

THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL PROCESSES

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Annotation

Modern political life, and especially elections, are unimaginable without political parties. Political parties the main carriers of interests in society are the political system. Without parties, neither the electoral process, nor the formation of a political elite, nor the implementation of any political course, which state bodies carry out in practice, is possible. Therefore, if we want to better understand the mechanisms of functioning of modern democracy, it is inconceivable that this can be done without studying parties. Modern representative democracy was practically formed together with parties, or rather, the formation of representative democracy gave rise to the need for the existence of political parties. Due to the fact that in representative democracy, people no longer directly participate in governance, they create organizations through which they can present and protect their interests. Therefore, the need to create political parties arose. "According to Edmund Burke, a political party is an organization formed by individuals who have more or less common ideological and worldview views." [Burroughs, G. et al. (2020), Democracy and Citizenship, Tbilisi, pp. 93-94].

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Although history provides examples of individuals who wielded great authority in democratic political processes, most people recognize the power of a well-organized group of like-minded people. Political coalitions have been an integral part of democracy since its inception. However, the largest and most common political groupings—political parties—are a relatively recent development. Political parties are an important part of today's political landscape. They contribute to democratic politics In several respects: they contribute to the definition and clarification of issues, they help the candidate in the elections and gather like-minded citizens into a strong coalition. However, some people are dissatisfied with the party system and prefer to participate independently in democratic processes. The question arises. What is a political party? „A political party

is a group of people united ideologically and organizationally, which expresses the interests of a certain class, social stratum or public group and aims to implement them through gaining political power or direct participation in government. Mamukelashvili EL, Akhalmosulishvili (2010),

Political Science, Tbilisi, Universal, p. 274] The term “party” itself comes from the Latin word “Pars”, which means a certain part of a whole. The goal of parties is to become a gathering place for people who have common values, views and goals regarding society and the state system. One of the main goals of political parties is to gain political power.

The public activities of a party are aimed at attracting more supporters and achieving victory in elections. However, no party represents the interests of the entire society, which is why in representative democracies they often alternate in government and power. Sometimes one party is the winner, sometimes the other. This promotes competition between parties. Ultimately, society remains the winner, because through party competition, society can create different alternatives for development and not always be dependent on one dominant idea or doctrine. Political parties have a more or less solid organizational structure, with their own governing apparatus and budget, which mainly consists of donations or membership fees paid by party members. "In recent times, in many countries, including Georgia, it has become a common practice for parties to receive some funding from the state budget so that they do not become organizations playing into the hands of some wealthy group or person". [Burroughs, G. et al. (2020), Democracy and Citizenship, Tbilisi, p. 94]; The organizational structure of many parties is decentralized, where the role of the party leader and central governance structures is not so great. This A classic case is the US political parties, which consist of local autonomous committees and enjoy great independence from central government bodies. In American-type political parties, party and organizational discipline is relatively weak. Continental European parties are formed differently. They are much more centralized and the role of the party leader and central government structures is much greater. They are often called disciplined parties. US parties are financed mainly by voluntary donations, while in Europe more attention is paid to membership fees and financing from the budget. "In the Georgian situation, parties are more European in type, both in terms of organization and financing. However, a fairly large share of the financing of Georgian parties also depends on the contributions of private, large businessmen. The role of the party leader in the party's activities is particularly great, which diminishes the importance of party programs and other party members. [Nodia, G. Scholbach, A. (2006) Georgian Political Landscape. Political Parties: Achievements, Challenges, Problems, Tbilisi, p. 12]. Parties may participate in elections either separately or together with other parties by forming an electoral bloc. If a party sees that it does not have the financial and human resources to succeed, it forms a bloc with other

relatively related parties and thus participates in the elections. This is more typical of European parties, including Georgian political parties. This tradition is almost not characteristic of Anglo-Saxon countries. As a rule, parties in the USA and Great Britain do not form coalitions, although in recent history there have been several cases of party coalitions in Great Britain, but traditionally, in Anglo-Saxon countries, parties still prefer to participate separately.

In every country where political parties exist, they involve some form of political party system. Most political party systems today fall into one of the following categories: one-party, two-party, and multi-party. One-party systems are generally considered to be “non-competitive systems,” while two- and multi-party systems are considered to be “competitive systems.” In reality, this is not always the case. We need to consider other aspects of the system beyond the number of parties. Let’s say,

A one-party system does not allow for specific elections, but rival factions may emerge within that party, and conversely, in a two- or more-party system there may be one dominant party that stifles healthy competition.” [Branson M, Schechter S, Wonzi T. (2008), Research on Political Parties, Tbilisi, pp. 88-89] If we consider in more detail the role played by political parties in specific and non-specific systems, we will see that “in a specific system, a political party strives for temporary power through elections, hoping to maintain power for as long as possible. The defeated party or parties become its adversary or loyal opposition. In this function, they act as critics towards the winning party, hoping that they will win the next election themselves.” [Chitadze N, (2018), Political Science, Tbilisi, p. 104]; In contrast, a non-competitive system is dominated by one dominant party that does not allow opposition and over time will dominate the government. As a result, we get the form of a one-party government that has succeeded by abolishing all other parties and establishing its own regime, but all institutions change over time, and political parties are no exception. Years ago, one of the prominent political scientists expressed the following opinion about parties: “Modern democracy is unthinkable without political parties. Parties are not mere appendages of modern government, but rather its center.” [Branson, M., Schechter, S., Wonzi, T., (2008), Research on Political Ideas, Tbilisi, p. 89]. Today, political scientists are less categorical, although they also believe that rival political parties are an essential part of a democratic society. In conclusion, it can be said that today in all countries of the world, there is no alternative to political parties in the process of establishing democracy. No form of non-party representation has ever yielded democratic government. Thus, political scientists agree that the essence of politics is debate. Rival political parties facilitate debate and make choice possible. Political debate, as a kind of competition, is a kind of rivalry where one side needs the other. “Just as you cannot play football without a rival team, you cannot engage in politics without rival parties” [Branson M, Schechter S, Wonzi T. (2008), Research on Political Ideas, Tbilisi, p. 97]

Direction: Politics

Literature:

- 1 Burroughs G, et al. (2020), Democracy and Citizenship, Tbilisi
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- 3 Mamukelashvili E, Akhalmosulishvili T, (2010), Political Science, Tbilisi, University
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