

## **2023 Kasım Doktora Yeterlik Soruları**

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

1. Do you think that Adorno's "schema of mass culture" is (still) explanatory?
2. Would you subscribe to the idea that "the structure of Turkish media seems to be not under the influence of the global forces of capital that is structuring the current state of extensive media globalization"? Discuss.
3. How would you relate the idea of mass/masses as a subject/object of politics to the idea of mass media/culture?

### **MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT**

1. For some, modern state has become a means for bureaucratic, technical and impersonal domination where the "human aspect" of the political is impoverished and reduced to government of masses or even become a matter of extra-ordinary activity of extraordinary times. Discuss with reference to at least 3 modern and/ or contemporary political thinkers. What is the human aspect? And how do they deal with it?
2. Which is worse, anarchy or tyranny? What implications does your answer have for political thought? Answer with respect to at least three of the following: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, J. S. Mill, Marx, and Arendt.
3. What are the contributions of the language of rights to our conceptions and experiences concerning politics and law in contemporary world? What are the disputable and defensible aspects of formal, abstract and universal rights? Answer by reference to the works of three well-known political theorists of our times.

## **POLITICAL ECONOMY**

1. What is “economic voting”? Based on the literature, what are the main assumptions of economic voting (please cite at least two major scholarly works from the literature)? What are the alternative explanations and theories for voting? Please critically assess the theoretical and empirical strengths and weaknesses of these varying explanations for voting behavior?
2. Different political economy perspectives have discussed the rise and deepening of authoritarianism within and beyond Europe in relation to overlapping crises of neoliberal capitalism. Please critically evaluate the major perspectives in the relevant literature and lay out how each perspective explains the correlation between economic crisis followed by a prolonged stagnation and dynamics of the authoritarian turn.
3. “Political economy as an academic field of research lives two radically separate lives giving rise to two radically different families of definitions” Please define and discuss the major political economy approaches with reference to its historical trajectory.

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

1. What is the relationship between financialization and social policy? Identify the salient features of financialization, the causal pathways by which financialization affects social reproduction and trace how social policies (across different issues and national contexts, or on a single issue, and national context) change to accommodate, facilitate or constrain such impacts.
2. In what ways, do you think, the tensions (and relationship) between the dual targets of “rationality” and “participation” in the policy process might generate and/or consolidate “status quo” in the making and implementation stages of public policies? You might want to elaborate your answer with reference to a policy field/question of interest to you.
3. Please compare and contrast the “making” and “implementation” stages of the policy process (both broadly understood) in terms of the “forms/instruments/venues of (policy) coordination”. Please develop your answer benefiting from the following keywords: “institution”, “interest”, “expertise”, “ideational dimension”.

## TURKISH POLITICS

1. In Republican Turkey, the trajectory of the relations of the state and Islam has resulted in the latter's encroachment into the center. Nevertheless, it can be contended that the relationship between successive governments and Islamic forces, and the approach of the political actors who held state power to secularism has been shaped by diverse factors. Discuss this issue with relation to the position of *Diyanet* and the fates of the Islamic communities since the 1950s, with particular emphasis on the post-1980 period.
2. Based on the growing literature on populism, please discuss the relevance and salience of populism for Turkish political history? Has populism been detrimental to Turkish democracy or can different forms of populism be a panacea to the ills of Turkey's democracy? Please discuss based on the overall literature on populism and Turkish political history (please cite at least two major scholarly works for both).
3. How do you assess the evolution of civil society and civil society organizations in Turkey, what are the changes and continuities in Turkish political history based on the existing literature (please cite at least two scholarly works on this subject)? In your response, please make sure that you also address and engage with at least two of the following five concepts within the confines of Turkish politics and their relevance to civil society: i) political institutions, ii) social cleavages, iii) political agency/leadership, iv) state, and v) democracy.