

Q:- What are the similarities and differences of thoughts on Bureaucracy by Wilson and Weber? Draw out a link between their thoughts and political system that both had experienced in their countries?

### 1) Introduction:-

Woodrow Wilson and Max Weber, both theorists presented the theory of bureaucracy. Wilson was the 28th president of United States and a key figure in American political thought and reform. He also advocated for a merit-based system in civil service. Max Weber was a German sociologist and he is renowned for his analysis of bureaucracy. Both theorists worked for explaining the transparency of bureaucracy and presented their views. They have some common and similar views and also distinction in their analysis. But the topic was same.

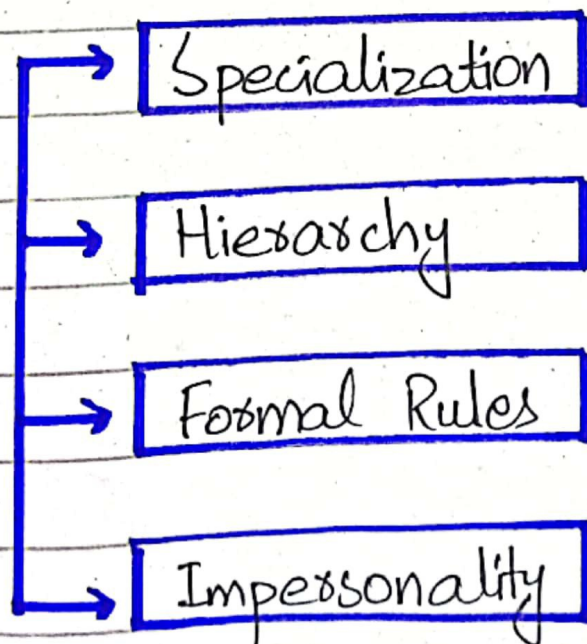


## 2) Woodrow Wilson's Theory:-

Wilson's contributed to public administration, particularly through his essay "The Study of Administration" (1887), emphasized the need of a professional and efficient bureaucracy that is distinct from political influence.

## 3) Max Weber's Theory:-

He saw bureaucracy as a rational and efficient form of organization. He identified key characteristics of bureaucratic management including:-





#### 4) Similarities between both theories:-

##### i) Emphasis on rationality:-

Both theorists recognized importance of rationality in bureaucratic systems. They viewed bureaucracy as a means to achieve efficiency in administration.

##### ii) Role of Rules & procedures:-

Both highlighted the necessity of rules and procedures in bureaucratic organizations to ensure consistency and predictability in decision making.

##### iii) Separation of politics & administration:-

Both theorists advocated for a clear distinction between political decision making and administrative functions.



to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of governance.

### 5) Differences between theories:-

Woodrow Wilson	Max Weber
<u>Theoretical Foundation</u>	
<p>→ focused more on practical implications of bureaucracy in governance</p>	<p>→ developed comprehensive theory of bureaucracy as a rational organizational form characterized by hierarchical structure, formal rules and impersonal relationships.</p>
<p>→ he is often considered as proponent of idea that administration should be separate from politics, emphasizing need for professional and efficient administration in government.</p>	<p>→ emphasized legitimacy of authority and types of authority (traditional, charismatic and legal-rational).</p>



## Focus on Values

→ advocated for a more functionalist view, stressing need for a competent bureaucracy to implement democratic policies effectively.

→ his work is more perspective about how to improve governance through administrative efficiency.

→ analyzed bureaucracy as a social structure, with an interest in its implications for power and authority.

→ He was concerned with how bureaucracy could lead to an "iron cage" of the rationality that might limit human freedom.

## Historical Context

→ wrote in the context of American government reform in early 20th century, particularly in response to issues of corruption and inefficiency in local and state governments.

→ analyzed bureaucracy in the context of late 19th century and early 20th centuries, focusing on its role in modern societies.



## 6) Linkage between their thoughts and political system-

a) Both have contributed to the evolution of **political systems** by emphasizing the importance of the individual rights, democratic participation and rationalization of authority.

b) Their ideas have influenced the development of political institutions and governance structures, shaping the way power is exercised and decisions are made within these systems.

c) Their emphasis on limited government intervention (Wilson) and role of bureaucracy (Weber) has had a lasting impact on balance of power and the functionality of political systems in their respective countries.

## 7) Conclusion:-

Both theorists have formulated their views about the bureaucracy and its rationality. They presented views and ways to improve the system of politics and bureaucracy.