

## “An Overview of David Easton and the Political System”

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this article is to discuss David Easton's contribution to political science. Easton has produced a number of well-known books since *The Political System* was released in 1953. It is stated that in order to truly grasp his contribution, one must analyse all of his works in connection to one another. His recent contribution to political science is highlighted in particular. He chose the political system as the main unit of study and focused his research and examination on the intra-system behaviour of distinct systems. His approach in applying systems analysis is constructivist, in the sense that he has relied more on the analytic system approach than the membership systems approach.

**Keywords:** David Easton, Political System, intra-system behaviour, systems approach.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Politics is defined as the authoritative allocation of values. We need to know who said it before we can grasp what it means. David Easton, a Canadian-American political scientist from the twentieth century, provided such analysis. Easton was a pioneer in the area of political science, arguing that there was no workable definition of his profession and that researchers needed strong frameworks to concretely and consistently investigate politics as a scientific discipline.

Fortunately, Easton has a plan in place. In 1953, he presented a political science systems theory, or a framework in which diverse human behaviours either provide input or are impacted by output within a system of political acts. This five-step approach grouped political acts into feedback loops between diverse people and leaders in a political system, all of which are based on human behaviours and actions.

David Easton was the first political scientist to deliberately construct a framework for the study of political systems based on the systems approach. He has chosen the political system as the fundamental unit of study. However, as primary fields of research, he focused on the intersystem behaviour of diverse systems. In 1953, he released "*The Political System: An Inquiry into the State of Political Science*," which outlined his theories. Later, it was expanded in his works "*A Framework for Political Analysis*" and "*A Systems Analysis of Political Life*," both of which were released in 1965. Prior to him, political scientists researched just a single political institution or territory. (Barker)

Easton aimed to turn politics into a science by employing extremely abstract models that explained the regularities of patterns and processes in political life in general. According to him, the highest level of abstraction allows for scientific generalisations regarding politics. To summarise, politics should be viewed as a totality, rather than as a collection of various problems to be handled.

His primary paradigm was based on an organic vision of politics, as if it were a living thing. His idea describes what causes political systems to evolve and endure. He views politics as being in perpetual motion, rejecting the concept of "equilibrium," which is prominent in certain other political systems. Furthermore, he rejects the notion that politics may be studied at many levels of study. At any one time, his abstractions could account for any group and demand. In other words, interest group theory and elite theory may be included into political systems analysis. His thesis was and continues to be extremely important in the pluralist school of political science.

That never resulted in helpful research since the surrounding environment was completely neglected. Easton identified the political system as the best unit for analysing all political activities and forces. He was first interested in the interactions between a system and its surroundings. He focuses on boundary politics and other areas of social life.

The political system according to Easton "is that structure of relations in each society through which binding or authoritative allocations are formed and executed". (Field) This term emphasises that the political system is one of the social systems. It allocates through policies. Its allocations are also binding. Furthermore, its authoritative allocations are binding on the whole society.

The political system is one of several types of social systems. It signifies those political systems operate inside a specific framework. However, determining its exact boundaries is quite challenging. The border of a political system is determined by any behaviour that is more or less directly connected to making binding decisions for a community. (Gaub)

The political system exists in a context. The environment might be intra-societal or extra-societal. An environment's intra-societal influences have a position inside the political system itself. However, extra-societal forces work outside of it. They both had an influence on the decision-making process.

A political system is always vulnerable to external challenges. Easton considers all political systems to be open systems. Because a political system exists in an environment, it is susceptible to environmental influences. Easton sees the political system as adaptable as well. His major focus is on the nature of trade and transaction that occurs between a political system and its surroundings. (Partha:)

According to Easton, the political system is constantly under stress. Stresses are obstacles that disrupt the functioning of the political system. Whatever the political system is, it continues to exist. (Chaube)

The political system gets both challenges and supports from society, and it responds to the difficulties of demands in order to preserve itself with the assistance of the support it receives. The requests and supports received by the political system from society are inputs that become outputs via a conversion process. The feedback process then follows.

The political system developed a number of communication channels through which demands could be persuaded or pressurised to become significantly diluted, as well as a number of reduction processes through which demands could be forced to convert themselves into specific issues, without which, it should be noted, they would not be able to feed the political system's conversion process properly.

Certain cultural processes and social-cultural norms provide powerful appropriation conditions for the articulation of political demands.

Easton established the notion of support in addition to the political system's regulatory mechanism for its durability and survival.

David Easton has provided a model of the political system for the study of the political system. This Easton model or Easton's policy making process is considered as a "black box" that translates societal demands into policies. Demands may include pay and working hour rules, educational opportunities, recreational facilities, roads and transportation, and so on. And energy in the shape of acts or organisations advocating and opposing a political system is referred to as support. Material assistance includes things like paying taxes or other levies, obeying the law and regulations, and so forth.

The demands and supports that the political system gets from the environment in the form of inputs are converted into outputs inside the system. The efforts and consequences of output are sent back into the system and inputs via a feedback mechanism.

## 2. CONCLUSION

According to Easton, a political system is a complicated cyclical activity in which a group of procedures routinely convert inputs into outputs. In a political system, authorities establish public policies, according to Easton. Decision-making and policy-making are inextricably linked. However, not every choice constitutes a policy. Decision-making is identifying a problem, carefully analysing potential solutions, and selecting one option for action. Policy decisions offer a feeling of direction for administrative actions.

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