

THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF A POLITICAL LEADER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY

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Abstract

In modern political science, the problem of studying the influence of a political leader on the formation of a country's foreign policy is becoming increasingly relevant. The role of the leader of the state in the process of making foreign policy decisions is great, but the influence of the leader is determined by the presence of various factors that increase or, conversely, eliminate his power. As a result, the interest of researchers in studying this problem is understandable. The implementation of research tasks was achieved based on consideration of theoretical approaches to the analysis of political leadership, the use of systemic analysis of theory, and historical, political science approaches. The essence of political leadership, and political activity is considered, and an analysis of factors influencing the foreign policy pursued by the leader is carried out.

Keywords: political leader, influence, international relations, factors.

Introduction

A leader is a crucial component within a social group that has existed for a considerable period. Whenever a human community is formed, it naturally establishes its leader. Leadership is widely studied in disciplines such as psychology, management, sociology, and political science, which focus on understanding human behavior within society.

In the field of management, the establishment of an effective management structure, which contributes to economic growth in society, is impossible without a competent leader in the respective field [4, 6]. To successfully fulfill managerial responsibilities such as planning, organizing, coordinating, and controlling within an organization [5], a manager must possess the ability to lead their subordinates. The skills and qualities of leadership are essential prerequisites for the development and implementation of management decisions made by the leader [3]. When assuming roles such as manager, diplomat, educator, and innovator, a manager primarily demonstrates their leadership abilities. Management leadership prevails across all professional domains, regardless of the manager's rank.

Numerous works and studies have been dedicated to the study of leadership, focusing on the development of effective organizational and management techniques, as well as the selection of leaders [7]. In Western countries, various tests and methodologies have been developed and successfully utilized in practice for many years [2].

Among the various types of leadership, political leadership holds a distinct position. A political leader can exert their influence over a region, state, or even an entire country. It is worth noting that political leaders represent the most universal element of politics and political life, capturing the interest of everyone.

In Russia, not only socioeconomic changes are taking place in society, but also a constant process of changing the entire system of political life. Improving the political system dictates the need to increase the need for proactive leaders who know how to define goals and shape the direction of action for their supporters, presenting them with a clear program and captivating them with them.

Political leaders are individuals and actors in international relations. International relations are a dialogue between all existing social systems and political regimes; value systems and behavior patterns; national cultures. It can be noted that this is also a dialogue of peoples, a dialogue of living people. The nature and direction of this dialogue are determined precisely by the sociocultural and psychological characteristics of the people participating in the dialogue. First of all, this dialogue takes place at the group and individual levels. Many compare these characteristics have a national character. Specific “human qualities” are considered:

- the people’s idea of themselves, and their place in the world system;
- the tendency of the people to rapid changes in political, economic, social, and other spheres of life;
- learned from experience, the ability to get along with other people;
- degree of readiness for sacrifices and compromises;
- the degree of belligerence of a particular people.

The most important factor in the aspect of solving international problems is the “human qualities” of micro-subjects - groups and individuals. You can often hear that to solve a problem everything is going along the right path, but the main thing is missing - political will and determination. Much - especially in crises - depends on the socio-psychological qualities of the persons acting in the situations under consideration, namely on their self-esteem, foresight, balance, and the degree of their internal freedom. This is more clearly manifested at the level of leaders and the elites behind them. Discussions about the role of the individual in the development of society have been ongoing throughout world history. Politicians and political leaders have the hope for a brighter future. “Leadership is as old as humanity, it is universal and inevitable. It exists everywhere - in large and small organizations, in business and religion, in trade unions and public organizations, in companies and educational institutions. For leadership to exist, there must be a group; and wherever groups arise, leadership also appears” [1].

A political leader in modern society is, first of all, an individual who is capable of uniting various groups to solve pressing problems in society. The people recognize the leader's right to make political decisions that are most important from the point of view of group interest.

Thus, if we talk about the role of political leadership in international politics, then we can say with confidence the high importance of leadership in maintaining and regulating relations between countries. A significant role of political leadership is necessary to preserve the sovereignty of the state; to maintain relationships between peoples; implementation of interactions in economics, healthcare, culture, and science, as well as in the educational sphere; to establish international exchanges; to protect human rights and ensure all aspects of human security; to solve global problems, the resolution of which is possible only as a result of successful interaction and cooperation of all peoples of the world. These global problems include the fight against epidemic diseases, crime, and terrorism; preservation of human habitat; minimizing military danger; and preservation of peace, which requires a gradual abandonment of military and force methods of resolving conflict situations arising in this

area. But the most important thing is respect for the rights of all subjects involved in these relations, no matter how small they may be.

The problem of a political leader's influence on a country's foreign policy is one of the least studied. However, in our time its relevance is increasing; this is explained by the desire to find out whether the political leader plays a fundamental role in making foreign policy decisions.

The latest psychological dictionary interprets the term "leader" as follows:

"a member of a social group whose authority, power and powers are voluntarily recognized by the rest of the group members, who are ready to obey and follow him..." [1, p. 194]. The opportunity to become a leader is given to the person who either intuitively guessed the interests of society or studied them purposefully.

Political leadership is defined as "the constant, priority and legitimate influence of one or more persons occupying positions of power on the entire society, organization or group" [2, p. 343]. At the same time, a political leader must have several characteristic features. The most important, in our opinion, is the presence of a clear political program, the willingness to take responsibility, the ability to please people, organizational talent, and political intuition.

The political activity of a leader is connected with his various personal needs, which influence the leader's behavior and his decision-making. As a result, the leader's political behavior is motivated and goal-oriented. Materials from numerous studies have allowed representatives of different theoretical schools to identify the basic needs that influence the behavior of political leaders: the need for power, control over people and events, achievement, and affiliation [3].

There are numerous institutional and personal factors in the formation of a political leader:

- 1) Psychophysiological characteristics of the individual. Psychological and physical characteristics are inherent in every person from birth. They help to assess the true character of the leader, his tendency to make more cruel or more humane decisions, the desire for integration or separatism, etc.;
- 2) Age characteristics. Researchers note that at turning points in the country's history, younger, and sometimes very young, leaders were promoted to leadership positions to completely replace the previous elite and to promote into the ruling circles the generation that was not associated with the past elite [3]. In a society for which stability is primarily important, more mature leaders are usually elected. Such a society is tired of previous economic and political upheavals; it needs a leader whose program will lack such an item as revolution;
- 3) Gender characteristics. Women held certain positions in politics, but, as a rule, not in official positions. To achieve a high position in politics, a woman politician should have qualities that are by no means feminine. Thus, according to political scientists, to get her post, English Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher demonstrated uncompromisingness and toughness. Moreover, it is vain to think that women in the role of political leaders are not inclined to make military decisions. It is worth remembering the time when the post of Prime Minister of India was held by Indira Gandhi (war against Pakistan in 1971, Israeli military actions against Egypt in 1973) [4];
- 4) Personal experience of a politician. A leader's inexperience can lead to excessive ambition and the adoption of incorrect political decisions, which in the context of foreign policy activities can lead to serious consequences. A leader's past life experiences can also have a significant influence on the formation of his image of the world. For example, some researchers pay attention to the impressions of early childhood, considering the political strategies of US President William Wilson as a classic

example of such influence. In relations with members of the Senate and leaders of other countries, he demonstrated his authoritarian character. Researchers believe that by trying to subjugate others to his control, he tried to make up for the moral damage that was inflicted on him in childhood. V. Wilson's behavior mixed both humanism and authoritarianism when he persistently sought and offered to the leaders of other countries options for national global governance in international relations [4].

Considering the problem of the influence of political leaders on the country's foreign policy, it should be emphasized that the behavior of a politician is primarily based on individual personal characteristics. They become the foundation of a leader's image abroad and the source of his development. But at the same time, we should not forget about important factors that can restrain a politician's potential, and sometimes, on the contrary, be his winning side.

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