

Q No 04.

Introduction:

The political system of France and Germany hold certain similarities in terms of structure like both has two houses parliament. But both are differ significantly in terms of political dynamic, electoral system, and political behaviour.

(a) Electoral system:

Both countries have a slight different electoral system.

France has a mixed electoral system - the country uses two round system for legislative and president election. If any candidate does not achieve a clear majority in first round, a second round held between the top two candidates.

Germany Mixed member proportional system is used for the election of lower house i.e Bundestag. In this system every citizen has to cast two votes; one for direct

Candidate in their constituencies and the other for political parties representation.

(B) Political structure and Party landscape:
The political structure of both countries and the parties landscape also made them different from each other. In

France, historically seen a bipolar party system, particularly in Fifth republic. However there is a room for smaller parties to rise up.

Germany, has multiparty system. There is significant number of parties representing a wide range of political ideologies. In result of elections, no party wins a clear majority because of multiparty system and always a coalition government is formed.

(C) Government formation and Coalitions:

There is a wide difference in both countries political system regarding government formation and coalition.

France always has the presidency as a powerful role. In France the coalition government is rare because of dominance of two parties.

In cohabitation period, the President of France may govern with a prime minister from a different party. French govt. is often formed by majority party. Germany, coalition govt. is the norm due to proportion representation system - In Germany, a single party rarely achieves absolute majority. So, coalition government is always there.

④ Role of Presidency:

Presidents of both Germany and France has widely differ in powers and functions -

France, President is very powerful and influential holding significant executive position - The president can appoint the prime minister, dissolved the national assembly, and even plays an influential role in framing foreign policy.

In Germany, the president has only ceremonial role with limited powers. In Germany, the head of the government - Executive is the "Chancellor" elected by Bundestag.

⑤ Party behaviour and Ideology:

France, political parties are more ideological driven and less stable in their alliances.

Germany, Political parties tend to be more stable ideological-

Conclusion:

Both France and Germany has complex party system. Although, both countries has two house parliament, but, they the key difference lies in party behaviours, role of president, electoral system, and party landscape. In France, the role of Presidency is much stronger than the German president. Similarly, France has ~~two~~ a bi-polar dominance in Parliament, whereas, Germany has multiparty system. So, these differences leads to distinct party dynamic and governance models in both countries.

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Q No 02:

Introduction

USA system is totally based on the separation of powers among different organs of the state - the country also has a two housed legislature body and the president of the country is head of the state and government at the same time. Similarly, the country has the system of checks and balance where Executive, Judiciary, and Legislature keep a check over each other function to prevent power abuse. In contrast to all these, the US system also has several weaknesses as well.

(a) Strengths of the US' Federal system of Government:

USA federal system has many strengths that makes it utopian from rest of the federal systems in the world.

(i) Division of Powers:

The USA federal system has divided the powers between national and state government in order to prevent each from becoming too powerful.

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(ii) Protection of Individual Rights:

US' federal system has ensured the protection of individual rights by creating certain policies to local needs.

(iii) Flexibility and Innovation:

State act as a laboratory of democracy experimenting with the policies that can be implemented and adopted later at federal level.

(iv) Prevent Tyranny:

The federal government creates multiple layers of governance to prevent and limit the ability of any individual to dominate the political processes.

(b) Weakness of the US Federal System of Government:

In parallel to strengths, there are a number of weaknesses as well that makes the system vulnerable. Some of these are:

(i) Overlapping and Confusion:

Multiple levels of governance government sometimes create overlapping responsibilities lead to confusion in governance.

(ii) Inequality across states:

The USA has fifty states, and each has a different capability of resources and productions. At the same time the states also has different priorities, which leads to unequal resources allocations to such states.

(iii) Potential for Conflict:

When the policies of federal government and the state government clashes, it leads to conflict between state and federal government.

(iv) Slower response to National issue:

The other weakness of US' federal system is the slow response to national issues. The lack of coordination b/w federal government and states can slower the response to national issues requiring unified actions.

USA System of Checks and Balances:

The USA has a unique system of checks and balance designed to prevent the concentration of powers - It ensures that no power of USA government i.e executive, legislative, or judiciary become too powerful - Because if any branch become powerful, it would attack the path of power abuse and influence the other organs as well.

to maintain that balance, a system of check and balance in USA system has been adopted.

(i) Legislative organ / Congress:

Following are the functions that US Congress performs

(a) Can impeach President and federal judge.

(b) Approve presidential appointments i.e. judges, cabinet members.

(c) Can override presidential vetoes.

(ii) Executive Branch / President.

Functions are the following:

(a) Can veto laws passed by Congress.

(b) Can issue executive orders, but be checked by the judiciary or Congress.

(c) Appoint federal judges and executive officials.

(iii) Judiciary

(a) Power of judicial review.

(b) Can declare laws or executive orders unconstitutional through judicial review.

(c) Can effectively check the power of both house i.e. executive and legislative.

Conclusion:

The system of USA is purely based on the separation of powers. This has been adopted to keep a check a balance over the organs of the state in order to restrict the influence of one organ in the affairs of other organs. This system of checks and balance among legislative, executive, and judiciary is making this system unique than the rest of the world.

But despite of these goodnesses, there are certain weakness in the federal system of USA. The weakness like slow response, inequality across states, and confusion and conflicts among state and center is making the system the vulnerable too.