

# Theory And Methods In Political Science Political Analysis

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a generation ago scholars saw interest groups as the single most important element in the american political system today political scientists are more likely to see groups as a marginal influence compared to institutions such as congress the presidency and the judiciary frank baumgartner and beth leech show that scholars have veered from one extreme to another not because of changes in the political system but because of changes in political science they review hundreds of books and articles about interest groups from the 1940s to today examine the methodological and conceptual problems that have beset the field and suggest research strategies to return interest group studies to a position of greater relevance the authors begin by explaining how the group approach to politics became dominant forty years ago in reaction to the constitutional legal approach that preceded it they show how it fell into decline in the 1970s as scholars ignored the impact of groups on government to focus on more quantifiable but narrower subjects such as collective action dilemmas and the dynamics of recruitment as a result despite intense research activity we still know very little about how groups influence day to day governing baumgartner and leech argue that scholars need to develop a more coherent set of research questions focus on large scale studies and pay more attention to the context of group behavior their book will give new impetus and direction to a field that has been in the academic wilderness too long

at the turn of the millennium there has been a major growth of interest in institutional theory and institutional analysis in political science this book identifies these approaches to institutions and provides a frame of reference for the different theories in the past decade there has been a major growth of interest in institutional theory and institutional analysis in political science there are however a variety of different approaches to the new institutionalism and these approaches rarely address the same issues this book identifies the various approaches to institutions and then provides a common frame of reference for the different theories in this updated and expanded edition peters argues that there are at least seven versions of institutionalism beginning with the march and olsen normative institutionalism and including rational choice historical and empirical approaches to institutions and their impact on public policy for each of the versions of institutionalism a set of identical questions is posed including the definition of institutions the way in which they are formed how they change how individuals and institutions interact and the nature of a good institution peters discusses whether there are really so many different approaches to institutionalism or if there is sufficient agreement among them to argue that there is really one institutional theory

changes in the thinking of science are usually accompanied by lively intellectual conflicts between opposing or divergent points of view the clash of ideas is a major ingredient in the stimulation of the life of the mind in human culture such arguments and counter arguments of proofs and disproofs permit changes in the arts and sciences to take place political science is not exempt from these conflicts since the middle of the twentieth century the study of politics has been rocked by disagreements over its scope theories and methods these disagreements were somewhat less frequent than in most sciences natural or behavioral but they have been at times bitter and persuasive the subject matter of political science politics and all that is involved in politics has a halo effect the stakes of politics make people fight and sometimes die for what they claim as their due political scientists seem to confuse academic with political stakes behaving as if the victories and defeats on the battleground of the intellect resemble those on the battleground of political life three issues seem critical to political science at the time this volume first appeared in the 1960s first disagreement over the nature of the knowledge of political things is a science of politics possible or is the study of politics a matter of philosophy second controversy over the place of values in the study of politics a controversy that makes for a great deal of confusion third disagreements over the basic units of analysis in the study of politics should the political scientist study individual and collective behavior or limit the work to the study of institutions and large scale processes this collection brings together the most persuasive writings on these topics in the mid 1960s

this is a solid textbook for an intro course it follows different approaches in the discipline going subfield by subfield from political theory to american politics comparative and ir it has a strong introductory chapter that helps disentangle the relation between politics and political science manuel balan mcgill university political science has changed the way students learn has changed so too should the way it s taught this is political science today political science today by wendy whitman cobb gives students a holistic view of the subfields that make up political science by dedicating one chapter to each of the topics at the core of the discipline unlike denser texts on the market political science today uses a field based approach that allows students to engage with the material directly and dig into each of the discipline s diverse subfields while also developing critical thinking skills discerning the differences between politics and political science conducting and consuming research and broadening their future career aspirations this title is accompanied by a complete teaching and learning package digital option courseware sage vantage is an intuitive digital platform that delivers this text s content and course materials in a learning experience that offers auto graded assignments and interactive multimedia tools all carefully designed to ignite

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bringing together african and international scholars this book gives an account of the present state of the discipline of political science in africa generating insights into its present and future trajectories and assessing the freedom with which it is practiced tackling subjects including the decolonization of the discipline political scientists as public intellectuals and the teaching of political science this diverse range of perspectives paints a detailed picture of the impact and relevance of the political science discipline on the continent during the struggles for democratization and the influence it continues to exert today

this comprehensive text is designed to help political science students learn what to research why to research and how to research it integrates both the quantitative and qualitative approaches to research including the most detailed coverage of qualitative methods currently available the book provides specific instructions in the use of available statistical software programs such as excel and spss it covers such important topics as research design specifying research problems designing questionnaires and writing questions designing and carrying out qualitative research and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative research data copiously illustrated and thoroughly classroom tested the book presents statistical methods in a conversational tone to help students surmount math phobia

harold d lasswell is arguably the quintessential face of political science to the larger public of the past century however there is a side to lasswell less well known but of special importance in this day and age the place of the profession of politics as an academic activity this book written at the start of the culture wars thirty years ago outlines the basic core position of political science practitioners it helps to explain why the field kept its collective cool when other social science professionals veered to more extreme activist positions the future of political science grew out of the phenomenally rapid

expansion of the study of government in the united states and elsewhere the study of professionalism among physical scientists lawyers engineers etc was not matched by such internal examination within the social sciences until much later lasswell s overview centered on developments in the united states there unfettered study of government reached unprecedented heights in the final stage of the twentieth century the key concept of this volume one that continues to inform discourse is the relationship of political science as a mechanism for the study and teaching of the political system to the field as a tool of the establishment this concern grew in the wake of a variety of scandals and secret support sponsored by both government and non government organizations alike the future of political science covers areas ranging from membership size and disparities intervention scenarios in world events the nature of creativity in political research collaboration in projects with the other social sciences and the location of scientific centers of gravity in the study of politics because of lasswell s works we have a field of the political science of knowledge as well as the sociology of knowledge harold d lasswell served as ford foundation professor of the social sciences at yale university distinguished professor of policy sciences at joh

this book is the first intersectionality mainstreamed textbook written for introductory political science courses

in elements of political science stephen butler leacock offers readers a profound exploration of political theory through a lens of satire and wit utilizing a clear and engaging literary style leacock deftly navigates complex topics from the nature of governance to the interplay of individual rights and societal responsibilities while often employing humor to make these ideas accessible written during a time of significant political change in the early 20th century this work reflects the burgeoning interest in social democracy and the rights of citizens positioning leacock as a precursor to modern political thought stephen butler leacock a prominent canadian educator economist and humorist is renowned for his ability to intertwine entertainment with intellectual discourse his diverse background in academic circles and public speaking shaped his approach to political science encouraging him to present ideas devoid of elitism leacock s belief in the importance of public intellect and civic responsibility is palpable throughout the text stemming from his hope to engage readers in political discourse elements of political science is a vital read for those seeking not only to understand political mechanisms but also to appreciate them with levity scholars and general readers alike will find this work enlightening and thought provoking as it encourages active engagement with the political landscape

some 150 000 copies of this book have been sold around the world making alan ball s modern politics and government one of the most widely used introductory texts available clearly written and straightforward it demands no prior knowledge and is equally suitable for political science students and those taking a politics course as part of another social science degree starting from the definition of politics and the history of its study it proceeds to introduce a variety of approaches and substantive aspects of political life drawing examples from a wide range of states and political systems the author discusses such basic concepts as power authority legitimacy and political culture he analyzes the characteristics underlying the different systems including the post communist systems that have emerged in the former ussr and eastern europe since 1989 the book looks at the major elements of the political process judiciaries and the political role of the military the final part has been rewritten to analyze fully the nature of political change in the light of new approaches in political science and the collapse of communism

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