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BOOK REVIEW

Name of the Book:

Major Modern Political Systems

by J.C. Johari (Author) Publisher: Shoban Lal & Co.; 5th edition ISBN -10: 8188477036

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Major Modern political system (5th reprint edition) covers the political system of the UK, USA, Switzerland, China, Canada, Russia, and France. In this book the author discusses the Six types of Political system. The book is divided into eight parts with its various sub parts. In the first part author provides the classification of the Political systems with reference to constitution and constitutionalism. All the chapters carry good impression, insight, and thought-provoking arguments. The work is well-written, informative, and politically informative. The eight parts and its sub chapters empirically examine the institutional arrangements of the modern political systems, outlining their key features, including the constitutional practices, electoral systems, political parties, interest groups, social movements, legislatures, bureaucracy, judiciary, and governance.



Part I- Setting, Political-System, and Typology of Political –Systems, Constitution, and constitutionalism

This part is divided in to 3 chapters. In the first part Author justify the purpose behind the study of Modern Governmental system of the world. Though the purpose behind the study of the modern governmental system in the name of comparative study of the modern political system cannot be disputed. It may be asserted that the study of political system has remained far from begin quite empirical as so ardently described by the eminent writer. Author presents a typological study of Political Organisations covering from the Ancient Greeks. After making a study of various forms of critical systems modern Nation States, the study led to concludes that there is no single principle upon which scientific classification can be made. No doubt principles adopted by the eminent writers are logical in their own ways but that hardly has a universal application. Two important points that emerge from the first part of this book are an analysis of constitutionalism and change as an undeniable truth for development. According to the author, the future of Constitutionalism is safe and bright due to its flexible and dynamic nature of constitutions. It should be treated as a dynamic affair that changes with emergence of new conditions, new challenges, new problems and new issues. An incisive and comparative study of these constitutions will enable the reader to obtain an unbiased and dispassionate view of their working. The book has been updated by incorporating the latest amendments to the constitutions.

Part II: Political-System of the United Kingdom

Second part of the book covers the political system of the United Kingdom. This part is divided into twelve chapters. A comprehensive study of the British political system with reference to modernity is described. Britain is rightly regarded as the ancestral home of the modern parliamentary government; British Parliament is described as a mother of modern parliaments. Britain is not only the Land of White Bulls, but a country of the aliens as well as who have migrated and made themselves the citizens of this most popular land of Western democracy.



British constitution affords the best example of a living organism. The flexibility of the UK constitution is considered one of its key strengths, allowing it to adapt to new and unforeseen circumstances. The author considers each of the major components of British politics in chapters, such as the Monarchy and the House of Lords, the Commons, parties and pressure groups, the prime minister and cabinet, devolution, local government. This readable and comprehensive introduction is a key guide to A-level students, undergraduates and those new to the study of British politics.

Part –III- The Political system of the United States

The book in its third chapter provides students with an essential background to the history and development of the American political system, its structures, processes, and institutions. The book establishes a framework to understand the intricacies of politics in the world's most powerful nation. Third part of the book deals with the political system of the United states. A comprehensive Study of the American Political system and that too with a place after the British Political System is an advanced study of the major modern political system of the world. The real significance of the study of American political system lay embedded in its involvement evaluation towards more and more democracy coupled with the fact of the great Political achievements-use of democratic processes. An American constitution cannot be described as a bourgeois instrument. One of the more interesting and useful aspects of this book that I found was the highlighting of formal and informal institutions of the American Political -system. The book would be useful as a political text in either high school or college courses. The author writes from a liberal perspective, but anyone who approaches the book with an open mind will learn much about the United States' Political system.

PART-IV: Political System of Switzerland

Fourth part of the book tackles comprehensive study of the Swiss political system. Study of Swiss Political systems in major Political systems has certain reasons. At the first the author reviews the geographical and historical conditions which have shaped Swiss society. Switzerland is presented as a country crossed by many dividing lines: a linguistic cleavage between areas in which French, German, Italian, and Rhaeto-Romance languages are spoken; a religious cleavage between Catholics and Protestants; an institutional cleavage. Each canton



has its own internal rules; and an extending economic cleavage between cantons and citizens. Though Switzerland is a small and landlocked country of Europe, but her political institutions occupy a very significant place in the sphere of major constitutional systems of the world. In part fourth he goes on to stress the different features of political institutions. The Swiss state structure offers the example of democratic state. These are the mechanisms for the election of representatives and the mechanisms of direct democracy. Citizen participation is powered by the 'bottom-up' federal structure of the state in which municipalities and cantons play a crucial role. On the one hand, Switzerland is frequently presented as an isolated, conventional, prosperous, and extremely boring country. On the other hand, its supporters argue that political life is very lively because the lack of differentiation between civil society and the political system. The political system is strongly influenced by direct participation of the people. In addition to the participation in elections, referenda and initiatives are the key elements of Switzerland's well-established tradition of direct democracy. The consensus type democracy is a third characteristic of Swiss political system. The institutions are designed to represent cultural diversity and to include all major political parties in a grand-coalition government. This leads to a non-concentration of power in any one hand but the diffusion of power among many actors. After the elaboration of these three important elements of the Swiss political system, a comparative perspective shall exemplify the main differences of the system vis-à-vis other western democracies. In Switzerland, as in other federal states, centralization or decentralisation of responsibilities is a constant political issue that prompts ideological, social, and economic conflict. By constitutional rule, the Swiss government can assume new responsibilities only if most of the people and the cantons agree in a popular vote. This fourth part is a very useful textbook for students, specialists of comparative governments, and citizens who want to learn more about one of the oldest democracies in the world. As such, I recommend this book and hope it will contribute to the rise of studies on democracy.

PART V- The Political system of the People's Republic of China

Fifth part of the book tackles the Political system of the People's Republic of China. A Study of the Chinese Political system is an advanced study of the major modern Medical System. This book provides a comprehensive overview and analysis on the operation of



China's political system. Explores a new paradigm of research in Chinese political system studies. The Chinese civilization is one of the oldest civilizations of the world. To a student of religion and philosophy, Chinese represents a very old system of its own. Likewise to a student of politics, China is important not as much for its old religious or cultural traditions. For political scientists, China is as important as it is elusive. It has developed into one of the world's leading economies, with officials guiding market forces and state enterprises through long-term planning. Politically, China remains a single-party authoritarian state with few signs of democratization, although it is also relatively decentralized, responsive, and adaptable. The authors provide a comprehensive, authoritative account of the contemporary political landscape of the Middle Kingdom. China's Political System is notable for its overall clarity. China's Political System promises to stand as a key text for various audiences, including advanced undergraduates, graduate students, policymakers. The Chinese government is one of the most important actors in international affairs today. To thoroughly understand how the People's Republic of China has grown in power requires a careful analysis of its political system. To thoroughly understand how the PRC has become one of the most important actors in international affairs, this definitive book provides readers with a comprehensive assessment of the preconditions, prospects, and risks associated with China's political development.

PART –VI: Political –System of Canada

Part VI of the book is a Comprehensive study of the Canadian political system. Canada the largest self-governing country in the Commonwealth of nations functions within a framework of parliamentary democracy and a federal system of parliamentary government with strong democratic traditions. Canada is a constitutional monarchy, in which the monarch is head of state. In Canada, there are 3 levels of government. Each level of government has different responsibilities. Federal government. Provincial and territorial governments - Responsible for things such as education, health care and highways. Municipal (local) governments- Responsible for fire fighting, city streets and other local matters. If there is no local government, the province provides services. Canada is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy, founded on the rule of law and respect for rights and freedoms. The government acts in the name of the Crown but derives its authority from the Canadian



people. Canada's parliamentary system stems from the British, or "Westminster", tradition. Parliament consists of the Crown, the Senate, and the House of Commons, and laws are enacted once they are agreed to by all three parts. The judiciary is responsible for the interpretation and application of the law and the Constitution and for giving impartial judgments. This book Provides a comprehensive overview of the transformation that has occurred in Canadian politics since the country achieved autonomy, examining the institutions and processes of Canadian government and politics at the local, provincial, and federal levels. It analyses all aspects of the Canadian political system: the courts, elections, political parties, Parliament, the constitution, fiscal and political federalism, the diffusion of policies between regions, and various aspects of public policy. Examines trends such as the movement towards minority Parliaments and extrapolates potential developments.

Part VII- Political-system of the Russian federation

Fully revised and updated to reflect the considerable changes in Russia, the fifth edition of this classic text builds on the strengths of previous editions to provide a comprehensive and sophisticated analysis of Russian politics. The new edition incorporates the latest debates about Russian politics, analysing recent institutional and political developments, and prospects of the president elected at the end of the process. The book traces the creation of the Russian federation: from a constitutional unit of the USSR to a sovereign state, land, and people: ecological and economic contexts, feuds, wars, territorial expansions. Russian leaders repeatedly attempt to modernize their country while keeping their subjects under tight control. The work provides a contextual understanding of the current Russian Constitution. The introduction is followed by substantive chapters covering specific aspects of Russia's constitutional history, structure, and practice, including the history and nature of the Constitution. Executive power, the role and accountability of the President as Head of State, and the formation and powers of the federal government, the legislature and its formation, elections, and the methods for forming the two chambers of the legislature. the constitutional role of the courts and the way in which fundamental rights are defined in constitutional terms. A concluding part which focuses on features of Russian polity and judiciary and protectorate's critical appreciation . This is an essential work of reference for anyone who



wishes to embark on studying Russian constitution and politics, and is a reflective assessment of progress in the modern era.

Part VIII-Political system of France

The centrepieces of this work are the French Constitution, portrayed by the author as an innovative hybrid construct whose arrival brought the constitutional stability that had eluded France for centuries. But the creation of the 1958 Constitution was not an isolated act; it represents part of an evolutionary process which continues to this day. Even though it is codified, the constitution of the Fifth Republic has evolved so markedly that some commentators have dubbed the present institutional balance the 'Sixth Republic'. It is this dynamic of the constitution which this book seeks to explain. At the same time the book shows how the French constitution has not developed in isolation, but reflects to some extent the global movement of ideas, ideas which sometimes challenge the very foundations of the 1958 Constitution. The aim of the book is to present French constitutional law from a French perspective—to understand how the French think about constitutional law and its practice. The book deals in depth with the following matters: separation of powers and the structure and functioning of government, the evolution and practice of judicial review by the Constitutional Council, the role of the Council of State in the French constitutional system, sources of French constitutional law and their interpretation, the Republican tradition (liberty and human rights, democracy and national sovereignty, secularism, equality, social solidarity, and the indivisibility of the Republic). This book is well suited for use in law school, as the materials are structured to provide the basis for class discussion of legal issues. It is also well suited for use in undergraduate and graduate courses in French, European, or comparative politics or history.

Conclusion

Major Modern political system is 5th reprint edition, a monumental work by author portrays the conceptual and legal framework of democracies like UK, USA, Switzerland, China, Canada, Russia, and France. The book is organized in terms of different areas of political science: political institutions, political leadership, political foundations, state structure, and constitutionalism. Each chapter contains several specific subsections. Each discussion



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provides rich details, at many points aided by clear tables. Of course, a few topics are not discussed in detail—for instance, the book opts not to look at international relations or political history. However, given the enormity of the topic, there are remarkably few stones left unturned. The book is a comprehensive, well-researched and well-presented piece of work. Ultimately the book is about the modern Political system. This is a handbook for anybody wanting to understand British politics. It can be read straight as an introduction to the subject but is designed to be studied over months (or years), each chapter building on the previous one. A worthwhile addition to the bookshelves of politics students.