

Political Leadership in Governance

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to analyze the role and function of political leadership in the governance system of a particular country. Despite numerous and in-depth theories of political leadership, there will always be space for discussion, about the way the political system is governed by political leadership. A legal state, with a functioning democracy, realizes its governance by bringing together many public and private actors through effective and efficient forms of interactive governance. More political leaders we have which perform their roles and functions, more we will move towards the strengthening of rule of law. Given this definition, it is worth to pointing out the practical value of this direction, in the society of a given country to prove the raised hypothesis.

Purpose of study: The overall purpose of this study is the analytical framework for this issue. Political leadership, also impacts, through the fulfilment of its functions for legal governance, in increasing the effectiveness of a state, based on democratic principles.

Methodology: This work will be based on several study methods. Mainly inductive methods will be used, passing from particular facts to general conclusions, the method of describing and reviewing the literature on this issue.

Keywords: Leaders - Functional Democracy - Leadership - Politics – Accountability.

Introduction

There are many thinkers in the academic world, who have followed their ideas, thoughts, and theses about the concept of a democratic system. Democracy is the only form of governance in the world that is widely seen as moral governance. It is the only form of government that is capable of fully fulfilling international covenants on civil and political rights.¹

Every society has applied the democratic system, adapting to the culture and traditions of a particular country. But as we know from the studies that the principles² of democracy are universal, such as: Consent of the ruled, representative government, rule of law, individual right, and the known principle of "checks and balance".

In many countries of the democratic world, their leadership is closely related to political leadership. There are many academic literatures that have contributed to the discovery, recognition and development of the concept of a political leader. Their entirety, gives us a wider panoramas to understand how does a legal state function, the role and the functions of a political leader during his governance.

Through the method of literature reviewing regarding the leadership, the method of description, the purpose of the work consists in the theoretical analysis that political leadership has, in fulfilling of functions of political leadership that contributes to

¹ <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/ken.nuger/courses/pols120/Ch-3-Principles-of-Democracy.pdf>

² <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/explain-5-principles-democracy-495984>

increasing the effectiveness of a state, realized through democratic principles. The article will address some issues which start with the notion of political leadership. There are many such things to deal of, but it is supposed to dwell on some classical theorists with the notion of political leadership. To continue with attitudes about the functions of a leading leader: more realization of its functions we have, more effective governance we will have in the country. A particular attention, is also been given, to the importance of leadership in interactive governance. Here we have the involvement of citizens in governance, in order to find solutions to public problems in the country. Responsible governance by the political leader is another important consideration in this article. This comes out from the fact that the leader is responsible by the way that how the country is governed. The influence of its governance, affects on the fulfillment of the needs that citizens demand as legitimate sovereigns. Responsive work that leaders do is shown on its democratic and functional development in a particular country. Thus, citizens of a certain country as a legitimate sovereign who are, have need of security, peace, stability in their society. It is the political leadership of a democratic country that through the methods and objectives, realizes their governance, to meet basic needs and not only, of the community to a given country.

Meaning of political leadership

As an international approach to the field of study, political leadership is presented with wider definitions from different disciplines of the academic world. Starting from the contributions of the classical authors Niccolo Machiavelli, Max Weber etc., but also various disciplines have developed the meaning for political leadership in governing of state. Well known Italian politician and historian, Niccolò Machiavelli, so-called the father of modern political science³ in his famous work "The Prince", written in 1513, has outlined the principles associated with politics. Machiavelli, among other things, has given various meanings to the leader (the prince), according to him: "The first method to evaluate a ruler's intelligence is to see those who stick around" or "To govern means to make others believe in you." Bernard Morris Bass, who was an American scholar in the area of leadership studies and organizational behavior⁴, said that "there are so many definitions of leadership that some scholars have been trying to define, Bass states: "Leadership represent the process by which the individual influences to the group of individuals in achieving the common goal." Another philosopher, lawyer, sociologist, German author Max Weber, has given some thoughts about political leadership. He emphasizes that "the charismatic authority increases from personal elegance or the strength of an individual personality". Also among other things, he thinks: "People do not obey the charismatic ruler because of tradition or

³ Montesquieu (1689-1755) is a rival to this role. Mikko Lahtinen (2009). Politics and Philosophy: Niccolò Machiavelli and Aleatory Materialism of Louis Althusser. Brill.

⁴ Avolio, Bruce J. (2008). "Bernard (Bernie) M. Bass (1925-2007)". American psychologist. 63 (7): 620-620. doi: 10.1037 / 0003-066x.63.7.620.

status, but because they believe in him."

So, regarding the understanding of the leader of a political system, there are different opinions presented by many scholars, expressed in different historical times and periods. It is worthy to say that in a given community always will prevail an individual carries individual traits that show the superiority of the mass, where this leader influences the community with his behavior, charisma, intelligence, through the trust that others have in him to lead towards political solutions.

Overview of the function of the role of political leader

In the government's activity of a state, political leadership is a function and not a position to be reached on the political system. The purpose of the political leadership functions is related to the identification of public problems in seeking a political response. After the identification of the problems, is technically required the proposed strategy for the treatment of national problems. Political leaders are aiming to mobilize, to create support for solving various problems.

Also, the leader's ability is the dominant feature in his personality, to accomplish these political functions.

According to Joseph Masciulli, in his book *The Political Leadership* (2009) has outlined: *two forms of political leadership are: adaptive political leadership and innovative political leadership.*

In the first form of political leadership, *the adaptive one*, are taken into consideration the circumstances, the existing conditions, the reactions of civil society, public opinion on various national issues which affect certain reforms in governance. So, leadership through reforms.

In the second form of political leadership, *the innovative one*, are taken into consideration the drafting of strategies for new problems. Here, political governance represents revolution in solving problems.

So, according to author Joseph Masciulli, the political leadership of executive body, should lead with the alternation of two forms of governance.

Political leaders with all their functions they have, play a very important role to ensure stability, security and national peace that the people of state need. Therefore the presence of political leaders, is so indispensable to this vital national need.

The impact of political leaders is great in influencing the behaviour of people who appreciate the statement of their leaders. Because, just like mentioned above, a leader has the potential to influence the group of individuals in achieving of common goals of certain objectives.

The importance of political leadership with interactive governance

Modern democracies are patterns of governance, based on certain rules. Although there are various forms of legal rules, in democratic societies all operate on the basis of a principle recognized as a principle of legality. When we talk about legality, we consider the rule of law based on respect for the legal framework. It is not enough only the existence of legal normative, but also the rigorous application applied

permanently with natural durability. In two democratic forms: the direct and representative, the common element, is the citizen, who has the sovereignty of choice. These are sanctioned in the Constitution.

As we have studied in the literature of political studies, in the form of direct democracy, there are the citizens who through their direct participation solve the public issues. While in the form of governance, representative democracy, there are again the people who choose to give their sovereignty to the elected representatives to deal with solving of public problems.

The reason why this argument is introduced, is, as we know, that the core of democracy according to Abraham Lincoln is "a people's government, by the people for the people". Here it is understood that the democratic system connects governance with the people. What would bring a positive impact and effectiveness is leadership with interactive governance.

Political leadership with interactive governance implies that political leadership itself involves community engagement in politics in order to address public problems and their specific outcomes.

Community engagement in interactive governance brings its own benefits. More specifically, we can mention that community involvement brings negotiation of public problem solving; affects the solution of new mentalities in their solutions; but what is most importantly eliminates political ownership from political leaders. Is constructed a model of a co-ownership policy, between the community and political leadership. As Machiavelli mentions in his book, *The Prince*: "The government must be built into a living moral force, capable of inspiring people with a fair understanding of the fundamental principles of society."

Accountability of political leadership

As a parentheses for the issue in question, the profile of political leadership is characterized by features of positive qualities and individual merits, such as the status of official function, intellectual and professional skills, and so on. These features are also associated with unifying elements of his character, such as simplicity, sustainability, sincerity, justice, humility that give value to his mission, and effective political exercise.

In the views of the civilizations of classical authors such as Niccolo Machiavelli, with the principles of the politics that conveyed left many traces of the physiognomy of the political "Prince". *Machiavellianism* is widely used as a negative term to characterize unscrupulous politicians, of Machiavelli-style kind, described as notorious in "The Prince". Machiavelli described immoral behaviour, such as dishonesty and innocent murder, as normal and effective in politics. In some situations even it seems that he encourages that. The book gained fame because of the assertions that it teaches "bad recommendations to tyrants to help them preserve their power" (Giorgini, 2013).

So the phenomenon of *Machiavellianism* has touched the political leadership of our days. But in fact it would be right to exercise their political functions with all the high values of a character. All above mentioned parentheses, consist in that: *besides the positive elements of their personality the dominant trait that should distinguish their work in*

government is: The Responsibility of Political Leadership.

This implies that in every democratic system, every political leader has his missions, visions, goals, objectives in form of political leader. The ways these goals are realized, is related to the responsibility that the leaders has in front of the community.

Consequently, each leader is responsible in front of their constituents; at the same time, leaders are those who have the responsibility to build political culture in the country, to build democracy while respecting the morals of citizens. The democratic system to function efficiently, applies the principle of "check and balance".

When different controls are created, on different levels of government and other political institutions, political accountability increases at all institutional levels. This brings effective governance that leads on increasing of citizen trust in political leadership.

Thus we can affirm that despite the fact that a leader enjoys positive abilities, alternate management skills with good character merits, the leader would gain more value when work and lead with responsibly. All of this brings effective and progressive results in functional democracy.

Conclusions

At the end of the study it is worth highlighting the following main points:

Different studies recognize a wide range of thesis, ideas, and thoughts about the concept of a country's political leader.

This means that in democratic systems, the position of political leadership is very important. In democracy, sovereignty is in the hands of citizens. These citizens choose their representatives to run the country trusting in carrying out public affairs with professionalism.

One of the basic principles of democracy is the sympathizing of political leaders. This shows that the governing model of political leadership is influencing the general well-being of citizens.

A country's functional democracy benefits from the co-ordination of many public and private actors or civil society and public opinion, and so on. This shows that governance with citizen mobilization in a certain country is of great importance since all parties negotiate in order to solve public problems.

Interactive governance is realized when the leader, in addition to the positive characteristics of his personality, has a basic element of character such as accountability. Realizing the functions and role of the leader in interactive governance brings a healthy democracy where all its principles are applied. As result, we have an effective and progressive growth of forms and manners of political governance by leaders who get the consent of legitimate sovereignty such as the people is.

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