An Alternative Conceptualization of Political Tolerance: Illusory Increases 1950s-1970- Review

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# Summary of the Article

The Alternative Conceptualization of Political Tolerance argues that tolerance as a political objective has not served in many areas of political history. There might be some chances that tolerance could have been practiced in any other form- but not specifically to an extent which might satisfy the political narratives. The authors have argued that political tolerance as a concept could be attributed to any form of political idea. For example, there are chances that any specific idea might be acceptable to a particular group of people but at the very same time, it doesn’t conform to the political ideals of any other group. In such cases, if tolerance is exercised as a political duty, this could make way for upbringing a common or national narrative. The article has examined the level of political tolerance present during the 1950s and 1960s. The empirical studies of those eras suggest that civil liberties were not discharged willingly during those times. Such arguments are suggestive of the fact that a national level political clout remained majorly absent from the politics of that time.

The research question focused over in the article is about how the fluctuating level of tolerance in the politics of 1960s and 1970s in the United States influenced the political trends in those times(Sullivan, Piereson, and Marcus 1979, 786). The major research question of this article is supported by some tailored questions which are specific for finding the communal response to the concept of political tolerance. The theoretical support in this article is inclined toward the Marxist school of thought and toward the political conceptions of leftist politics. Although authors have refrained from specifying any specific theoretical paradigm, the Marxist view about the leftist politics remains apparent from many arguments presented in the article.

‘Political Tolerance’ remained the primary variable that has been tested throughout the article. In exacting the findings, the major variable has been supported by different variables in some research questions. Such variables do not conform to the exact definition of Variable in Social Sciences research but have acted and helped in narrowing down the scope of this article. Similarly, the hypothesis apparent in the article is how the level of tolerance in American politics during the 1950s and 1970s contradicts the present politics. The authors have implied the techniques of distributive study and quantitative findings- by already narrowing the scope of the article by presenting some already designed questions with some choices for the respondents. The analysis of results being the last part is based on the pretext of qualitative design- which is also a widely used research methodology in Social Sciences research.

The results of these research findings suggest that there is a little difference in the level of political tolerance and the way it is being exercised. This difference is related to the fact that American society has experienced massive changes in terms of civil liberties, political leadership and in the manner of how political narratives have been presented in front of the masses. Such a phenomenon is the causes of changes in the level of political tolerance in America politics. This study is, therefore, a scholarly addition to the existing political science literature in the U.S and will help in providing the students a better understanding of how politics is an ever-changing phenomenon. However, these research findings could have been broader, if the authors have attempted to include the periods of the World Wars. This could have helped in sorting out how nationalism played its part in influencing political tolerance in the times of crisis.

# Class Connection

The article is relevant in analyzing the concepts of reliable and valid measures. The facts presented in the article are reliable and have helped in validating the historical and contemporary measures of political progression in terms of tolerance. In the complete article, it appears that authors have implied the technique of narrowing down. Such research technique has helped in more conceptualizing and operationalizing some concepts of social sciences(L BERG 2001, 194). For example, the authors have narrowed down a time frame I. e of the 1950s to 1970s and have also narrowed the choices by presenting some specific options to respondents. There are not many different scholarly measures used in this article, however, the authors have deviated from the primary research position for time being and have resorted back to the main course of their research. If the respondents have been presented with some specific choices, this will for sure impact on the way of how we think about tolerance in American politics. A sort of independence for researchers (if provided) would have changed the results majorly.

# Career Connection

Since the complete article illustrates the importance of a defined variable in political science research, therefore the importance of a mannerly study is self-reflected. This self- reflection is an example of how accurately defining the constructs before research can support the hypothesis of the research study(L BERG 2001, 175). Such a research design and a duo of quantitative and qualitative research findings help in measuring the tools in social sciences research. This is what I would suggest to the employer.

# References

L BERG, BRUCE. 2001. “Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences.”

Sullivan, John L., James Piereson, and George E. Marcus. 1979. “An Alternative Conceptualization of Political Tolerance: Illusory Increases 1950s–1970s.” *American Political Science Review* 73(3): 781–794.