

Eras of Public Administration

Tracing the Evolution from Tradition to Modernity

Introduction

- Brief overview of Public Administration as a field
- The significance of understanding its evolution

Old Public Administration

- Time Period: Late 19th Century to mid-20th Century
- Key Focus: Establishment of bureaucracy, emphasis on administrative efficiency and hierarchy
- Theorists: Woodrow Wilson, Max Weber, Frederick Taylor
- Key Concepts:
 - Politics-Administration Dichotomy
 - Scientific Management
 - Bureaucratic Theory

Critique of Old Public Administration

- Rising concerns about rigidity, dehumanization in bureaucracy
- The lack of responsiveness to public needs
- The demand for more democratic administrative processes

Transition to New Public Administration

- Time Period: 1960s to 1980s
- Key Factors: Social equity, responsiveness, public interest
- The Minnowbrook Conference (1968) as a pivotal moment
- Theorists: Dwight Waldo, H. George Frederickson
- Key Concepts:
 - Representative Bureaucracy
 - Democratic Administration
 - Challenge to the Politics-Administration Dichotomy

New Public Administration

- Emphasis on values, ethics, and public interest
- Focus on policy-making, not just administration
- Inclusion of citizen participation and stakeholder engagement
- Addressing social equity and justice in public administration

Emergence of New Public Management

- Time Period: 1980s to Present
- Response to perceived inefficiencies in public sector
- Influenced by market-oriented ideologies
- Theorists: David Osborne, Ted Gaebler
- Key Concepts:
 - Decentralization and devolution of authority
 - Performance measurement and efficiency
 - Public-private partnerships

New Public Management

- Shift towards a more business-like approach in public administration
- Emphasis on results, output, and customer service
- Critiques: potential undermining of democratic values, overemphasis on efficiency

Current Trends and Future Directions

- The blending of New Public Administration and New Public Management principles
- Emerging trends: digital governance, collaborative networks
- Future challenges: maintaining democratic values, adapting to changing societal needs

Conclusion

- Recap of the evolution of Public Administration
- The importance of understanding historical context in current practices
- Encouragement for critical thinking about the future of the field