

# Political Processes and Institutions in Comparative Perspective PYQ 2022

## **Q1. Critically examine the role of authoritarian regimes in the process of development.**

**Ans.** The role of authoritarian regimes in the process of development is a subject of much debate and controversy. Some argue that authoritarian regimes can bring about rapid economic growth and development, while others argue that the lack of democratic institutions and human rights can lead to unequal development and social unrest.

Advocates of authoritarianism argue that these regimes are better suited for development as they can make decisions quickly and efficiently without being bogged down by democratic processes and procedures. They also argue that authoritarian regimes are better able to enforce policies and regulations, which can lead to greater economic stability and growth.

However, critics argue that authoritarian regimes are more likely to prioritize the interests of the ruling elite over those of the general population, which can lead to unequal development and social unrest. They also argue that authoritarian regimes are more prone to corruption and lack of transparency, which can hinder economic growth and development.

Moreover, authoritarian regimes are often characterized by a lack of democratic institutions, which can stifle innovation and creativity, and limit the participation of different stakeholders in the development process. This can lead to a narrow focus on economic growth at the expense of social and environmental concerns.

In contrast, democratic institutions and human rights are seen as important drivers of development. They provide a framework for accountability, transparency, and participation, which can help ensure that development benefits everyone, not just the ruling elite. Democratic institutions also provide a platform for citizens to voice their concerns, participate in decision-making processes, and hold their leaders accountable, which can promote social harmony and stability.

In conclusion, while authoritarian regimes may be able to bring about rapid economic growth and development in the short term, in the long term, they may not be sustainable or equitable. Democratic institutions and human rights are essential for creating a fair and just society that benefits everyone. Therefore, any development process must prioritize the promotion of democratic institutions and human rights to ensure sustainable and inclusive development.

## **Q2. Explain the process of democratization in post Communist state.**

**Ans.** The process of democratization in post-communist states began in the late 1980s and early 1990s after the fall of the Soviet Union. This was a time of great change, as many countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union sought to establish democratic governments and

market-based economies. The democratization process involved a series of political, economic, and social reforms that aimed to create more open, transparent, and accountable political systems.

The first step in the democratization process was the establishment of free and fair elections. In many post-communist states, the first democratic elections were held in the early 1990s, often with the assistance of international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. These elections were seen as a key step in the transition from communist rule to democracy, as they allowed citizens to choose their own leaders and representatives.

Another important aspect of the democratization process was the development of civil society. This involved the creation of independent media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other forms of civil society that could act as a check on government power and promote greater transparency and accountability. Civil society also played a key role in advocating for human rights and promoting democratic values.

In addition to political reforms, post-communist states also underwent economic reforms aimed at creating market-based economies. This involved privatization of state-owned industries, liberalization of trade and investment, and the establishment of a legal framework to protect property rights and encourage entrepreneurship. While these reforms were intended to promote economic growth and development, they also led to significant social and economic inequalities, with many people losing their jobs and struggling to make ends meet.

Finally, the process of democratization also involved the establishment of new legal and institutional frameworks to protect human rights and promote the rule of law. This included the creation of new constitutions and legal codes, as well as the establishment of independent courts and other legal institutions. These reforms were intended to ensure that citizens had access to justice and were protected from arbitrary government actions.

In conclusion, the process of democratization in post-communist states was a complex and multifaceted process that involved political, economic, and social reforms. While many countries have made significant progress in establishing democratic institutions and market-based economies, there are still many challenges to be addressed, including corruption, inequality, and political instability.

**Q3. Do you think proportional representation system is more representative for multicultural societies? Elaborate.**

**Ans.** Proportional representation (PR) system is a type of electoral system in which the number of seats a party receives in an election is proportional to the number of votes it receives. In a multicultural society, where there are multiple ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups, the PR system can be considered more representative compared to other electoral systems.

In a PR system, smaller parties or minority groups are also able to get representation in the government. This can be especially important in a diverse society where there are multiple minority groups that may not have enough political power to influence policy decisions in a majoritarian

system. With PR, minority groups have a greater chance of being represented in the government and having their interests and concerns addressed.

Moreover, the PR system can lead to the formation of coalition governments, where multiple parties come together to form a government. This can lead to greater representation of different groups in the government and can lead to more diverse perspectives being considered in policy-making.

However, there are also potential drawbacks to the PR system, such as the possibility of government instability due to the formation of coalition governments or the potential for the proliferation of small, fringe parties that may not be able to govern effectively. Additionally, in some cases, the PR system can lead to the dominance of larger political parties that are able to form more stable governments and exclude smaller or minority parties from power.

Overall, while the PR system may not be perfect, it can be considered more representative for multicultural societies as it provides opportunities for minority groups to have their voices heard and represented in government.

#### **Q4. Discuss the historical context of the emergence of party system in Western countries.**

**Ans.** The emergence of party systems in Western countries can be traced back to the 18th and 19th centuries, during the period of industrialization and democratization.

During this time, there were significant social and economic changes occurring in Western societies. The rise of industrial capitalism brought about the emergence of a new social class, the bourgeoisie, which sought to advance its interests through the political system. Additionally, the spread of literacy and education among the masses led to a growing demand for greater political representation.

In response to these changes, political parties began to emerge as organized groups that sought to represent the interests of various social classes and political ideologies. The first modern political party was established in Britain in the 1670s, with the emergence of the Whig and Tory parties. However, it was not until the 19th century that political parties became more widely established across Western Europe and North America.

The development of party systems was also closely linked to the spread of democracy. As the franchise expanded to include more and more citizens, political parties became the main vehicles for organizing and mobilizing voters. Parties competed for votes and sought to gain control of the government through regular elections, which provided a mechanism for peaceful transfer of power.

The party system also played a key role in shaping public opinion and policy debates. Political parties provided a platform for the expression of diverse opinions and ideologies, and party leaders and representatives played an important role in shaping public discourse and influencing policy decisions.

In conclusion, the emergence of party systems in Western countries was closely linked to the social and economic changes brought about by industrialization and democratization. Political parties provided a mechanism for representing the interests of various social classes and ideologies, and played a key role in shaping public opinion and policy debates.

**Q5. Discuss party system in contemporary times in the context of developing countries.**

**Ans.** Party systems in contemporary times in the context of developing countries are characterized by a range of factors that reflect the unique political, economic, and social conditions of these nations. In many developing countries, party systems are still in the process of formation, with new parties emerging and old ones disappearing. There are also instances where party systems are dominated by a single party or a small number of parties that have entrenched themselves in power.

One of the key factors influencing party systems in developing countries is the legacy of colonialism. Many of these nations were colonized by European powers and inherited political systems that were not designed to reflect the interests and identities of local populations. As a result, political parties in developing countries often reflect deep-seated divisions related to ethnicity, religion, or other social factors.

Another factor is the role of external actors in shaping party systems. Developed countries and international organizations often play an active role in supporting certain parties or candidates, and this can distort the development of a genuine and independent party system. Additionally, corruption and the use of money to influence elections are pervasive in many developing countries, which can create an uneven playing field for political parties.

The role of political parties in promoting democratic governance in developing countries is also a subject of ongoing debate. While political parties are often seen as key players in promoting pluralism and representation, in many cases, they have contributed to political polarization, violence, and instability. In some instances, political parties have failed to effectively represent the interests of marginalized communities or to address pressing social and economic issues.

In conclusion, party systems in developing countries are complex and shaped by a range of factors related to the legacies of colonialism, external influences, corruption, and the role of political parties in promoting democratic governance. Despite these challenges, political parties remain key players in shaping the political landscape in developing countries and promoting more inclusive and representative systems of governance.

**Q6. Critically analyse different issues and challenges in the formation of the nation-state.**

**Ans.** The formation of a nation-state involves the process of consolidating different identities and communities under a single political and administrative structure. This process is often fraught with various issues and challenges that can affect the stability and legitimacy of the state. Some of these issues and challenges are discussed below:

**Ethnic and linguistic diversity:** Many nation-states are characterized by a high degree of ethnic and linguistic diversity. This can often lead to conflicts and tensions between different communities, especially when there are perceived inequalities in political and economic power.

**Colonial legacies:** Many nation-states were created out of colonial territories, and their boundaries were often drawn arbitrarily by colonial powers. This has led to issues of territorial integrity and border disputes in many parts of the world.

**Economic disparities:** Economic disparities between different regions and communities can lead to feelings of marginalization and resentment. This can result in demands for greater regional autonomy or even secession.

**Political instability:** The formation of a nation-state can be accompanied by political instability, especially if there are rival political factions competing for power. This can result in political violence and instability.

**Nationalism:** Nationalism, while being a unifying force, can also be a source of conflict if it becomes exclusionary and aggressive towards minority communities.

**Globalization:** Globalization has led to increased mobility of people, goods, and ideas across national borders. This has challenged the idea of the nation-state as a self-contained unit and has created new challenges for nation-states in terms of managing cross-border flows.

**Environmental challenges:** Environmental challenges such as climate change and resource depletion have also posed new challenges for nation-states, requiring them to work together in new ways to address these global problems.

In conclusion, the formation of a nation-state is a complex and multifaceted process that involves numerous issues and challenges. To be successful, nation-states must be able to balance the competing demands of different communities and navigate the changing global landscape.

**Q7. Critically examine the idea that despite several policy reforms, participation of women is dismal in political system.**

**Ans.** Despite several policy reforms, the participation of women in the political system is still low. The idea that participation of women is dismal in the political system needs to be critically examined to understand the reasons behind this issue.

One of the reasons for the low participation of women in politics is the patriarchal mindset that exists in many societies. Women are often seen as inferior to men and are not given equal opportunities to participate in politics. This mindset is reflected in political parties, where women are often not given important positions and are not considered as serious contenders for leadership roles.

Another reason is the lack of support systems for women who wish to enter politics. Women who want to enter politics often face many challenges, including lack of access to resources, social stigma, and discrimination. Women also face challenges in balancing their personal and professional lives, which can make it difficult for them to participate in politics.

The media also plays a significant role in shaping public perceptions of women in politics. Women in politics are often subjected to sexist and demeaning remarks and are judged more harshly than their male counterparts. This creates a hostile environment for women and can discourage them from participating in politics.

Furthermore, the electoral system in many countries is designed in a way that is not conducive to the participation of women. The first-past-the-post system, which is used in many countries, often favors male candidates, as they are perceived to be more electable than their female counterparts.

In conclusion, despite several policy reforms, the participation of women in the political system is still dismal. To address this issue, there needs to be a concerted effort to challenge patriarchal mindsets, provide support systems for women, and reform electoral systems to make them more inclusive. Only then can we hope to achieve gender parity in the political system.

**Q8 Write short notes on any two of the following:**

**a Populist Mobilisation**

**Ans.** Populist mobilization refers to the political strategy of mobilizing the masses by appealing to their emotions and grievances against the elites or the established political system. Populist mobilization is based on the idea that the people are the true source of power, and that the elites and the established political system have failed to serve their interests. Populist mobilization often involves the use of slogans, symbols, and charismatic leaders to create a sense of identity and belonging among the masses.

Populist mobilization can be seen as both a positive and negative force in politics. On the one hand, it can serve as a means of empowering marginalized groups and bringing about social and political change. Populist mobilization has been instrumental in many progressive movements throughout history, including the civil rights movement, the feminist movement, and the labor movement.

On the other hand, populist mobilization can also be used to promote divisive and exclusionary politics. Populist movements often rely on the demonization of certain groups, such as immigrants, minorities, or political opponents, to rally support. This can lead to the suppression of dissent and the erosion of democratic values.

In recent years, populist mobilization has become a major force in global politics, with the rise of populist leaders and movements in many countries. This has raised concerns about the future of democracy and the potential for the erosion of democratic institutions and values.

**Q8 b Mixed Representation**

**Ans.** Mixed representation is a type of electoral system that combines elements of both proportional representation and plurality/majority systems. In a mixed representation system, voters cast two ballots: one for a constituency representative and one for a party. The constituency representatives are elected by a plurality/majority system, while the party seats are allocated proportionally based on the overall percentage of votes received by each party.

There are several variations of mixed representation systems, but they all share the goal of balancing the benefits of both proportional representation and plurality/majority systems. Proportional representation allows for a wider range of political views to be represented in parliament, while plurality/majority systems typically provide more stable and decisive government.

Mixed representation systems have been adopted in many countries around the world, including Germany, New Zealand, and Japan. Supporters of mixed representation argue that it provides a more

balanced and fair representation of the electorate's preferences, while also ensuring that governments are stable and effective.

Critics of mixed representation, however, argue that it can be complex and confusing for voters, leading to lower voter turnout and less engagement with the political process. There is also some concern that mixed representation can lead to a weaker sense of accountability and representation, as voters may be unsure who to hold responsible for particular policy decisions.

Overall, mixed representation is a compromise between the benefits of proportional representation and plurality/majority systems, and its effectiveness depends on the specific context and political culture of each country.

### **Q8 c Impact of War on woman**

**Ans.** War has a significant impact on women, both directly and indirectly. Women's experiences in war differ depending on factors such as their age, ethnicity, social class, and location. Women can be affected by war in many ways, including physical harm, sexual violence, displacement, loss of loved ones, economic insecurity, and social exclusion.

During wars, women are often targeted for sexual violence, including rape, forced marriages, and sexual slavery. Women are also often forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their families and communities. This displacement can lead to a loss of social support networks and economic opportunities, making women more vulnerable to poverty and exploitation.

Furthermore, the aftermath of war often leads to increased gender-based violence, including domestic violence, as well as mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety. The impact of war on women can also extend to future generations, as women may face challenges in accessing healthcare, education, and other essential services.

Despite these challenges, women have also played important roles in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Women have been instrumental in advocating for peace, providing humanitarian aid, and rebuilding communities. However, their contributions have often been overlooked or marginalized, highlighting the need for greater gender equality in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

In conclusion, war has a profound impact on women, both in terms of the direct harm they experience and the broader social and economic consequences. Greater attention must be paid to the experiences of women in conflict, and efforts must be made to ensure that women are empowered to play meaningful roles in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

### **Q8 d Nation-state and globalisation**

**Ans.** The concept of nation-state emerged in the 17th century as a form of political organization in which the boundaries of the state are coterminous with the boundaries of a nation, i.e., a community of people who share a common language, history, culture, and identity. Globalisation, on the other hand, refers to the interconnectedness and interdependence of the world's economies,

societies, and cultures, as a result of the rapid advances in communication, transportation, and technology.

The impact of globalisation on the nation-state has been both positive and negative. On the positive side, globalisation has led to increased trade, investment, and economic growth, which has benefited many countries. It has also brought about greater cultural exchange and the spread of democratic values, which has contributed to greater global cooperation and understanding.

However, globalisation has also posed a challenge to the nation-state, particularly in terms of sovereignty and national identity. The free flow of goods, capital, and people across borders has eroded the ability of states to control their economies and borders, and has created new forms of transnational governance that challenge traditional notions of state sovereignty. Globalisation has also brought about the homogenization of cultures and identities, which has led to concerns about the loss of national identity and cultural diversity.

In response to these challenges, many nation-states have attempted to reassert their sovereignty and protect their national interests through various means, such as imposing trade barriers, restricting immigration, and promoting nationalistic agendas. At the same time, there has been a growing recognition of the need for greater global cooperation and the creation of new forms of transnational governance to address global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and inequality.

In conclusion, the impact of globalisation on the nation-state is complex and multifaceted, and it presents both opportunities and challenges. While the nation-state remains an important form of political organization, it is likely to be increasingly shaped and challenged by global forces in the years to come.