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Political science in the 'Dutch Golden Age'

Critique, history and theory in Dutch 17th century political thought
by H. W. Blom

Reviewing the state of Dutch political thought in the seventeenth century three main approaches to political experience are discussed.

Pieter de la Court represents the critical approach to Dutch politics in his attempt to defend along Hobbesian lines a more democratic type of government. His work — translated into French and German — ranges from free-trade problems to institutional proposals for various types of sociopolitical organization, and has its core in an embryonic passion-interest theory.

The historico-philological movement — started in the sixteenth century by especially Justus Lipsius — had a strong appeal to Aristotelian-minded writers like Boxhornius and Burgersdijk. It is indicated that these two political philosophers used Aristotelian metaphysical concepts to provide a more systematic base for historical research, forshadowing the typical research-style of the policy sciences as they developed in Germany.

Baruch de Spinoza developed the passion-reason theory as he found it in de la Court's writings and showed the way to an analytical political science, especially in exemplifying the typical way of analytical politics to integrate theory and empirical (in Spinoza's case: historical) information. Lastly, the suggestion that only Ulric Huber in the later part of the seventeenth century really found in the 'jurisprudentia universalis' the correct and selfevident theoretical base for politics as a body of practical knowledge, is discussed and rejected.

State-formation and economic development

by K. Koch

In this article, the author analyses the relationship between *state-formation*, conceived as the growth of the power resources of the state-apparatus, the growth of the autonomy of the state-apparatus (its emancipation from other institutions of society) and the growth of the societal regulation, sanctioned by the power resources of the state-apparatus, and *economic development*. His method of analysis is the historical case-study.

Point of departure of the analysis is a hypothesis of Maurice Dobb, that growing state regulation in the economic sphere is to be expected in periods of actual or apprehended labor scarcity, in times of economic booms for short. A specified version of this hypothesis, suggested by Rüsche and Kirchheimer, implying that 'houses of correction', as a means of forced labor, were founded to meet the labor shortages

of the emerging capitalist industrialists and to stimulate capitalist development in the 16th, 17th and 18th century, is tested on the basis of the historical experience with the 'houses of correction' in the Netherlands, England, France and Germany and falsified.

It was found, that the foundation of the 'houses of correction' mostly took place in periods of an overwhelming labor surplus and of mass (structural) unemployment, in periods of deep economic depression for short.

The foundation of the 'houses of correction' was not motivated by the wish to accommodate the emerging capitalist class. On the contrary, the economic organisation of the 'houses of correction' impeded by its monopoly in some industrial branches and by its more often than not inefficient methods the economic development. The motivation of the 'houses of correction', then was not economic indeed, but social and political: it was a means to fight the social and political consequences of mass unemployment: poverty, vagabondage, crime, danger to the public order and, in the last instance, political rebellion.

The author concludes, that state-formation, as the foundation of the 'houses of correction' easily can be interpreted, will coincide (also) with periods of economic depression. State-formation, however, tends to coincide with periods of economic depression not in a mechanic or automatic manner, but *only* when the depression has severe social and political consequences. State-formation, in other words, is the result of social and political strains and conflicts, that *might* be caused by economic development. The author suggests, that it is not necessary that state-intervention, stimulated by the wish to meet political difficulties caused by economic circumstances, is successful in the *economic* sense. Social and political success in fighting the social and political consequences of economic difficulties — a success, which can be based on sheer repression — is enough to guarantee and to legitimize an on-going process of state-formation.

The structure of the progressive-conservative controversy. Attitudinal referents in the Netherland, 1975

by C. P. Middendorp

Responses to attitudinal referents (the 'objects' of attitudes: concepts in terms of names or short phrases) in the progressive-conservative domain show a clear pattern in the Dutch population. The two-factor-structure weakly confirms Kerlinger's (1967) theory of the criteriality of attitudinal referents which predicts the existence of a 'progressive' and a 'conservative' factor (i.e. factors which include progressive and conservative referents respectively).

The generaliations of this theory developed by Middendorp (1978) could generally *not* be confirmed. Rather, further analysis of the data reveals (a) a *threefold ideological structure* with a liberal-conservative factor (in European terms), an economic left-right factor and a non-economic libertarianism factor, and (b) the existence of a non-ideological 'populism' factor indicating those elements in the culture which can be brought into the progressive-conservative domain *theoretically* but on which so much consensus exists so as to render those elements non-ideological, i.e. they are or have become non-controversial. The multidimensionality and value-consensus which have been shown to exist are interpreted in terms of the presumed prerequisites to western parliamentary democracy.

A conceptual framework for the description of the reasoning of politicians

by I. N. Gallhofer, W. E. Saris, B. M. de Valk

This study focusses on the development of a coding procedure for the extraction of decision making concepts of documents. Since no automatic procedure was available human coders had to be used. Problems consequently arose concerning coding reliability. Because research is limited in this specialized field, it seemed advisable to first investigate problems of coders' reliability before proceeding with the validation of decision theory. Therefore, the inter- and intracoderreliability were studied. The results of this investigations proved very satisfactory and encourage further research with a view towards the development of more automatic procedures.

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