POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Klajdi MONE
University “Ismail Qemali” Vlore, Albania

Abstract: This article investigates the political parties as genuine organizations which were created in the 19th century, with the entry of the people into the political scene. This entry took place during revolutionary episodes that questioned the old political order and in particular with the recognition of freedom of expression and the extension of the right to vote. During revolutions, many political groups are created, but they are generally as short-lived as the revolution. Only the establishment of stable democracy can allow the consolidation of parties according to the criteria mentioned above. Modern parties were born in England and the United States, according to different processes and rhythms. Ostrogorski, in his analysis of these experiences, shows well the connections that exist between a type of democratic institution, a type of society and a type of parties. In England, a slow formation of parties is observed, as the expansion of the right to vote occurs. A law of 1832 granted the right to vote to all city residents who had a certain level of income. The registration of voters in the electoral registers was a fundamental challenge. Therefore, we see the emergence of a localized party life thanks to the registration societies.

Keywords: political parties, rights, Great Britain, law.

1. Introduction

In the history of human development, there has always been a tendency for social political developments, and when they have not been interpreted as such, due to common motives or not, of people who have created important concentrations to create clear meanings in human history. The flow through which this society has traveled, which of course has not had politics as its first reference, (politics in the current sense of human thought and activity), has been from early on, where meanings and concepts have sometimes been for social developments and sometimes for more basic issues, mainly the purpose of a certain political development.

The long human journey has outlined society through various socio-political systems, sometimes conflicting and sometimes due to human rejection, to build a new system that is better and closer to people's lives. And this experience has not in all cases made society and political systems better, which aim to take over the governments of different peoples and countries, the rule of peoples wherever they find the opportunity, even by manipulating. You cannot avoid this historical journey for any reason, in some cases starting from the most unfavorable, i.e. not good, examples.

Wars, in their mechanism, are about people, their goals, whether they are focused on the goals of emperors, military men, and certain leaders with sometimes aggressive tendencies, sometimes defensive ones, and sometimes with goals of humanism to produce human freedoms, but ultimately they make people achieve a certain political goal, literally a preferential system with rules and the necessary hierarchies, regardless of the way they are built.

Ancient antiquity had a kind of good political mechanism, because there was the possibility and mechanism of creating crowds, gathering around oneself people who gave support. Such people, let's say Demosthenes or some other later orator, who in the full sense of the word did politics and justice, debated and oriented certain groups of

BUPT

people quite well, are the pioneers of the political journey of mechanisms towards political parties.[i]

Despite the name and construction of certain statutes, which were sophisticated later, when the rights to elect and be elected arose, political parties are ancient. In the experience of human history, they have coexisted, albeit in certain camouflages, but which have had a keen sense of using, for better or for worse, the crowds of people, who have been forced or in vital need to initially follow reformers, usually in economic needs, and then to create structures and organizations that are not accidental and not only driven by economic or other situations.

The right to vote is ancient in human society. It has been used in almost all elections since early antiquity, regardless of the system. So in antiquity, people voted, not only for major issues, but also for important ones of a personal nature referendum, a practice that continues to this day.

The political and legal history of the world is full of different developments, due to the treatment of human relations and the construction of powers. Political parties have been at the center of these developments, due to the power that the support of the vote of voters produces. Studies on political parties require a kind of approach with a universal concept of the development, orientation and "use" of human society, whether in early developments or in modern developments. There is a simple reason to understand this, in the fact of the agreements in which human society has often found itself.

The vision of having justice and human will embodied in the systems of governance of the country/ies is ancient, as is one of the most ancient and oldest terms, the term “democracy”. Multi-party systems eliminate and shorten the life of dictators, from whom human society has suffered greatly. Pluralistic societies, in which the possibility of distributing the vote of the voter is possible, guarantee a balance and a tendency to bring to the leadership of the country the program, the party and a leader with great support.
In a pluralistic society, which allows the political activity of legally recognized parties against democratically approved laws, it creates the possibility to avoid or terminate the mandate of any force or coalition leading the country, when it does not keep its promises, when it deviates from reforms or causes an unacceptable event. Today in the world and in democratic societies, not a few governments have terminated their governing mandates due to opposition, loss of majority or popular protests led by political parties or unions.

Despite a long and difficult journey, the political party system, which from time to time has been improving in all aspects, programmatic, statutory, legal, in the creation of more functional links, in inclusiveness, in membership standards and many other issues that modern parties in the world today have, such as those of the USA, France, Germany, England, or Italy, the crises from time to time explain that human society tends to have better services. The mechanism of how the path to power works makes political parties a functional and important mechanism in the democratic order.

2. Democracy and political parties

Political parties are special forms of social organization. They should not be confused with associations, federations, and social clubs. A well-known definition of political parties comes from political scientist Antony Downs, who writes: “A political party is a group of people who seek to control the apparatus of government by winning power in a series of regular elections.” The Italian scholar Giovanni Sartori, who taught for a long

BUPT

time at Columbia University in New York and is one of the most famous researchers of political parties, has defined a party as: " *a political group identified with an official name, which appears during elections, and has the ability to nominate candidates for public office through elections* ."[1][ii]

Parties not only try to participate in the formation of political opinion, but also aim to participate in the representation of the people in parliament. The political contribution of a party as well as its political "weight" is closely linked to elections. The will of the voters is of great importance for parties. A typical feature of parties is their "fighting spirit" — their readiness for political action and political confrontation, as well as their aspiration to lead and maintain government power. This competition between parties is an instrument for gaining political power, and the entire organization of a party serves this purpose. Only those parties that successfully participate in this competition can win positions of political representation. This is also the main incentive to participate in party activities and makes a party particularly attractive once it becomes part of the government.

The role of the opposition also offers interesting opportunities for active participation. Political parties are always the center for debates and discussions about political reforms and political changes. Those interested in politics most of the time find a party that reflects their feelings, whether in opposition or in power. Opposition parties exercise an important function in democratic systems as "guardians" of government policies and as a political alternative in the future. The opposition is necessary for the functioning of democracy.

There is no democracy without political parties. And parties differ from each other in their organizational structure, ideology, size, functions and goals. They act as an intermediary between voters and the state and, with their political structure and activities, they help voters make their choices. Often, definitions are based on one or more functions of the party. [iii]The most commonly accepted criterion is that they must compete in the political arena and elect their own candidates. Parties can fulfill a wide variety of functions. They can play a crucial role in recruiting and selecting the political elite by nominating candidates for government positions, in forming and maintaining governments, and in policymaking.

They can also play an integrative role in society by mobilizing voters, acting for social interests, and reinforcing the legitimacy of the political system. However, a party in a democracy cannot represent the whole of society, and the very origin of its name *Pars* (Part) indicates this. To avoid democratic deficits, parties in democratic systems must be democratic and transparent, creating a stable and organized connection between party leaders and their members.[iv]

3. Political Parties in Great Britain

Recently, new political groups have been emerging in this country, with a radical "anti-European" and anti-democratic spirit. The main parties in the United Kingdom are the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. The Liberal Democrats are the third largest political party in the United Kingdom in terms of party membership.[v]

The modern Conservative Party was founded in 1834 and is a product of the Tory movement , which began in 1678. The Liberal Democrats were formed in 1988 from a

BUPT

merger of the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party (SDP). The Liberal Party was one of the two dominant parties (along with the Conservatives) from its foundation until 1920, when it was rapidly replaced by the Labour Party, which was founded in 1900 and formed its first government in 1924. Since then, Labour and the Conservatives have been the dominant parties, but the Liberal Democrats also now hold a significant number of seats in the House of Commons.

3.1. Conservative Party of Great Britain

In 1975, Margaret Thatcher became the leader of the Conservative Party and replaced Edward Heath as the leader of the Party. The Conservative Party won the general election in 1979 and Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister of Great Britain. The Conservative Party with Margaret Thatcher was able to win the elections of 1983 and 1987. Her policy was characterized by economic and political liberalism and her tendencies were directed towards close cooperation with the United States. As the main political events in her career as Prime Minister, we can mention: the fight against the unions, massive privatizations, the war in the Malvinas Islands against Argentina and the great support for the policies of American President Ronald Reagan.[vi]

In 1990, Margaret Thatcher was replaced by John Major as Prime Minister, who was then replaced by Labour's Tony Blair. In 2010, David Cameron, the leader of the Conservative Party won the general election and was elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The Conservative Party won the largest number of seats in the 2010 general election, with 307 MPs, although this was not enough to form a government. As a result of negotiations following the election, they entered into a formal coalition with the Liberal Democrats to form a majority government.[vii]

3.2. Labour Party

The history of the Labour Party begins in 1900 when a Labour Representation Committee established at that time changed its name to the "Labour Party" in 1906. After World War I, the decline of the Liberal Party as a major force began. reformist in British politics. The existence of the Labour Party on the left of British politics led to a slow decline of the Liberal Party, which consequently fell to third place in national politics. After poor performance in the elections of 1922, 1923 and 1924, the Liberal Party was replaced by the Labour Party as the party of the left.

After these two brief periods in government in 1924 and 1929-1931, the Labour Party had its first real victory after World War II in 1945. Throughout the rest of the 20th century, Labour governments alternated in power with Conservative governments.[viii]

Tony Blair became leader of the Labour Party in 1994 and moved the Labour Party towards the "centre", breaking ties with the unions, thus embracing the liberal economic policies of Margaret Thatcher. In this way, and thanks to a professional approach to the media, the Labour Party achieved a major victory in the 1997 general election, after 18 years of Conservative government.

The Labour Party won the second largest number of seats in the House of Commons in the 2010 general election, with 258 MPs.

3.3. Liberal Democratic Party

The Liberal Democrats came third in the 2010 general election, with 57 MPs. The Conservative Party failed to win a majority and the Liberal Democrats entered government for the first time as part of a coalition with the Conservatives.

BUPT

The Liberal Democrats were formed in 1988 by a merger of the Liberal Party with the Social Democratic Party. The term " Liberal Party " was previously used officially. in 1868. The Liberal Party formed a government in 1868 and then alternated with the Conservative Party as the governing party in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.[ix]

The Liberal Democrats are the initiators of many constitutional and political reforms, including changing the voting system for general elections, abolishing the House of Lords to replace it with a Senate with 300 elected members, and introducing a National Register of Lobbyists.

4. The current political landscape in Great Britain

When the Conservatives won the largest number of votes in the 2010 general election, under the leadership of David Cameron, the Labour Party was led by Ed Miliband . In Scotland, the Scottish National Party won the Scottish parliamentary election in May 2007 and has secured support in most national opinion polls since then.[x]

In the 2009 European Parliament elections , the Scottish National Party won the majority of votes in Scotland for the first time, [xi]and in Wales the Conservative Party won more votes than the Labour Party for the first time since 1918. [xii]In Northern Ireland, the Democratic Unionist Party suffered its worst ever European election result, and for the first time an Irish Republican Party , Sinn Fein , led the polls in Northern Ireland.[xiii] The Scottish National Party won an overall majority of seats in the 2011 Scottish parliamentary election , thus retaining control of the Scottish government.

5. Membership in political parties in Great Britain

All political parties have membership schemes that allow members to actively influence party policy and direction at various levels, and particularly at local level. Membership of British political parties is around 1% of the electorate, lower than in all European countries except Poland and Latvia. [xiv]Overall membership in a political party has been declining since 1950. [xv]In 1951, the Conservative Party had 2.2 million members, and a year later, in 1952. The Labour Party had reached their peak of 1 million members (out of an electorate of around 34 million).[xvi]

6. Conclusion

A thorough analytical examination of the history of political parties is vast, all-encompassing, and cannot be fully covered in a single paper. The origins of political parties are ancient, often presented under a guise of politics-occasionally overt and at other times subtle, sometimes emerging from benevolent powers and administrations, and at other times from malevolent regimes, occasionally arising from the establishment of dictatorships and at other times from the flourishing of free democracies. This extensive journey, characterized by a vast scope, necessitates a comprehensive approach underpinned by a legal, historical, and political analytical framework that ultimately forms the basis of the current political system of human society. Throughout this journey, which has been influenced by political, social, and economic changes, society has persistently sought to uncover a continually evolving mechanism.

BUPT

References

1. Ostrogorski, M., (1992). Democracy and the organization of political parties, Vol. I, The Macmillan Company, New York.
2. Ostrogoski, M., (1982). Democracy and the organization of political parties, Vol. II, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick (USA) and London (Great Britain).
3. P., Angelo, (1982). "Modeli di partitei", Rome.
4. Pasquino, G, Di Cortona, PG, (2007). Partiti e sistemi di partito nelle democrazie europee, Società editrice di Mulino, Bologna.
5. Popper, Karl., (1945). La societe kuverte et ses enemis. Paris.
6. Prifti, K., Korkuti, M., Gjeçovi, Xh., Shpuza, G., (2009). History of the Albanian People (IV), Albanians during the Second World War and after it (1939-1990), "Toena" Publications, Tirana.
7. Raymond, Aaron (1965). Démocratie et totalitarianisme, Folio Essais, Gallimard, France.
8. Rothschild, Joseph (2004). Eastern and Central Europe between the two world wars, Tirana.
9. Ruth, D. Komelius, B., (2004). "Europa un die Deutschen die untypische wahl.
10. Schlesinger, AM., (2002). History of US Political Parties, Chelsea House Publishers, Philadelphia.
11. Seiler, Daniel-Louis (2010). Political Parties, UET Press, Tirana.
12. Schefter, Martin (1994). Political Parties and the State, The American Historical Experience, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
13. Tagnieff, Pierre-André (2012). Le nouveau national-populisme, CNRS Editions, France.
14. Thatcher, Margaret (1995). The path to power, Harpercollins, Great Britain.

[i] Balbina , N. Matteucci , N. Pasquino G: "Il dizionario di politika ", Torino(italic), 2004, p . 69.
[ii] Giovanni Sartre : " Even once ABOUT "Theory of Democracy ". Tirana 1998, p . 97.
[iii] According to Epstein, a party IS A group , of ORIENTATION freely , freely WHAT It requires THE CHOOSES CANDIDATES UNDER label THE " Sartori " calling ANY organization THAT PRESENT CANDIDATES ABOUT appointment state AND ABOUT own organs party . Kenneth Janda ESTABLISHING PARTIES IN A ORDER THE similar . They Organization THE WHAT follow the purpose of the placement OF THE representatives THE THEIR IN position government ".
[iv] Enyedi AND Körösényi 2001, 15-18; Beyme 1985, 11-14; Epstein 1967, 3-18; Larry Diamond and Richard Gunther (2001), " Types AND " Functions of Parties " in *The parties political AND Democracy* (Baltimore and London : Johns Hopkins University Press), pp. 3-39.
[v] Department for Constitutional Affairs. Retrieved on 2006-05-22
[vi] Margaret Thatcher. *The path to power* . Harpercollins . USA. 1995
[vii] OxfordEnglish Dictionary (Second Edition 1989). Whig n.2, whiggamore , and tory 1
[viii] R. Michels : "A sociological study of the okiragchial tendencies of modern democracy", London(Great Britain) 2007, pg . 115-139.
[ix] Yes, there.
[x] Scottish National Party declares itself winner in poll over Labour www.theherald.co.uk, August 14, 2008.
[xi] "Salmond hails 'historic' Euro win" . BBC News. 8 June 2009.
[xii] "Tories top European poll in Wales" . BBC News. 8 June 2009.
[xiii] "DUP's worst ever Euro poll result" . BBC News. 8 June 2009.
[xiv] The Telegraph - Our Politics Is Bursting With Life, It's The Parties That Are Dying .June 8, 2009.
[xv] BBC - Can Political Parties Be Saved From Extinction.
[xvi] Parliament UK - Membership of British Political Parties , London 2004.

BUPT