions, legislative and executive authorities. Possibility of own judicial and legal systems, dual citizenship.

The Confederation is an alliance of several sovereign states, united to pursue a unified policy for specific purposes. For example, for common defense, solving economic, energy, transport problems, etc.

**Theme 4 Political parties and electoral systems**

**Questions**

**1. Political parties: the essence and role in society and their typology**

**2. The essence and varieties of party systems.**

**3. Modern electoral systems.**

The term "party" is of Latin origin and is translated as "part", ie part of a larger community. Long before the formation of modern political parties, this term was denoted by groups competing with each other in the sphere of power or in influencing power.

In political science there is a separate direction - partology, which deals with the theoretical and practical analysis of parties and party systems. One of the founders of which is the classic of modern sociology of politics R. Michels.

The factors that determine the creation of modern political parties are:

• the presence in specific social groups of specific interests, the realization of which requires the creation of a party;

• dissatisfaction with a part of society with its situation and the need for action to change it;

• different ideas about the perspectives of the political order of society;

• the presence of interethnic conflicts or interfaith contradictions, when parties are formed primarily around national or religious ideas, and so on.

But not every group of people organized to express their political interests can be called a political party. American political scientists J. La Polumbara and M. Weiner in the work "Political parties and political development" formulated the features that distinguish the party from other political forces.

The first sign is that the party is an organization, that is, there is a long enough time for people to come together. The duration of the organization can distinguish it, for example, from a faction, block, etc., which emerge and disappear with their inspirers and organizers.

The second feature of the party is the existence of sustainable local organizations that maintain regular links with national leadership.

The third sign is the desire of the party alone or in bloc with other organizations to win power, not just influence it. This feature allows you to distinguish lots from pressure groups. If parties aim to win power in elections, to exercise it through the work of MPs in parliament and government, then pressure groups do not seek power, but try to influence power by staying out of its sphere.

The fourth sign of the party is the search for popular support during the elections and other means. Election is the most active phase of party activity. But even after the elections, parties seek to increase electoral support for ruling or opposition courses, and organize various activities. Mass parties are actively struggling to expand their numbers, strengthen their wealth, expand their programs, goals, etc.

Based on the above, you can define the following party:

A political party is a continually operating organization, existing both at the national and local levels, aimed at obtaining and sending power and striving for popular support for this purpose.

Modern political parties are characterized by a complex structure in which the following elements can be distinguished: party leader, party apparatus, party ideologues, ordinary party members. The party electorate, sympathizers and patrons of the party play a significant role in determining the political influence of the party.

Personnel parties are small in size, but they have rigid discipline and a clear organizational structure. Their job is to provide support to party candidates by the majority of voters in a particular district during the election period. This is achieved through the selection of professional party staff who are able to effectively organize and conduct the election campaign.

Typical Personnel Party Features:

• small number of party members;

• the oligarchic nature of the party, that is, it consists mainly of deputies, ministers, senators, leaders of different ranks - people who are professionally engaged in politics;

• the presence of an apparatus serving the highest governing bodies of the party;

• lack of strong organizations on the ground;

• lack of a mechanism for formal admission to the party and the institute of mandatory membership contributions;

• electoral, that is, the party revives its activities mainly during elections.

A typical example of cadre parties is the Democrats and Republicans in the United States. Most European conservative-oriented parties belong to this type.

Mass parties are large organizations that have a complex internal structure and a high degree of ideology. They form their social base mainly from the lower sections of the population. As a rule, these are parties of communist, socialist and social-democratic orientation.

Typical Mass Party Features:

• large numbers;

• a formalized party structure based on bottom-up elections;

• streamlined activities of a wide network of grassroots organizations;

• close and continuous relationship between party members;

• clear discipline, not only do party members pay contributions but also actively participate in party affairs;

• in addition to electoral activities, great importance is attached to mass political, ideological and educational work;

• Emphasis is placed on recruiting new members, organizing campaigns related to different political events, holding discussions on various theoretical and practical issues, and more.

This classification of M. Duverger was supplemented by American political scientists J. La Polumbara and M. Weiner. They identified another type: the "grab everyone" party ("interclass", "nationwide", "voter party", etc.).

Parties of this type seek to attract the largest number of voters of different social and professional backgrounds through non-ideological programs. These parties are characterized by:

• a special type of intellectual leader who plays the role of a worldview symbol.

**Theme 5 Political elite and leadership**

**Questions**

**1. Concepts and features of political elites as subjects of politics, their structure and selection systems**

**2. The essence, content, functions of political leadership and its typology.**

**3. Problems of formation of political elite and political leadership in Ukraine.**

The political elite is a certain group, a stratum of society, which concentrates state power and holds command posts in the control of society.

The current political elite is heterogeneous, internally differentiated and substantially different depending on the country and the socio-political conditions. All this causes complexity and diversity of its classifications.

The national, regional and local elites are distinguished by their level of competence.

According to the place in the system of government, the government, which directly owns the state power, and the opposition (counterlite) are allocated.

By power, the elite is divided into higher, middle and administrative.

The top political elite has leading political leaders, their closest associates, and those holding senior positions in the legislative, executive, and judiciary (the immediate environment of the president, the prime minister, his deputies and top ministers, the speaker of parliament, heads of deputies factions), a large number of people (100-200 people) who make the most important political decisions for society.

The average political elite is formed of a large number of elected officials: parliamentarians, senators, deputies, governors, mayors, leaders of various political parties and socio-political movements. The average elite is approximately 5% of the adult population.

The administrative elite (bureaucratic) is a higher layer of civil servants (bureaucrats) who hold high positions in ministries, departments and other government bodies. The administrative elite joins the political elite, although on an organizational basis (the apparatus of power) it can be distinguished into an independent group. Sociological studies of the bureaucracy show that it is a relatively autonomous, internally cohesive layer intended for executive activity, but has a great influence on politics in the case.

Elite selection systems

The dependence of the dynamics of social development on the effectiveness of political decisions made by the elite also requires careful selection of persons for the exercise of power and managerial functions. In western countries, politics has long become a profession, so the process of preparation and selection into the elite is receiving serious attention. The most important questions here are: how and by whom is the selection made, by whom, what criteria should a candidate for a management position meet?

There are two main systems for elite recruitment: guilds and entrepreneurial. In their pure form, they are quite rare. The entrepreneurial system is more typical of democratic states. The system of guilds is for authoritarian and totalitarian states, although its elements are widely used in democratic states, especially in the economy and public administration.

The Guild system is characterized by:

• Closeness, the selection of candidates for senior positions, mainly from the lower classes of the elite itself; the way up is slow and evolutionary.

• High job requirements. These can be age, work experience, education, partisanship, nationality, leadership characteristics and more.

• A small, closed circle of selectors (selection people). As a rule, it consists only of members of the highest governing body or one first head - the head of government, firms and so on.

• Cooptation, appointment from above as the main way to occupy management positions.

• A tendency to reproduce the already existing type of elite, leadership and their typological characteristics.

This system does not imply competition between the candidates, as the system of government itself is very strictly formalized and hierarchized. The guild system can only prevail in politicized societies with partial or complete absence of civil society. Evidence of this is the nomenclature filtration system, which has established itself in totalitarian regimes. Nomenclature (Latin nomenclatura) is a way of holding executive positions solely on the basis of belonging to the ruling party.

The anti-training system is in many ways the opposite of the guild system and is characterized by:

• Openness, opportunity for representatives of different groups to apply for leadership positions.

• A small number of formal requirements for applicants.

• A wide range of selectors, which can consist of all voters in the country; high competitiveness of selection, sharpness of competition in accordance with the election laws.

• The paramount importance of personal qualities, social activity, the ability to capture attractive ideas and programs.

• The possibility of achieving a certain proportion of representation in the elite of different social groups, political parties and movements.

Both systems have both positive and negative sides. The entrepreneurial system is more valued by prominent personalities. It is open to young leaders and innovations. At the same time, some of its disadvantages are the relatively higher probability of risk and unprofessionalism in politics, the relatively weak predictability of the policy, the tendency to be overly enticed by the external effect. In general, as practice shows, the entrepreneurial system

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