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THE ROLE OF HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY IN DETERMINING NATIONAL INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL NATION-STATES

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ABSTRACT:

The objective of this in-depth study is to focus on the multidimensionality of the discipline of historical sociology and the new-fangled socio-economic synergies through which the subject interacts with the discipline of international relations. The study also recommends this collaborative research tactic which can be employed in the development of reasonable hypothesis for the sociological investigation of the diverse processes which contributed in the economic growth and advancement of modern-day nation-states. The primary argument presented in this research paper is based on the notion that national interests of individual nation-states are determined by the plethora of feasible geopolitical factors and not solely by the national goals of the nation-states. This notion further emphasizes the importance of conducting multidisciplinary research in historical sociology for the better understanding of geopolitical and strategic factors which not only influence international relations between nation-states but also play diverse roles in determining new-fangled national interests of nation-states. Finally, it has also been discovered that the best way to develop such multidimensional research frameworks in historical sociology and international relations would be to record the sociological history of individual nation-states and establish possible synergies between their histories and feasible geopolitical dynamics.

Keywords: *Economic Growth; Geopolitical Dynamics; Historical Sociology; Hypothesis; International Relations; National Interests; Nation-State.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The importance of the discipline of historical sociology is ever-increasing for all other disciplines of social sciences. This is so because an in-depth examination of the contributory factors chiefly responsible for determining national interests of individual nation-states requires the researcher to thoroughly contemplate on the historical sociology of the associated nation-states. Such an in-depth research is also crucial for multidimensional and interdisciplinary studies relating to the diverse sociological and historical processes which have played miscellaneous roles in nation-building.

Conventional philosophies of history, sociology and international relations have failed to explain the emergence and progression of various diverse multidimensional factors which have influenced nation-building throughout history. Moreover, the discipline of international relations also fails to fully explain the geopolitical dynamics and inter-state relations which nation-states have shared in the past. Therefore, it is crucial for researchers of the discipline of international relations to develop new-fangled, multidimensional and interdisciplinary synergies between international relations and historical sociology for the better understanding of the principal factors which have shaped the contemporary world order. The most feasible way of accomplishing this is to employ innovative research methods of the discipline of historical sociology in order to discover and contemplate on the geopolitical dynamics which played the most significant role in shaping the world order of today.

2. HOW HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CAN MUTUALLY DEVELOP NEW-FANGLED INNOVATIONS IN NATION-BUILDING?

As mentioned above, it is important for the reader to understand that the discipline of international relations is absolutely incomplete and insufficient without historical sociology and vice versa. Thus, the demand for connecting the two disciplines is increasing day by day as modern nation-states capitalise on their new-fangled innovations in nation-building. Developing feasible synergies between international relations and historical sociology would therefore be the best way to meet this ever-growing demand.

This approach will prove to be extremely fruitful in recording sociological history of nation-states. Further historical investigation of such records would be highly beneficial in innovating new-fangled research methods for the advancement of the two interconnected disciplines of historical sociology and international relations.

However, the utility of such research methods should not be limited to recording sociological history alone. This is so because such historical research methods can also be extremely useful in determining inter-state relations that played diverse roles in shaping the narratives of nation-building as we know it today.

The outdated research tactic of perceiving the nation-state as an absolutely isolated entity in the international order should be transformed into the new-fangled one as discussed above. Researchers of international relations and historical sociology should therefore contemplate and conduct interdisciplinary research on the interconnected sociological histories of related nation-states. This would also be highly useful in understanding the evolutionary dynamics of the history of international relations.

3. FEASIBLE SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SOCIOLOGICAL NARRATIVES OF NATION-BUILDING:

As mentioned above, an in-depth understanding of the evolutionary dynamics of the history of international relations necessitates the establishment of multidimensional and interdisciplinary research frameworks related to the subject. Feasible synergies between the history of international relations and sociological narratives of nation-building should therefore be developed by researchers.

Such feasible synergies would further initiate the development of new-fangled research methods which could be employed in conducting extensive research on the reformatory dynamics between the two interconnected areas of study. Such research methods could also help in proving the fact that the history of international relations has always been written, supplemented and influenced by diverse sociological narratives of nation-building.

Furthermore, researchers of the discipline of international relations should examine the political, socio-economic and cultural factors which have played diverse roles in the development of rationalist and Marxist narratives of the history of contemporary international relations. Such narratives often criticize the role of contemporary international organizations, as according to the Marxist theory of international relations, the governmental and administrative machinery of these organizations are based on systems that promote global capitalism, free economy and privatization whereby forcing the under-developed and politically fragile states to rely solely on foreign aid and investment.

On the other hand, the rational theory of international relations establishes that geopolitical dynamics of a particular region can also favour strategic cooperation over strategic competition, unlike Marxist theory which criticizes strategic competition. This research demonstrates that the administrative and constitutional machinery of global governance should have the potential required to bring about self-reliance and self-sufficiency among nation-states, as every nation-state is ultimately dependent on its own proficiencies and capabilities.

Through this research, it has been discovered that the over-reliance of nation-states on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and on foreign aid would ultimately give birth to a new world order characterized by neo-colonialism and dominance of developed nation-states over the under-developed ones. This research has also discovered that the dominance mentioned above is nothing but a result of the collective accomplishment of the goals of modern-day capitalistic institutions promoting global capitalism and global inequality. Therefore, this research is highly critical of the over-reliance of nation-states on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and foreign aid. It has been discovered through this research that threat to sovereignty and governmental fragility are also the fundamental by-products of the over-reliance of nation-states on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and foreign aid.

Finally, for the prospective development of feasible synergies between the history of international relations and sociological narratives of nation-building, it is also very important to

acknowledge the importance of military and economic history in this regard. The collective interplay and collaboration of all these diverse research methods and associated synergies would prove to be of utmost importance and would play the most significant role in the emergence and advancement of new-fangled sociological narratives of nation-building.

4. CONCLUSION:

International historical sociology should incorporate multidimensional approaches and should also focus on action research oriented developmental models. Sociological processes should be profoundly examined based on varied socio-economic and socio-cultural factors such as poverty, illiteracy, religious tolerance, ethnic diversity, education, cross-cultural relations, etc. At the same time, the internationalization of these socio-economic and socio-cultural factors should be profoundly studied and considered together with coercive forces imposed by the international system on each state to participate in the dominating capitalist world economy. In other words, this is the apt time for the internationalization of national interests of individual nation states. Such an approach can not only be extremely beneficial in understanding the holistic nature of the disciplines of historical sociology and international relations, but can be profoundly advantageous in uniting the polarized world.

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