

## **2024 KASIM DOKTORA YETERLİK SORULARI**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND URBAN POLITICS**

1-How would different theories of local government and urban politics conceptualize/explain the role of local governments in producing and/or dealing with the inequalities associated with neoliberal urbanism? You might want to elaborate your answer with reference to the case of Türkiye.

2 - To what extent, and under what conditions, is it possible to argue that concentrating on key political figures/names (their intentions, projects, character, etc) would suffice to make sense of urban politics? As you elaborate your answer, you are expected to benefit from the following keywords: “interest representation”, “structure vs. agency”, “relationship between urban politics and national politics”.

3 - Has “urban rent”, as both a phenomenon and concept, lost its explanatory power in our endeavor to explain the most recent dynamics of urban politics and local policy making in the Global South in general, in Türkiye in particular? If yes why, and if not why not? Please elaborate your answer with reference to the post-2008 (global crisis) period.

## **TURKISH POLITICS,**

- 1- Please discuss the place and significance of the “principle” or “arrow” of “populism” (halkçılık) throughout the discursive history of the Republican People’s Party.
- 2- Which social cleavages are salient in Turkish politics? What are the institutional, structural and/or historical explanations as to why certain social cleavages have mattered in Turkish political history and why others have not? In your response, please provide at least three scholarly works to support your arguments.
- 3- Write an essay on the discourse of “Turkish-Islamic Synthesis” with reference to its chief ideologues and the roles it played in the relations of political power and hegemony in modern Turkey.

## **MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

- 1- Write an essay on modern and contemporary versions of liberalism and republicanism in comparison, by reference to well-known figures of political theory. Then, introduce democracy as a political regime in terms of its affiliations and tensions with liberalism and republicanism.
- 2- Is there a place of violence in defining the political? Write an essay with reference to at least three modern and/ or contemporary thinkers discussing the significance of violence in their theories.
- 3- What is meant when Rousseau is often referred to as a “petty-bourgeois socialist” Explain and discuss

## **STUDIES IN MASS COMMUNICATION, IDEOLOGY AND CULTURE**

1- Please discuss the pros and cons of the concept of ideology as false consciousness.

2- "With the internet 'passive acceptance' previously demanded by the 'society of the spectacle' is turned into an 'active interpassivity,' the individual no longer a passive witness to events, but rather an active subject whose activity feeds and recreates the system of experience. We are no longer passive observers of television screens, accepting the inevitability of life subject to a higher symbolic order or law, but proactive co-conspirators in the recreation of cultural norms, social hierarchies and moral codes. Invited to participate in the social reproduction of the networks of power, we are collectively building a vast prison complex made of biometric and financial data."

Discuss.

3- How does the relation between state and capital structure media industries?

## **POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

1- Which forms of agency have been discussed in the literature on the history of social movements? Please refer to contemporary debates in your discussion.

2- Communication is said to be at the heart of social movements.  
1-Discuss by referring to (at least) three scholars and illustrate with examples.  
2-How was this central role played by communication challenged/shifted by the Covid-19 pandemic?

3- Discuss and evaluate the relevance and contribution of the post -modern condition with reference to society centered theories of power and the phenomenon these theories attempt to explain.

## **THEORIES OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

1 - Write an essay through which you discuss the relevancy and validity of traditional bureaucratic theory and practices in public administration in the face of current social, economic, political and technological whereabouts of the world.

2 - Write an essay in which you explain and discuss the interdisciplinary nature of public administration theory.

3 - The governance approach is argued to “depoliticise” public administration by decentring it to a variety of public and non-public actors in the governance processes. Please discuss whether this argument has an explanatory power in the 2020s, based on examples from Turkey and/or other countries and in light of the conceptualisation of “politicisation of public administration.”

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

1 - To what extent and under what conditions, do you think, a major economic/fiscal crisis might shatter the status quo in the policy-making process? As you elaborate your answer, benefit from the following concepts: “incrementalism”, “institutions”, “rationality”.

2 - In what ways, do you think, current technological advances such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data, might affect/shape the policy capacity (-making and –implementation) of a public authority? Please address this question by comparing and contrasting the likely outcomes of such developments for: a) the policy fields where procedural instruments are heavily used; b) where classical instruments are in use, mainly in the form of direct service delivery (such as health and education).

3 - Under what conditions, and at which stage(s) of the policy process, could a more democratic/participatory decision-making environment contribute towards more rational policies? Please discuss.

## **POLITICAL ECONOMY**

1 - What is the role played by overproduction/under-consumption on the relation between accumulation and value crisis? Discuss the validity of this causality in the context of the rising financialization of the economy.

2 - What are the major approaches to the field of political economy? How do different perspectives define this field? How do they study their subject matter? Please discuss these different perspectives in the historical context of development of political economy. In your answer, do not refrain from positioning yourself in this discussion.

3 - There have been different theoretical frameworks offered to explain the 21st century dynamics of capitalism. Scholars discuss “polycrisis,” unraveling “global organic crisis” of capitalism. Meanwhile new terminologies such as “zombie capitalism”, “cannibal capitalism”, “neo-feudalism” among others have entered academic discussions. On the basis of these discussions, please define neoliberalism and critically evaluate how and to what extent the challenges to the neoliberal order question the very existence of it.

## **COMPARATIVE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

1 - Turkey’s switch to the “presidential government system” in 2017 has been criticized by almost all opposition parties in the country and there are discussions of “bringing the parliamentary system back”. Do you think another switch back to a parliamentary system will solve Turkey’s problems? In answering the question, please make sure that you also discuss the major characteristics of both presidential and parliamentary systems.

2 - According to Douglass North (1991), “institutions are the humanly devised constraints that structure political, economic, and social interaction”. What can be the examples of political institutions according to the Comparative Politics literature? Please provide two examples. To what extent do these specific institutions help us understand political and/or socioeconomic outcomes? Elaborate on this issue focusing on either of the following bodies of literature: a) democratization and democratic backsliding, b) economic development (please cite at least three scholarly works for each political institution).

3 - Comparative politics emerged as an identifiable field of political science in the aftermath of the Second World War. Since then, comparativists have had sharply divergent views about the scope, objective and methodology of the field. Write an essay on the field of Comparative Politics and Government by focusing on the commonalities as well as differences between “Comparative Politics” on the one hand and “Comparative Government” on the other. In your essay, please make sure to refer to the methodological turning points in the history of the field.