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POL101: Political Science

Section: 33



(MIDTERM)

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**What does the authoritarian government mean? Mention a country which you consider as an authoritarian government and explain why. [3.5]**

Answer to Question no. 1

Authoritarian Governments are those forms of government where the whole system or key power of the state's authority is captured by a limited, small group of people, or maybe even an individual. The group of people can be a family or an absolute monarch, a particular social class of people, top – elite administrators, or one strong political party which cannot be shaken or may even be the army of the country taking over power through a military coup.

Typically, the authoritarian government is happy to have the central power and remain content with it. They do not go out of their ways to obstruct in the general public's life. However, they do not endure criticism about the country being an authoritarian one, and irrespective of the constitution, they order punishments or interference on the people criticizing them. If need be, they will create new laws to protect their seats at the top. Though they do not control aspects like culture, religion, customs, social programs, etc., of an individual's life, they control the state's legal forces like the police, army, judicial system and need be use those to interfere with the people they find might challenge them.

Right now, I consider Bangladesh as an authoritarian government, or at least it has headed that way. Even before, there were only two strong political parties that were limited to just two families. Now, one party has emerged as the strongest and has created a situation where no other party has enough strength to take over the power. Single-family control that one party. Now, this government does not interfere in a person's day to day activity, so it is not a totalitarian government. Still, it has enacted many laws, many aggressive actions which forbid the citizen from talking against them publicly. It has passed several laws where people cannot even talk against the government via social media. It has carried out many alleged operations to suppress criticism, and recently even passed a law where a citizen cannot even sue against any government official. There is a said democratic election, but it is dysfunctional and is tweaked or corrupted.

**What countries have a constitutional monarchy in the present time? [1.5]**

Answer to Question no. 2

The United Kingdom is an excellent example of a constitutional monarchy. Here, though there is a monarch, which once used to hold the absolute power, now, the power is within the parliamentary government elected through elections. Constitutional monarchy is that type of government system where a monarch exists, but their power is very limited or perhaps, have no direct authority except the title and celebratory status. They share the government system with elected sovereign governments; the elected parties make all the major decisions. In some countries, though, the constitutional monarch holds some important power, like in Kuwait, Jordan, Monaco, Morocco, Bhutan, Liechtenstein, tonga, and Bahrain. In Kuwait, particularly, the monarch chooses the prime minister. Whereas, in the UK, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Japan, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Grenada, Jamaica, Lesotho, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Thailand Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu the status of monarchs is just in the name, and formalities. On the other hand, Malaysia and Cambodia practice an elective monarchy. The monarchs there sometimes interfere, uses their power to control the government through replacing the prime minister.

**3. What is 'administrative law'? [2.5]**

Answer to Question no. 3

The law created to regulate the administrative agencies of government is administrative law. These laws are in place so that the functional bodies of the government, like tribunals, boards, or commissions, can make decisions adhering to the laws. These bodies are part of important agencies like Police, International Trade, manufacturing, environment, taxation, immigration, broadcasting, and transport. Now, the laws are not only rules for the agencies, but many times these are also for the court's decision-making process or direct orders to the bodies. Administrative law is considered as part of public law. Mostly, these laws are used to review and evaluate the administrators, and if they are processing, using their power according to the jurisdiction.

**4. Describe the presidential system of government. [2.5]**

Answer to question no. 4

Simply put, when the President of a country holds all the major power of government and acts as the head of it and also the country, that is the Presidential System of Government. Typically, in the Presidential system of government, the President is elected separately from the legislative body or the parliamentary members. Similarly, the legislative members cannot normally move the President from its position before the end of the term. However, there is the option of impeachment, which is a very lengthy and complicated process and can only be initiated if the President is accused of certain allegations. Some criticisms arise for such a system, as the President, after being elected, is not subject to be held responsible by anyone or parties. The President can also elect the cabinet members, ministries upon their choice, and the cabinet members are also not subject to be responsible to the legislators. However, the legislators have to approve the cabinet members. The presidents hold the supreme power to override the decision of the legislators, but again if the legislators can vote for a supermajority, they can override the President's decision. The President also has the power to pardon convicted criminals. Presidential System of Government exists in the United States, South Korea, Turkey, Brazil, Iran, and most South American countries.

**5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of presidential democracy? [2.5]**

Answer to Question no. 5

Advantages of Presidential Democracy

* Executive Stability: The President has a fixed term and cannot be replaced by a vote of no confidence by the legislators without the President breaking the law. So, the government and the executives have a fixed tenure on which they can work without internal disturbance.
* Direct Democratic Election: In the parliamentary system, the people do not generally elect the head of the state directly. In the case of the presidential system, the people's choice reflects directly as they elect an individual instead of a party.
* Fast Execution: The President being the supreme power, has some constitutional power to have executive order issued, which are not subjected by the legislation. So, the President can do some tasks more efficiently.

Disadvantages of Presidential Democracy:

* Close to Authoritarianism: Since the President holds all the major power just like an authoritarian government, they can be tempted to become one if found the opportunity. Like Russia.
* Chances of Gridlock: As there are two separate bodies, and the elections are not done at the same time, there are heavy chances that the President's Executive Body and the Legislative body will oppose each other's proposal. This will fall the government into a gridlock situation.
* Cannot be replaced: There are chances that the President will not perform his duty right without breaking the law, and will be leading the country down. However, due to his tenure, the President cannot be replaced.

**6. Describe the German government system. [2.5]**

Answer to Question no. 6

Germany follows a federal democratic parliamentary republic system of government. Here the democratic system is of the liberalism theory.

The lower house of parliament is known as Bundestag. Here, the Chancellor, similar to a Prime Minister, heads the Government administration and holds power to control it.

The President, though, is known as the head of state, has limited power, and is the head in only ceremonies. S/he cannot pass a decision on their own, without the approval of the parliament. Also, the parliament requires the President's signature to pass a federal law.

The parliament elects the Chancellor or Prime Minister. The parliamentary members or members of the Bundestag are elected by the general public or voters of Germany. Germany has a method of a constructive vote of no confidence. This means that the parliament cannot just fire the Chancellor from its position. To oust the Chancellor, the legislature must first select the replacement Chancellor and then can remove the existing Chancellor from the position.

**7. Describe the functions of political parties. To what extent political parties in Bangladesh are doing their responsibilities what they are supposed to do as a political party? [5]**

Answer to Question no. 7

Political parties are a group of individuals who are united and under the same front through their similarity in ideologies or political positions. They actively participate in elections as a group by nominating members of the party for suitable legislative seats or other positions. Now remember only the party who gets elected for forming the government is not the only active political party, or only doing elections is their job. Instead, every political party has a significant role to play in ensuring democracy to its truest sense. The roles or functions of Political Parties are:

* Nominating Candidates for Elections: Well, as the goal for any politician and the party is to be in the Governmental position, so their first function is to nominate a candidate for each position of every political election. The nominated candidates are backed by the party and get the default support.
* Place Manifestos and Organize Campaigns for being elected: The candidates, with the help of their party, make and place manifestos in front of the voters. The candidates explain their aims and course of future action if they get elected and convince the people to vote in their favor.
* Elected ones Form the Government: The elected candidates assume the role of the government they were elected for and form the government to carry on their role as a legislator. The party getting the majority seats heads the state.
* Represent Constituents: Elected members have been elected by the votes of a particular region or group of people. So, the elected person must reflect the interest of his/her constituents from the position of power, maybe in the parliament.
* Make Policies: Political parties, once got into their position, they have to propose or reject policies as they see befitting for their constituents and as per their party's policy. Once a party gets to win the majority representative seats and is also elected as the head, they get the power to directly control the policies.
* Unelected ones form opposition Keep a check on the Government: The party which did not get the majority of seats in the election should form a minority opposition and constantly keep the government on the check and pressure them for making the right choice.
* Inform and Aware the Public: The opposition party shall also let the people know of the government's action and how those actions or non-actions affect them. They will actively try to form public opinion in their favor.
* Backed by Public Opinion, demand the government to shape policy in their favor: The opposition party shall reflect the people's demands in the parliament and pressure the government to fulfill them. As in all, the opposition party is the active link between the mass people and the government, which also works to portray its own ideologies agenda to the people and the government.

In my opinion, Political parties in Bangladesh are doing their jobs and fulfilling their responsibilities only up to the point where they get elected. That is only the 1st three functions of my paragraph. They are nominating candidates, doing campaigns, and forming the government. However, they are not reflecting the demand of their constituents, and the non-elected ones are almost inactive to the state of non-existential.

**8. Is every democracy automatically equate with liberal democracy? – What is your opinion? What factors make a democracy a liberal democracy? [3]**

Answer to Question no. 8

No, every democracy is not automatically equal to liberal democracy. Democracy is a broad term, which has not been limited to particular actions or non-actions. In comparison, liberal democracy is a much-defined type of democracy that supports classic liberalism. It states that the state should never intervene within the personal space of a citizen until the citizen has broken any laws. The theory says that the citizen must enjoy the freedom to do as they please without breaking the law, and should enjoy the governments protection while doing so. However, there is another view of democracy, the republican view, or the illiberal democracy, which does not limit the political representatives within a limit, and they can penetrate other personal privacy.

So, we can say that every democracy is not a liberal democracy, but liberal democracy is a part of democracy.

Factors which make democracy a liberal democracy are:

* Highly Competitive, fair, and free to participate in the election.
* They are dividing the administrative power of a government into several branches, so one is kept in check by others.
* Equal rights, liberties, and protection for all citizens.
* Political Freedom.
* A constitution that clearly defines the power of government.
* An Open, liberal society system.
* The economic system follows the Market Economy rule.

**9. What are the differences between cadre and non-cadre position? [2]**

Answer to Question no. 9

The people who get a distinct position in the hierarchy with specific job roles or functions are the ones included within the cadre service.

On the other hand, non-cadre services get a job within the administration but with no specific job roles or positions in the hierarchy.

The Cadre position has stability and clear roles and visible promotion through the hierarchy. The non-cadres do not.

Cadres can be transferred from one department or ministry to another while being under the public administration commission. The non-cadres cannot shift departments.

Cadre Service has a rank-in-person based promotion like that of the armies. They have a specific promotion step through which they will progress. Non-Cadres are more like technical people whose job is to fulfill the functional requirements. They are in the rank-in-position method.

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