

THE CONCEPT OF A POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND ITS MAIN FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses concepts of policy and leadership. The opinions of various scholars and politicians about political leadership are discussed and analyzed in the article. The main attention is paid to the functions of political leadership in the process of ruling a state with the explanations and examples of each of them.

Key words: *political leadership, leader, policy, scholars, society, state, theory of elite, functions.*

INTRODUCTION

Political leadership is an intellectual phenomenon with high potential and organizational abilities, strong political intuition, manifested also as a creator of political programs, extremely responsible, strong speaker, suitable for the benefit of most citizens.

MAIN PART

Policy is a set of ideas or a plan of what to do in particular situations that has been agreed to officially by group of people, a business organization, a government, or a political party. In fact, term “policy” has broader meaning: the way teacher conducts the lesson or the method manager in company rules business also named as policy. These are examples from the simple life. But there is also global meaning of the term “policy”, which relates to the state. In macroscales, policy is activities of State authorities and their officials; issues and events in public life related to the functioning of States.

Leadership is one of the mechanisms of integration of group activities, when an individual or part of a social group plays the role of leader, i.e. unites, directs the actions of the whole group that expects, accepts and supports its actions. Many psychologists claim that a person psychology has two phenomena: he can either rule over someone or obey to someone. The first phenomenon is called leadership. Such a trait is important in politics.

These characteristics are essential to a successful policy for the leader. A person who does not know how to organize an activity correctly will collapse in the future, which will have a negative impact on the policy pursued by him or her and state it. Such qualities as a good speaker and an experienced psychologist are necessary for a public figure to convince a group of people of the correctness of his or her actions and make them follow him or her.

The first ideas of the concept of political leadership were considered and analyzed by ancient Greek and Roman scholars and philosophers such as Herodotus, Titus Livius and Plutarch. Scientists argued that any community, regardless of its structure, necessarily has its leaders - the strongest and the wisest. N. Machiavelli and R. Emerson also argued that political leadership is a historical and social necessity in a society. N. Machiavelli in his book "The Prince" created a theory of elite. Main idea of this theory is that there are only two types of elite: lions and foxes. The "lions" are characterized by openness, determination in management, reliance on the power, authoritarian methods of ruling. "Lions" are extremely conservative. The second type – "Foxes" - dominates by using various means of manipulation, political combinations, deception, and compromise. They are more likely to resort to deals, compromises. Also, N. Machiavelli listed some characters, which are necessary to the leader in order to grant prosperity to the state. They are personal valour, the ability to inspire others, determination and consistency, optimism and the ability to make the right decision in time.

The concept of political leadership also has a number of core functions that are highlighted by scholars today. These functions indicate necessity of this concept in the process of ruling a state.

1. Integrative function

Political leadership integrates, i.e. process of the convergence of some social or political structures on the basis of the similarity of views and ideas. This function may grant state stability in term of government ruling. For example: when Tamerlan de-facto became leader of Turan, all political structures started to cooperate with him, which caused development of region.

2. Program function

Political leader defines the program, or plan of actions of state officials on the following years. This function ensures proper and stable development of the state. The Strategy of Actions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the 2017-2021 years is vivid example of this function.

3. Security function

As a head of the state or any community, leader should first of all ensure security of state or community. When security structures function properly, other functions of the political leader will work also. As an example, after collapse of Soviet Union, there was vital necessity to organize military units to the independent Republic of Uzbekistan, in order to

guarantee security. That's why, First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov in 1991 created the Ministry of Defense.

4. Mobilization function

This function implies the involvement of the masses to achieve a certain goal. As an example some actions of the General Secretary of Communist party of USSR, Josef Stalin, who managed people to serve in army and work hard in factories in the World War 2.

5. Social arbitrage function

Political leader should ensure equality of all before the law, defend the rights of rich and poor, settle disputes between them and save safety in society. For this reason nowadays most democratic states exercise institution of courts.

6. Legitimization function

There is a difference between terms of "legality" and "legitimacy". Legality is the fact that something is allowed by the law, however legitimacy is indicator of the acceptance of any action by people. Political leader should first of all represent the will of the people, that's why every action of him/her should be legitimate.

Political leaders have other functions also; the most important ones of them were represented above.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in view of all the above, a detailed analysis of the concept of the political leadership has been made. And it should be noted that leaders are those, who can gain an attention and a belief of people. It is a person that can make people trust him and follow him. Meanwhile, political leaders should also be able to make people accept them, to be their decisions legitimist.

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