



Article

Postmodern Political Theory and Theorization: The Challenges for Political Scientists and Stakeholders of Politics

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Abstract

Organisation and governance of the society have posed great challenges to mankind through the ages. Efforts by great political thinkers to solving these problems as they saw them in their various historical epochs often failed in many societies. Of great concern to this paper is the fact that in the postmodern era, political theory and theorisation in general were said to have suffered a great setback. Though, some scholars have argued on the contrary, the opinion of the former seems to have held majority of people sway. This situation of uncertainty regarding the true positions of political theory and theorisation in the postmodern period has made this inquiry necessary. This is owing to increasing socio-economic and political problems facing our time. This intellectual exercise therefore, clarifies the position of political theory in the postmodern era and identifies factors that are responsible for this setback. It also verifies the challenges that face postmodern political theory and process. Our inquiry revealed that lack of independent and creative political thinking by both political scientists and researchers in politics has caused a decline in political theory. Existing capitalist-democracy dominated socio-economic and political orders in the international environment within this period, as well as difficulties in the collection of data, and lack of fund are identified as some major factors hindering the development of political theory and theorisation since late 20th century.

Keywords: Postmodern, Political Theory, Theorization, Political Scientists and Stakeholders.

Introduction

Organization and governance of the society have constituted problems of great political magnitude to mankind. From Plato, Aristotle to St. Augustine; Machiavelli, Hobbes to Locke; Hegel to Marx; solution to problems associated with politics has continued to elude vigorous grips of political theorists and practitioners of politics in general. While the classical scholars theorized on the art of governance and political obligation, their modern counterparts made great efforts to address political conflicts of their

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time like state invasion, insurgence, war or revolution. Till this present day, problems associated with politics do not only continue to recreate themselves in different forms but various response mechanisms have failed to yield political tranquillity and general progress in so many societies. Efforts to explain the nature of man, state, government, politics and political obligations led to philosophical study of history, law and institutions, yet our political environment remained filthy with different crises at one time or the other. Even recommendations by more current theorists of scientific-behavioural orientation like Graham Wallas, Arthur Bentley, Charles Merriam, William Munro, David Easton and their contemporaries on the use of scientific or fact finding approach to gain reliable knowledge could not adequately, supplement the philosophical orientation of their earlier generations to solve the crises. Rather the argument which ensued between the normative and empirical persuasions on the methodology of politics further destabilized the unity of collective political inquiry among the theorists.

The situation remains the same despite calls by scholars like Leo Strauss, David Easton, Sheldon Wolin, and their colleagues for behavioural inquiries that would be more relevant and action-oriented to social responsibilities and problems. As part of this call, Easton in Gauba (2003), emphasizes on the intellectual historical role in protecting humane values of civilization, and had earlier warned that if political scientists failed to tackle the problem of nuclear bomb and internal conflict in the 1960s, they would be reduced to mere technicians and mechanics.

Issues of normative and empirical methods to social science research remain therefore, a case of long intellectual debate. The dynamic nature of human behaviour set social science research different from that of the natural sciences. Prediction in social sciences are based on systematic inquiry which does not give complete accuracy of data as is in natural sciences owing to the fact that variables to be measured are not static nor the instruments for measuring them entirely scientific. The situation is so dynamic and most times information is classified, distorted or confidential that prediction depends on speculative data. This does not allow for true scientific inquiry capable of offering water-tight empirical evidence. However, scientific inquiries in social sciences can, to a great extent, achieve data that is scientific enough to explain variables under investigation.

Systematic inquiry in political science is based on both scientific and normative approaches in attempt to strike a balance considering the importance of the two approaches to the problems of the society. Facts are important as values in trying to use empirical evidence to solve the problem of right and wrong or that of morality. More current endeavours to the study of politics have advocated interdisciplinary approach to the problems of the society. This is by way of employing research instruments across relevant disciplines so as to achieve a better result in our investigation.

Despite possibilities and resources available to mankind, increasing production and use of weapons of mass destruction, bad leadership, political violence, and poverty remain some of the visible threats to human existence. Production of weapons of mass destruction has been an area of concentration of world super powers. Such efforts ought to improve on food production for the world population. Political theorization and implementation of the postmodern world have not been able to stop the dwindling poverty in the Third World societies. Nor have they arrested problems of terrorism, and suicide bombing in the Middle East. Sit tight syndrome by various political leaders has generated unending protests from the people. The worse is that creative thinking as a way of resolving these problems has perhaps, not only declined but theorization process in general seems to be at a crossroad.

This paper verifies the true condition of political theory and theorization in the postmodern time and identifies factors that led to it. It explores the challenges facing political scientists and stakeholders of politics within this period so as to encourage repositioning of both the process and application of political theories to the problems hurting our generation.

Understanding the Basic Variables

The process of theorization has constituted a problem of diversity in intellectual perception owing to differences in orientations and interests of the scholars in this area of study. Despite this, a theory is a body of thought constructed to enable the researcher explain the outcome of his study, predict what the situation is likely to be in future and prescribe solution to the problem he investigated. Without the use of a theory, the outcome of investigations into problems of the society cannot be properly communicated. It is an intellectual construction adopted by researchers to convey the result of their systematic inquiries into problems of their interests. For instance, a study on the impact of neo-colonialism on Third World societies cannot be complete without theoretical avenue to convey the result of the study to policy makers responsible for formulating policies that tend to develop Third World societies. The instrumentality of a theory is of paramount importance in this case. Marx for example, was able to raise people's consciousness on class stratification of the society and the resultant exploitation of one class by the other. This was communicated through the theory of class struggle.

For Piano et al (1982) a theory is an idea or body of thought that purports to explain predict or prescribe in any field of inquiry. The book further posits that in empirical science, a theory refers to a logically related set of prepositions stating relationships between variables for the purpose of explanation and prediction. The above explanation shows the fact that a theory is not simply an idea or a body of thought but that which purports to explain, predict or prescribes in a field of inquiry. A theory according to this view must have the capacity to explain the issue under investigation or the relationships existing among variables that contain in the topic of inquiry. It has to give prediction as to what may likely happen in the future concerning the issue investigated. Basis upon this knowledge, the theorist prescribe a solution to the problem of study. This may be in form of a method of inquiry, what to inquire or may point at variables to investigate, or solution to a problem. In normative and empirical researches for instance, traditional political philosophers like Vernon Van Dyke, Kant, Hegel, and Marx prescribed the study of history, institutions, and law as a way to understanding politics. In the other hand, the behavioural theorists Wallas, Bentley, Merriam, Easton and Catlin emphasized resort to scientific method through the study of behaviours of individuals in political situations to find solution to the problem of politics. These explanations and prescription were made possible and conveyed in form of theories.

In a similar vein Kerlinger in Obasi,(1999) sees theory as a set of interrelated constructs (concepts) and prepositions that presents a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relations among variables with the view to explaining and predicting the phenomena. This shows that a theory first of all sets out the relationship among variables, presents a systematic view of the phenomena described by the variables and goes further to explain and predict the phenomena.

In extension, political theory is that theory which explains political phenomenon; predicts political future or prescribe solutions for political problems. Political theories are concerned with issues pertaining to the state, politics, power or use of state power, government, structures and institutions relating to the state or government. For Gauba, (2003)

Political theory implies an intellectual effort to attain a systematic knowledge about the goals and methods of politics.

Gauba has shown that political theory is not just any proclamation but an intellectual effort that follows a research design (systematic structure) to attain knowledge about the method of politics and the way to achieve political goals.

In the other hand, the term postmodern is connected with or influenced by postmodernism which is a style or movement in the art, literature, social sciences, architecture etc. that since the late 20th century reacts against narrow style modern theories by mixing features from traditional and modern styles to build a new methodology/approach. It is an era of broad-minded rationality in political theorization process; an era when events in the global system have raised numerous questions than answers; and thus, have required a broad-based intellectuality to respond to these questions. For our purpose, postmodern here refers to the period of political theory since late 20th century. Postmodern political theories and theorisation are therefore, those intellectual efforts, movements, style, processes and approaches which from the late 20th century have targeted at combining traditional and modern approaches in the study of politics as a way to finding or building better political theories that can solve political problems of our time. These anchor on the recognition and use of both historical, legal, institutional, behavioural, post-behavioural approaches to executing philosophical or normative researches through empirical and any new relevant methods in the study of politics. This is with the view to filling theoretical gap existing in political science since the reign of capitalism and liberal democracy. In this effort, David Easton is a notable figure. He has demonstrated his conviction that combination of traditional and modern approaches to the study of politics will yield positive result in the search to fill methodological and theoretical gaps existing in political science discipline. He argues in (Varma, 1975)that:

...theory without facts may be well piloted-ship with an unsound keel. But where pre-occupation with fact-gathering syphons away energy from seeing the facts in their theoretical significance, then the ultimate value of factual research itself may well be lost... A political scientist should "sensitively respond" to the urgent problem of the society and to the emerging social needs and try to articulate a sophisticated system of values.

Despite his recognition of the importance of facts in the research exercise, Easton pointed and warned against hyper-factualism in the side of the behavioural empiricists. He emphasised the need for political scientists to consider and always bear in mind the ultimate goals/values of social science researches as an endeavour to solving the problems of the society facing them. To this end, a political theory will be an effort in futility if it fails to address the problem that necessitated its formulation. To achieve this Easton has advocated for a more encompassing approach that will recognise both traditional and modern approaches in the match for political theorisation.

However convincing this perception may be, some scholar have argued that postmodernism as a mode of political thought is highly relevant for political science to the extent at which the term "postmodernism is justified." They argue that postmodern challenge implies rejection of both the liberal and Hegelian-Marxian thinking which are the too powerful traditions of modern political thought. They believe in current analysis of politics based on information available at present without recourse to previously established values or facts. On their list is Tuija Pulkkinen. He argues that the postmodern political thought means detachment from both liberal and Hegelian-Marxian utopias. To him postmodern political

theory means a conception of politics divested of a thought which has laid a core moral foundation upon which subsequent political theories must always base. He understands postmodern political thought from the point of view of a situation where there is an awareness of power and where judgements are constantly made about what is here and now just or unjust. So his postmodern political thought is a conception of politics as a value and fact issue, but without reliance to earlier philosophical or factual foundation.

Now, Political scientists are those academicians who find their areas of study in political science discipline. This is an academic field in social sciences that dwells in the use of both scientific and normative methodologies to study the art and science of politics. It is concerned with the theory and practice of politics studying political institutions, law, behaviours, events and processes with the view to acquiring enabling knowledge that reveals the relationships underlying political events and conditions. This is with the view to formulating theories that can solve the problems of the society. Apart from this category of people, there are others whose efforts have contributed not only to the establishment but as the expansion and consolidation of the study and practice of politics. We refer to them as stakeholders of politics because of their contributions and concerns to the development of political institutions and practices.

Difference in opinion among scholars could not allow for the establishment of the true situation about decline or otherwise of political theory and theorization in the postmodern era. It was not clear if political theory actually declined within this period and major causes of this decline are not well spelt out. Owing to this uncertain situation it became unclear what constitute the challenges (problems) facing postmodern political theory and theorization and the way forward. This gap in literature requires further research to clarify the uncertainty. The condition, thus, has justified our study. Our thesis has therefore found expression in eclectic theory of political methodology/approach which is an attempt to derive from both philosophical and scientific approaches to build political theories that can solve problems of our time. Over concentration on either empirical or normative method has over the time not allowed for combination of the two approaches for better theoretical result. Failure to recognize the importance of each of the two approaches by the scholars in these areas has negated the unity of purpose of theorization. Thus, the eclectic methodology of political inquiry becomes the synthesizing force recognizing their individual content and values to problem solving research and prescription. We can now look at the condition of political theory within the period under review.

Political Theory: Decline or Resurgence?

The issue of decline in political theory will be examined with adequate analytical balance. We therefore argue that though, few commendable but non-implemented efforts are recorded; there is a decline in political theorization within the period under review. What actually happened was that before the middle of 20th century, independent political theorization was holding sway in so many parts of the world. Like in the classical era where political turmoil in the Greek-City states provoked great speeches and works by Socrates and Plato respectively. Just as political upheaval in Europe between sixteenth and eighteenth centuries particularly, the religion-politics conflicts in England, revolution in France etc. led to great works of Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke; Hegel, Marx and their contemporaries.

Unfortunately, similar political endeavours are not as such repeating themselves in the same tempo since the late twentieth century despite series of problems of proven magnitude hurting the society. Apart from the behavioural-empirical movement of the mid-twentieth century, which rather than bringing collective theoretical endeavour in politics/political inquiry created disunity in theorization exercise. No much deep

intellectual theorization in political science has been able to respond effectively to the problems of this present era. By these problems we refer to rapid development of nuclear weapons which not only threatens the peace and security of the world but in addition, poses an unchecked threat of suicide bombing as reaction to capitalism-democracy unipolarity of western hegemony detested by the Arabs. Or do we talk of bad leadership in the Third World and difficulties associated with the practice of liberal democracy in the region; suicide bombing, and terrorism; political violence, deep rooted election malpractices, abject poverty, food shortage, political crisis, corruption, cyber crime, human and drug trafficking

Much of such theoretical activities like those of classical and modern periods are not in this present day been propagated and applied with vigour to these problems facing humanity. Theories weighty as those of Marx, capable of causing revolution are hard to come by today. For instance, the intense and independent philosophy of Socrates led to his death. That of Plato forced him to exile while Marx was disowned because of his revolutionary thinking and activities. Their theories have continued to gain great impact on global societies and as such were indicators of intense political theorization. Our argument is that postmodern political theory and theorization are not vigorous as those of the classical and modern times. Their effects on societies are not well felt like those of earlier periods and this constitutes a decline in political theory and may have contributed to the increase in the problems facing our societies.

However, we must recognize the efforts of some vibrant political theorists like David Easton, Frantz Fanon, Julius Nyerere, Kwame Nkuruma, Cluade Ake, Nelson Mandela and their likes for their efforts in postmodern political theorisation. Though, their theories were not sustained by relevant political authorities, they demonstrated deep creative thinking and commitment in political theorization. Nyerere for instance had proposed his ujamaa thesis which insisted on African solidarity based on extended familiness as an approach the development of African politics and agricultural systems. (Nyerere, 2009)

Challenges to Political Scientists and Stakeholders of Politics

Having presented a case establishing decline in postmodern political theory, it is obvious that certain factors must have come into causative play to the existence of this weakness. These factors actually constitute challenges or problems to political scientists and stakeholders of politics. Accordingly, identification of some of them, thus, becomes necessary. They include among others:

Lack of Cooperation and Commitment to Creative Thinking

Decline in political theory especially, in the postmodern era can be attributed to the failure of postmodern political scientists to be more creative, cooperative and committed in developing new political synthesis. They have not only lived parasitically, on the ideas of old philosophers but have also stayed too long on analyzing political thoughts of earlier centuries without persistent attempts for new and independent theoretical constructs and promotion of implementations. Their efforts might have been an excellent exercise in the discovery of historical facts but if the words of David Easton in Varma, (1975) are something to go by, this historical analysis has played a major part in destroying the species of mental activities that has prevailed in literate civilization and which emerges out of universal human needs. A political theorist should keep himself abreast with social requirements of his time and take into cognizance the prevailing circumstances surrounding the time, place and people for whom the theory is meant to serve. Knowledge of history, facts, and value systems of the targeted society are vital in this all encompassing exercise but the capacity of the impending political theory to solve the problem for which

it was formulated is of utmost importance. This is because a political theory which does not at least attempt to solve the problem that necessitated its formulation is due for redefinition. As an instance, political theories and theorizing processes since 1960s have lasted on either criticizing traditional and modern philosophy, or debating in support or against normative and empirical research methods without seeking ways to reconcile and improve on them and gain relevance to the problems of the society. Even post behavioural persuasions for relevance and action in political theorization have not been built into applicable political theories. A political scientist according to Easton should:

Sensitively respond to the urgent problems of the society and to the emerging social needs and try to articulate a sophisticated system of values. Varma, (1975)

Capitalism-Democracy Global Order

Besides, the establishment, consolidation and expansion of capitalism and democracy by Western Europe and North America have established economic and political systems that are both ideologically and practically hostile to free and independent political theories and theorization. Theories that do not conform to capitalism-democracy ideologies established in the policy frameworks of major international organizations like the UNO, IMF, WTO and World Bank, find it difficult to come to light. This is partly the reason why many political scientists are not committed to deep theoretical thinking that can challenge opposing existing theories. They are carried away by capitalism-democracy ideological debate or they are afraid to propagate opposing views. Creative theoretical thinking about major problems of the society is as such, relegated to the background - leading to decline in political theory. The wave of capitalism and democracy have not only dominated political theorization and systems in this era, it has as well threatened the development of opposing theoretical forces - including the socialist perceptions.

Hostile Institutional Order

Moreover, institutions that are supposed to support independent or contrary political thinking are either established by capitalist and democracies institutions or are greatly influenced by them. Political thinking therefore, has become a mere recycling of capitalist and democratic values. This has favoured states leading in capitalist-democratic cultures against those whose integration into the systems were neither their making nor did their integrators ever seek their consent in doing so. Third World societies are typical instances. Proponents of dependency thesis attributed most problems of the Third World to the evil integration of these societies to the global capitalism. Capitalist domination explains also why debate over the method or approach to politics rather than vigorous reconstruction and deep political thinking continues to dominate theorization as a process. It partly explains why solution to political backwardness in Africa continues to elude our grips. Anti-capitalist political policies and theories have not been allowed to flourish. For instance, attempts by socialist Europe to create a socio-economic and political order based on communist principles were consumed by dominant forces of capitalism and democracy. Democracy has become a fashion for every, and sundry that human thinking is occupied with democracy related variables. That is to say free and fair election, multi-party system, separation of power, checks and balances to mention a few. This is even when these variables exist as lip-service in most countries without concrete manifestations of same in practical reality. This is an indication that democracy has changed from theoretical government of the people to the practical government of the ruling class. This system of capitalism-democracy thesis has been institutionalized in such a way that anti-capitalist and democratic persuasions hardly survive within such institutional structure where loyalty and obedience to the financiers and democracy godfathers are issues of zero compromise. The situation is self-evident both in

institutions of learning and governments of states operating or pretending to operate democracy. Their finance and policy channels remain avenues for control and direction of the workforce in favour of the existing institutional order. For instance sourcing of data is faced with the problem of "classified information" Such information restriction does not help objective theorization.

Clarity Problem in the Existing Political Theories

Problem of clarity associated with both traditional and modern political theories shows that most theoretical thinkers failed to explicitly elucidate the target of their theories both in terms of the problem of study, society in focus, time, place and circumstances of their theories. Though, some are blurringly implied, the gap is generally obvious and evidently clear for any insightful observer to notice. This shortcoming for instance, contributed so much to the misconception of the Machiavelli's "The prince." The book was particularly designed to advise the Prince in Florence Republic on the way to checkmate the impending disintegration of his society, resulting from religion-politics conflict of that time. Surprisingly, scholars and leaders of today's world are applying its principles to societies intended to be democratic in nature. It means putting a square peg in a round hole and this partly explains why many leaders who applied Machiavelli principles in this present time failed to build democratic societies. Wrong application of such theory to socio-political problems has adversely affected efforts in political theorization and resulted to decline in political theory. It portrays political theory and theorization as Utopian since applications of most of these theories did not achieve the expected result. This is without emphasis to wrongful application of same. Just like in Marxist theory of revolution which many, particularly, of liberal background, have criticized due to its failure to establish and consolidate communism in areas where it was applied. The theory was propounded based on Euro-centric environment and culture with conditions that will precede its application. The author's use of European industrial society as a sample to generalize how the international working class would unite and revolt did not meet expectations. This single error, despite celebrated potency and great explanatory capacity of the Marxist political theories, has hunted the general acceptability of the Marxist theory as a body of thought. It is a sign of doubt in the capability of political theories to solving problems and to that extent contributed to a decline in the implementation and further development of political theory in general. Many will argue, out of ignorance, that most of these theories do not hold water in their practical terms. And so may face socio-political problems without reference to relevant theories. This situation does not encourage general development of theories related to politics and have caused decline in theorization as a process.

Lack of Unity of Purpose in Political Scholarship

Inadequate cooperation and unity among scholars and stakeholders of politics is one major factor that bread weakness in political theorization as a process. Weakness in political scholarship and associations has also contributed to the absence of good force in and for political theorization. In most universities and other institutions of learning one hardly see formidable political associations or unity of purpose among professionals, scholars and stakeholders of politics. For instance political science associations are not well rooted and developed in our universities and inter-personal relationships among theorists are not cordial and cooperative enough for political theory process.

Right Methodology and value-fact dichotomy

Most times, the problem of methodology has posed a great threat to political research/theory. While some argue in favour of normative method, others accept empirical method. The debate has generated a lot of dust in political science inquiry. Our opinion is that both normative and empirical approaches are all important instruments to the study of political science. The debate between the philosophical and behavioural schools of thought over value-fact methodology took a lot of time and effort needed for creative thinking. It destabilized the collective unity expected to exist among scholars of political research and caused a setback to theorization process as a whole.

Again, differences in orientation, ideas, interpretations and approaches among scholars in this field bring disunity and destabilize collective force required for formidable theorization. The above fact-value dichotomy has weakened the eclectic or synthesizing forces between the normative and empirical approaches which represents an epitome of this disunity among scholars. Argument over concentration on fact or value in political science research created a lot of academic factions among scholars in political science discipline. Their background orientations are also differing variables militating against the peace and cooperation in political science research and theorization. Nnabugwu in his work, *Methodology of Political Inquiry*, adds that workable political methodology would be that which derives from both value and fact to build better theories for problems facing mankind as they are all relevant to man and society.

Threat to Revolutionary Tendencies

The security of people who have pronounced tendencies for revolt against hostile and inhuman practices and orders is not guaranteed in postmodern political era. Attempts to propagate views opposed to postmodern capitalist orders, for example, are under severe threat. Death of some prominent scholars, like Claude Ake, Walter Rodney and Saro Wiwa were linked to such insecurity of life. Such situation has not only discouraged many scholars but others have abandoned their natural sense of objectivity for sentiments, especially when political matters of great theoretical challenges are on the front burner.

Euro-Centric Content and Use of Abstractions

The use of unfamiliar terms and words in political science literature has constituted a major problem in the assimilation and understanding of viewpoints and perceptions of writers in this field. This is particularly true with European literature of politics. Most times the environmental illustrations contained in these materials are strange to readers and students of politics. This is particularly, the situation in the use of western literature in the Third World institutions of learning. This reality does not allow for proper appreciation of the value of these intellectual works containing political theories. As such, such theories do not enjoy wide application in the problem-solving efforts of the affected societies. This is therefore, not a plus to political theorization. It encourages a look down on political theory and the entire process of theorization. It brings lack of patronage to political theory and process and in turn weakens efforts and generate decline in this area.

Lack of Funds and Grants

Research is a capital intensive venture that requires sponsorship and grants from concerned individuals, organizations, governments and institution of learning. Unfortunately, lack of it has caused a wedge in the wheel of political theorization, especially in developing societies of the Third World. Most of the major institutions sponsoring research do that under a zero level loyalty compromise. This has helped to water down the tempo of objective political theorization. In other words, conditions are attached to the grants and sponsorship for required research. In so far as many institutions of learning find it difficult coping with salary and allowances of their staff, it takes a determined resource allocator to forfeit a lot

of preferences and vote money to political research which is part of the process that generate political theory. Absence of such determination and stringent economic climates of most institutions have brought a setback to theory production and utilization. Considering the fact also that many are concerned with only theories that will promote their immediate business interest no matter how wrongly perceived.

Lack of Access to Relevant Data

Classification of information and denial of relevant data to researchers are some of the factors that brought decline in political theorization. Difficulties and limitations to data collection in relevant institutions constitute a bottleneck to political research process. Due to fear of misrepresentation of views and spread of opposing views, many institutions are not at will with the release of information to researchers. This has contributed immensely to decline in the development of political theory process.

Conclusion

Our findings show that a decline in political theory and theorisation actually exists, though the existence of few commendable and unimplemented theories of this era are self-evident. We point at lack of committed creative political thinking, absence of unity of purpose among political scientists, difficulties in collection of research data, lack of fund, domination of political environment by capitalist-democracy orders and insecurity of political researchers as some of the factors resulting to this decline. As tasks facing political scientists and concerned individuals, we have identified the need for unity of purpose among scholars of politics, vigorous penetration of institutions for relevant research data, commitment to creative thinking, campaign against victimization of researchers among others as issues of urgent attention in a renewed effort to save the situation. As such we have made the following recommendations: As a result of the decline in political theory and theorization, enormous tasks await scientists and stakeholders of politics of this postmodern period. Until they face these tasks squarely, the decline has the tendency to continue unabated

Recommendations

Certain steps have to be taken to take care of not only the declining political theory but the theorization process has to be strengthened to face the increasing socio-economic and political problems facing our society today. Some of these steps are itemised and explained below:

1. **Committed Attention to Creative Political Thinking Despite All Odds:** The need to reactivate relevant political theories and research process is long overdue. A committed attention to creative political thinking that can stand all obstacles is most necessary if the decline in political theory development is to be checked. Political scientists need to commit themselves with theory oriented researches and consider same as serious business of their profession. They should not allow non professional to mess up this system of research and theorization.
2. **Independent Political Theorization:** Injection of objective mindedness in political research process has been identified as a challenge to scholars of politics. Independent political theorization that can stand any opposing economic and political orders is one of the responsibilities facing research in politics. Researchers in this field are therefore, billed to generate theories that can unify :apitalist democracy with cultures of various societies. This is to avoid

conflict existing between them or propagate relevant political theories that can endure within cultural systems.

3. **Penetration of Institutions Relevant for Political Research Data:** As part of the tasks facing political science scholars there is the need for easy penetrate of various institutions for generation of relevant research data. A system of penetration into these institutions need be established to take care of lack of information needed in research. A check against deprivation of information to researchers need be institutionalized through legal framework.
4. **Unification of Efforts Among Scholars Of Politics:** There is the need for scholars of political research to unify their efforts than allow ideological differences divide them. Yes, variation in ideology is a healthy situation within the academic circle, but must not be allowed to affect interpersonal relationship or intellectual and scholarship cooperation among researchers.
5. **Unification of Political Methodology And Approaches:** Methods and approaches of political inquiry are needed to be unified to bring about all encompassing process of political research that will be more responsive to problems facing the society. For instance the debate on fact-value or normative-empirical approaches to political research is quite unnecessary. Problems of our time have shown that each of these approaches is relevant, one way or the other. Therefore, unification of these and other approaches and methodologies is most necessary to achieve eclectic approach more potent to the problems that necessitated its promulgation.
6. **Campaign Against Victimization And Insecurity Of Political Researchers:** The way scholars are being victimised and intimidated has posed a state of insecurity among the academicians of politics. There is therefore, the need to raise campaigns against such vices. Scholars and stakeholders of politics need to speak out against such acts and seek legal framework that will guarantee a law prohibiting such behaviours.

In practical term these options may take the ways of:

- Establishment of machineries for the promotion of political theory process and implementation are necessary tasks.
- It is necessary to give more effort and time to theorisation exercise by embarking on more creative thinking. Focusing on how to solve problems than producing theory for intellectual debate/argument. Scholars should bear in mind that research on the science and art of politics is expected to proffer solutions to problems facing the society.
- Political Researchers as a matter of importance should pay attention on the clarity of the problem, society, time and circumstances of political theories/research to guard against wrong perception and application of theories by relevant executive authorities.
- At the institutional level more hand should be recruited into political science research as a way for more serious research work to be produced and expanded. Political scientists and stakeholders of politics should face political problems of their societies with utmost sense of duty.
- Scholars in political science need be more objective and practical in tutoring their students irrespective of their individual ideology so as to provide a balanced scholarship for our future generation.

Postmodern political scientists and stakeholders of politics must build or construct potent political theories that though, may derive from existing theoretical knowledge, but contain features more responsive to the current socio-political problems and circumstances facing them. For efficient political

theories to emanate, political scientist and concerned citizens should establish enduring institutional frameworks for creative and independent political thinking across board. Departments of Politics in various institutions of learning should be major avenues for creative political thinking. In addition, political research should be encouraged in private and public outfits. Political competition among scholars should base more on creative political thinking than on internal political partisanship. This is to provide theories potent enough to solve the problems facing us.

Moreover, political scientists and scholars in these institutions should raise their sense of objectivity in their approaches to the study of politics. They should understand that philosophical and empirical contents of the past theoretical heroes are never valueless but one way or the other valid in some issues, instances, circumstances, places or times under investigation. As such, such approaches should be put into consideration in the course of executing new studies as there may be some relevant variables/data that can aid the study in motion. Attention of utmost importance must be paid to data that has better problem-solving capacities despite researcher's personal interest or ideology. Research and other academic competitions among academics should not take the tone of partisan politics but be exercises aimed at achieving some targeted objectives. To facilitate these efforts, there have to be a lot of institutions supporting research projects, and intellectual debates should be with the aim to improving creative knowledge. Instruments of research should be developed more to offer more reliable data.

Finally, recruitment into political science discipline should be increased and institutional capacity expanded in proportion to this increase. This is without compromise to standard. Scholars and student of politics must realize that independent thinking is a major character of the study of politics and they must have as Obama, (2006) calls it, *The Audacity of Hope*. The spirit of hope and freedom must not die in them rather positive efforts by their past heroes should be signs of hope and encouragement.

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