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Psychology and the world

With the creation of power full bodies leading humanity through out the world, there has to be some decisions made to guide the people and chose our leaders. The understanding of our groups leader’s mentality and personality is important in having us follow and believe in decisions for our land. Psychology is what allows us to understand behaviors and mental processes of an individual. This section will argue that, the importance of psychology in politics.

While most people wont think that psychology is not as involved in politics, there is an immense importance in psychology of global leaders to allow better decision making and understanding of thoughts. With different governments, comes different types of leaders: Independent Leaders and Participatory Leaders. An Independent Leader is a person with a personality of self independence, belief in their own power, the desire for more power, a distrust in others and avoids much international relations. In comparison, a Participatory Leader, is a leader that works with the aid of other to achieve their goals. Usually believes that they do not control everything, understands the complexity of being a leader, has more trust in others and more participatory to international affairs. Because the idea of a leader used to be kings and emperors, in modern time, Independent Leaders are less common for governmental parties. Where people think as a group to achieve difficult tasks that cannot be easily solved without study and analysis.

A problem with group decision making is groupthink, groupthink is a psychological phenomenon when individuals of a group of people come with a consensus that has diverted from the individual’s own personal beliefs and opinions in favor of the group’s decision. *8 shortcomings of groupthink* by Irving Janis (1918 – 1990) gives off great examples of problems that happen from groupthink. It becomes a hivemind where everyone works together and thinks as a greater power than what they really are, decisions made are controlled to further support an individual’s self opinion that might contradict another’s own beliefs. In point 8 of *8 shortcomings of groupthink* is also a position common to groups where one member plays the role of a white knight that will further support and push the opinion of the leader, and prevent information that would ruin the leader’s initial decisions or the group’s. Understanding and detecting groupthink within a group is an excellent way to avoid and prevent biased and unnatural thinking within a group.

An interesting phenomenon that happens to political related events that is similar to advertising is Two Track Diplomacy or Multi-Track Diplomacy, the use of non-governmental officials to solve conflicts with outside means. This can be the use of former presidents, wealthy individuals, actors, musicians, internet personalities, scientist or other non-state actors to assist in political decisions. This can be beneficial to official diplomats in reducing the conflicts between both parties by understanding the point of view of the opposing party.

A problem in today’s method of solving problems within governments around the world and throughout history is satisficing. Satisficing is the strategy of temporarily or partially solve a conflict or a problem to satisfy the population. This “good enough” solution is usually enough to keep the general population to be satisfied and potentially allow more time to solve the issue. Examples of this can be seen in recent events during the Black Lives Matter protest in the United States where officers would kneel, this could help contribute to the movement, but it is a resolution to the major problem currently happening at the time of violent protest and negative image of police officers. Other examples of processing mechanisms are cognitive constituency, evoked set and mirror image. Cognitive constituency is when individuals accept information that match and is compatible with their beliefs and ignore other information that might contradict. Evoked set is similar to cognitive constituency but instead of beliefs, its their past experiences that decides how they would take in information. Mirror image is particularly interesting since it is using the comparison of an opponent having complete opposite characteristics of one’s self, this was very prevalent during the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union. These individual processing mechanisms can also work in conjunction together to further accept and deny information that comes and is a very important way that anyone uses to make decision in their daily lives.

A really important aspect of a person is their ability to socialize from prior experience, socialization is where a person inherits their norms, customs, ideologies, skills and habits. There are many studies on socialization to study the learning phases of people throughout their growth, *Looking glass self* by Charles Horton Cooley (1864 – 1929) is the perception that we think of others when they think of ourselves from behaviors and how they would react and the development of self concept. The study on stages of development from an early age to older is common, George Herbert Mead’s (1863 – 1931) *3 stages of the I-Me Self* describes the learning stages through interaction with others from imitation, experiencing and understanding rules, norms and expectations. Erik Erikson’s (1909 – 1994) *8 stages of development* present the crisis a person will have at a certain age and will solve it on their own to grow mentally and will eventually develop a virtue. Jean Piaget’s (1896 – 1980) *4 stages of cognitive development* analyse the 4 stages: Sensorimotor stage, Pre-operational Stage, Concrete Operational stage and the formal operational Stage, this shows development in cognitive capability of an individual at certain point of their life. Finally, there’s Lawrence Kohlberg’s (1927 – 1987) *Levels of Moral Development*, this explains the exploration phases of children to adults of what is morally correct and what is morally not through punishments and rewards physically or verbally.

Language is important in how people communicate, but language also influence the ways we perceive things due its grammar. Language changes between different places in the world and they control ways of thought that people have due to differences in languages. Where pronouns may separate genders or ages, some languages do not separate those pronouns. Sentence structures differentiate between languages also and this changes the way of thought that a person will make, causing a misunderstanding of messages. This is not only observable in decision making but also in music, where the speed that someone talks, and the accents used translates to the sounds and tune of songs that are not familiar to us. Just like how language influences music, language also influences ways of thinking.

Psychology is interesting in understanding people and their way of thinking, sending a message and receiving messages takes an understanding of how people will take in information. Understanding the most suitable way of transmitting information to a certain age groups, groups and population. Avoiding mistakes and taking the best course of action to further achieve goals effectively and safely.

Work Cited

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