

Bureaucracy

# Bureaucracy

7 concepts of bureaucracy

- As rational organization
- As organizational inefficiency
- As rule by officials
- As public administration
- As administration by officials
- As organization
- As modern society

# Theories of Bureaucracy

- As a rational administrative machine
- As a conservative bloc
- As a source of government oversupply

# Rational Administrative Model

- Weber's model
- Jurisdictional areas are fixed and official and ordered by laws or rules
- Hierarchy
- Business is managed on the basis of written documents and a filing system
- The authority of officials stem from the post they hold not from personal status
- Bureaucratic rules are strict to minimize the scope of personal discretion
- Appointment and advancement are based on professional criteria such as training, expertise and administrative competence

# Bureaucracy

- The central feature of the bureaucracy is rationality
- The development of bureaucratization was linked to the development of capitalist economies and the growth of state functions, the pressures of democratization with emphasis on meritocracy and openness

# Power Bloc Model

- The Karl Marx' idea: The Bureaucracy as a mechanism through which bourgeois interest are upheld and the capitalist system defended.
- Ralph Miliband - neo-Marxist – top civil servants are conservative and are allies of social and economic elites; defend the interests of capitalism, and thus bloc socialist governments

# Public Choice Model

- Public choice theory - bureaucrats are utility maximizers, rationally self-seeking creatures
- This economic model is applied to the public sector

# Functions

- Carrying out administration: implement or execute law and policy; It administers government business
- Policy advise: outline the policy options available to ministers and review policy proposals
- Articulating interests
- Political stability



# Organization of bureaucracy

- Centralized vs. Decentralized
- Centralized: France, UK.
- Decentralized: USA

# Objectives of public policies

- 1) Distributive allocate values to provide particular goods and services
- 2) redistributive -transfer values from one group to another
- 3) regulatory policies limit actions (abortion)
- 4) symbolic policies confer honor or disrepute

# Policy process

1. Issue identification
2. Problem definition
3. Specification of alternatives
4. Policy selection
5. Implementation
6. Evaluation

# Approaches to decision-making

- 1) The Elite approach (elites vs. masses)
- 2) The class approach
  - Class is a large group of individuals who are similar in their possession of or control over some fundamental value
  - Class approach focuses on the examination of the tactics of class domination and the dynamics of the class struggle

# Approaches to policy-making

- 3) The group approach

In this approach, the government

- 1) Establish rules of the game
- 2) Determine the interests of competing groups
- 3) Find a policy that balances the positions of all active groups
- 4) Enact these balance points as public policy decisions
- 5) Implement the resulting value allocations