

## SIYASET TARİHİNDE ÇOĞULCULUK AKIMININ GELİŞİMİ

### THE RISE OF PLURALIST THEORY DURING POLITICAL HISTORY

Melike METİNTAŞ<sup>1</sup> Mustafa Yahya METİNTAŞ<sup>2</sup>

#### Özet

Tarih boyunca politik sistemler ve ideolojiler zamanın özelliklerine göre değişim göstermektedir. Bu değişikliklerin yönetici elitler tarafından yapılıyor gibi gösterilse de aslında temel kaynağı ve etkileyeni toplumlardır. Bu bağlamda, isyanlar, ideolojik çatışmalar, protestolar gibi halkın etken olduğu olaylar politik değişimlerin temel yapıtaşını oluşturmaktadır. Bu nedenle, siyaset ve toplum ilişkisini ele alan sosyoloji teorileri bu konuda rehber niteliğindedir. Sosyolojinin temel teorilerinden biri olan Çoğulcu teori bize zaman geçtikçe toplumun nasıl siyasi değişimlere dahil olduğunu açıklamaktadır. Bu çalışmada, çoğulcu teorisinin tarih periyodlarında ne şekilde etkili olduğu çeşitli olaylar ve toplumlar üzerinden değerlendirilecektir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Siyasal Sistemler, Çoğulculuk, Toplumsal Hareketler

#### Abstract

Throughout history, political systems and ideologies have changed, according to the characteristics of time. Although these changes are shown as being made by the ruling elites, in fact the main source of these changes is the societies. In this context, events such as rebellions, ideological conflicts, protests, etc. are the basis of political changes. For this reason, theories of sociology that deal with the relationship between politics and society are the guide for this issue. The pluralist theory, one of the main theories of sociology, tells us how society is involved in political changes over time. In this work, how the pluralistic theory is influential in the historical periods will be evaluated through various events and societies.

**Key Words:** Political Systems, Pluralism, Social Movements

<sup>1</sup> İstanbul Şehir Üniversitesi İdari Bilimler Fakültesi Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü

<sup>2</sup> Yrd. Doç. Dr. Eskişehir Osmangazi Üniversitesi Fen Edebiyat Fakültesi Tarih Bölümü, Eskişehir

## **Introduction**

During the history political systems have been changed their own structure based on the features of the time. This change seems to have been made by the ruling elites, but their main actors are the societies and their movements. As history goes on, the involvement of societies in government has been the most important cause of political changes. In this context, wars, revolutions, protests, ideological conflicts, rebellions, etc. has had a profound effect on the change of political structure. Social movements and participation have been important place since the emergence of politics. Especially nowadays, all the political researches, the theories established and the approaches of the ruling elites have begun to be shaped through social events. For this reason, it can be said that the social science studies were made by focusing on these movements when the present conditions were evaluated together with the examples which are coming from history. In other words, starting from all these historical examples, started to produce theories in this subject by going through sociology with political science. In that sense, sociological theories has essential value to explain relationship between society and political structure. Because sociology has specific theories explain historical process about politics. Thus, the theory explaining how society is getting involved in politics day by day is the theory of pluralism. Pluralist model in the political sociology is an analysis of politics that views power as dispersed among many competing interest group.<sup>1</sup> In other words, pluralism believed that he power of governance spread to the society so that each individual in the society has a voice in the ruling process. In this study, it will be examined how the pluralistic theory is raised in the political history period and what is happening today, and the history of this rise as good or bad for political administration will be discussed through comparison of current events and historical events. Also, on the basis of historical processes, the monarchy, the modernization of Europe and the political order of the 20th and 21st centuries will be examined.

### **1. Monarchic Period of the Political History and Pluralism:**

It is difficult to search for pluralist theory in the monarchy period. Because the monarchy is a form of supervision of the interest of the individual in a particular group. In other words, social interests are often ignored. There is a strong hierarchy in society and in relationships with managers. In addition, the absolute power is in the hands of the executive group rather than division. In this context, it was not the case that the society was trying to make a protest or

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<sup>1</sup> Macionis, J. J. **Sociology**, Boston: Prentice Hall, 1999. (P. 439)

change policy. Also, compared with more recent historical processes, the society has almost no freedom of speech and expression. People fear from ruling elites to express their opinions and criticises due to strong punishment. Even if you against the ruling elites policies and express it with a speech you could cross the death penalty. Only some poets and thinkers can express their opinions about management. For this reason, it is already very difficult to search for a theory of pluralists in this circle. Moreover, unlike recent history, there were no global standards in governance and there were no international organizations to support countries' governance. In other words, each country will be governed by its own rules that the ruling elite determines, and the society of that country would be subject to that rule. Political borders were clear. There was no such thing as an interrogation of these rules which were laid on the international scene. As a result, monarchy-era societies were not a suitable period for expressing themselves and participating in governance. Everyone was bound to rule and politics that they were put in the interests of a ruling elite. For this reason, pluralistic theory has not been mentioned in this period and it is difficult to examine it.

## **2. Modernisation of Europe in Political History and Pluralism (1648- 1800)**

But the solid system created by the monarchs has begun to disturb societies after a certain time. Societies want to start change. This is most clearly observed in Europe, because the bad monarchy in Europe, where the Church and Kingdoms were created, has caused socio-political damage to people. Europe is an important factor in the beginning of change and the emergence of pluralistic theory. Because European societies have the right to self-govern and have the right to speak earlier and more precisely than other peoples of the region. It is not easy for European societies to obtain these rights. About two to three centuries have had the right to participate in the governance as a result of many wars, thoughtful conflict and revolutionary movements. Even, their belief systems changed based on these issues. First, with the Westphalia peace treaty, which was finally established after 30 years and 7 years of wars, the monarchy began to lose its power. Later on, the oppressive revolutions that started in the lead of France were successful in Europe, and many social democracies and voting rights were gained. Finally, each European country has made it possible for its members to be involved in reforms and changes that they have done within the community. In this context, many European societies have begun to share absolute power with the modernization process, have obtained the right to speak and vote, and have taken their interests in the determination of policies. For these reasons, the pluralist theory took its place on the stage during the modernization period of Europe and was

first shaped in this period. In this period it is possible to talk about the first steps of Pluralist theory and to examine societies through this theory.

### **3. Political Structure of 20th and 21st Century and Pluralist Theory:**

Unlike the modernization of Europe, this political structure, which covers the new era, is a structure in which people and non-governmental organizations participate seriously in the whole world. Politically, this period is very different from other periods. The most obvious difference is the globalization of politics. Unlike the nations-state system, countries are intertwined in many areas such as trade, administration, human rights, culture, history, and military structures. Unlike the purpose of obtaining people's sovereign rights, now global scales and movements have gained prominence. Protests against a political structure in a country are being examined by international organizations in the global arena, and the path to be followed by the country administrators is determined by these organizations. In other words, the reform and protest movements that the societies in the new political sphere have made are not local but can be moved to the global arena, and many international organizations and other countries can participate in these events. Therefore, it must be said that in the 20th and 21st centuries, societies have become global, that absolute power is fully open to sharing, that individuals have the right to speak and criticize at a high level, that the power of managers is limited and that international new actors are involved in governance. So in this new era, pluralistic theory has become totally integrated into the ruling mechanism and become global. Thus, viewing and analysing societies through pluralist theory is clearer and easier than the other periods in the 20th and 21st centuries.

#### **Result**

It is important to examine the pluralistic theory through the changing political structure in the course of history. Because, pluralism has come to the agenda only with the reforms on the political structure. As a matter of fact, it took an important place in world politics over time. As a result, the pluralistic theory has become popular as the societies have come to share the political power and participate in the governance process. It is accepted that the pluralistic theory is a good political and sociological development when evaluated over historical events and developments. But the sharing of power with the society, which is the basis of pluralistic theory, and the right to higher authority in management can sometimes cause serious problems. The protest and reform movements can be transformed into serious conflicts in the decision-making process of the societies, although the pluralistic theory is often used as a negotiation point. When disagreements arise between social groups that are not satisfied with power and

power members, solution through negotiation is not achieved and in protest violence is included. It is possible to give some important examples, actions of terrorist organizations against power, ideological conflicts between two different social groups or the violent protest of marginal groups, etc. In that sense, political problems arise when pluralistic theories lead to society to desire power and the ruling reach the extreme level. For example in the protests of trip parks, conflicts have occurred between extremist and marginal groups which demanded the change of ruling class and the police forces of the state, and these conflicts resulted in serious injuries and deaths. In that sense, there should be a discussion on both politic theory clearly. The other political theory<sup>2</sup> called Power-Elite theory, small group or people ruled country for their own self – interest. In other words, small group of people are more dominant on economy, politics and military. <sup>3</sup> Both the theories contain errors in extreme levels. Both the theories contain errors. People may have problems with the system that these political theories exist. However, a form of governance that has both the right characteristics will be appropriate for the societies. For instance, a system in which both a strong ruling elite and a certain degree of community involvement may be more effective than others. So, it is necessary to adjust the balance well. For these reasons, the high level of pluralism theory must be studied with care and mistakes must be found. According to my view, when the power struggle of the societies in history is addressed, balanced political participation and power sharing will be better for the theory of pluralism. Because neither the absolute monarchy nor the totally limited ruling mechanism is suitable for the development of the societies and for the comfortable living. Both types of politics have had conflicts and disturbances for societies.

## **KAYNAKÇA**

Macionis, J. J. **Sociology**. Boston: Prentice Hall, 1999. (P. 439)

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<sup>2</sup> The power within society is explained by three theories. These are Pluralist theory, power - elite theory and Marxist theory. The disclosure of these theories was made through the American political system.

<sup>3</sup> Macionis, J. J. **Sociology**. Boston: Prentice Hall, 1999. (P. 439)