

# nationalism

*by* Ss Xx

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### Introduction

Election of officials in the United States has given a balance between the three arms of government that is the legislature, executive and the judiciary. The assembly which is made of <sup>1</sup> the House of Representatives and the senate write, pass bills and amend laws which are signed by the head of the executive. This house is also known as the house. Elections of representatives of this house have for a long time been termed as politics of locals. This has caught the insights of different personalities in the country, including the former house speaker Thomas Phillip O'Neill. Thomas claimed that "all politics is local." In recent days, politics of the united have moved from local to being nationalized. This has been shown by the various attempts by parties and individuals to nationalize the institutional. This paper looks at the efforts to nationalize the politics of the congress (Tarrow 1988).

In recent times, party leaders have a centralized approach in house committees and subcommittees. In the mid-twentieth century, these leaders were decentralized and operated independently of their parties. This is different from the previous house that did not where the party leadership in the house was not valued in the discussion. The leaders could pursue their interest without constrains of the party leadership. This weakened the part discipline and thus enabling these leaders to adopt the political position that favoured their districts rather than the national interest. The current party discipline does not allow such practices by leaders and party discipline require leaders to show national interest rather than the interests of the places they represent. This has enabled the house to have a national approach when carrying out its task. There is also solidarity in parties where party members when passing national bills, thus giving politics a national outlook.

There have been more media due to technological changes. During O'Neil's era as the speaker of the congress, media conference in politics was minimal, and thus people lived in local areas with minimal updates from their outsides. This made them practice local politics, and therefore, politics was local. In a modern country, there is more media conference on politics, and thus people have more access to information on political issues. This has given a national outlook of politics as the media reveal national discussions that provide insights into how politics should be organized. Due to this coverage, the locals include these insights in their politics and thus giving politics a national outlook. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, due to lack of media coverage, people lived near their homes and viewed themselves as independent states. They had their own culture and loyalties. These new changes in technology reduced these beliefs and thus gave politics a national outlook.

For more than a century, states mattered more than the national matters. States were more planted in the hearts and minds of people, and this influenced the politics of such states. The two national parties that were in action during the early 20<sup>th</sup> conducted politics primarily in states and thus did not portray a national feature. They, therefore, maintained unique state and local identities that did not show a national outlook. This changed in the late years, and the culture of state politics was disappearing (Baumgartner & Leech 2001). State patronage was in decline, and national politics was taking the stage in the United States. Politicians are more concerned with national matters than their state affairs and thus developed their policies relying on to reach voters in the whole nation. States politics is therefore not practised, and there are no 48 party states. This is a symbol of national politics.

The United States has only two political parties that are used by many politicians to vie for electoral seats in the congress. Earlier, the Republican Party operated as state party with no

national outlook and thus did not have a national image. These were changed and gave the parties national outlook where a citizen can join and compete for electoral post. The parties are known as the republicans and the democrats which are complete national parties. This has even changed the thinking of political aspirants from state thinking to the national point of view. Introduction this party system has help voter to choose leaders. There is only one Republican Party in the United States and only one democrat's party as compared to 48 republican and democrat's parties. This has given the politics a national image.

Another feature that describes politics in the United States of America as a nation is the presence of the federal system government. This gives the division of political authority between the national government and the state governments. These systems also allow people to have a direct influence on the way the government is run and maintained. Usually, a constitutional division is developed between the two levels of government. The federal system promotes a national political culture that drives politics in the country. This has acted a driving force to attract people participating in national politics and national affairs. The use of the federal system of government has also reduced the influence of constituencies in political parties. This has made the leaders take a national approach to politics.

Also, there is an increasing trend that shows partisan elections are increasing in the United States. The partisan election is commonly known for including the party symbol on the ballot paper, which makes it easier for voters to choose their leaders (Gabel 2000). Many have argued that the partisan election has reduced the production of leaders who are from the higher socioeconomic status and thus politics today represent a socioeconomic background of the whole nation rather than single socioeconomic class. As such, the partisan election can be termed as a force that is driving national politics in the United States. Though there are arguments against the

partisan election, this system of voting has brought more individuals to participate in elections as there is no complication when choosing leaders. This can also be attributed to reduced election rigging which make elections unfair.

Hyperpolarized politics has taken the United States politics. As demonstrated in the previous elections, parties are more unified than the previous elections. This has led to increased nationalization as individuals rise and fall with their political parties.

Though politics in the United States have been nationalized, there are cases of local politics. This is evident when leaders put their state matters ahead of the national interest. It has been a trend in the national level of leadership for individuals to support what favour the states. This has demoralized federal election to local politics. People do not only support their interests but what is more important to them. This has affected how the government is being governed and run.

### **Conclusion**

Politics in the United States can be nationalized but need more improvements to accommodate all aspects of society. With the current situation, politics determine what achievements a government can provide to its citizens, and thus it has to be more nationalized. This will give an opportunity to everyone in the country to take part in leadership. With partial participation, the administration of the day will get more opposition and thus will not be able to meet its agendas. As such, more civic education should be done to educate members of the society on their role in politics, and thus nationalization will be increased.

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