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RATIONAL CHOICE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Introduction. Rational choice is a broad sector with porous boundaries. It is usually viewed as a methodological approach that explains both individual and collective or social outcomes in terms of individual goal-seeking under constraints. There is a myriad of possible ways to do so, but any theoretical methodology such as rational choice entails some very general substantive commitments.

Review of recent publications. The problem of the rational choice is the subject of research of such scientists as Alfred Marshall, Kenneth Joseph Arrow, Duncan Snidal, Amartya K. Sen, Margaret E. Keck, Kathryn Sikkink, John Steinbruner and others.

Objectives of the paper. The main purpose of the article is to determine what rational choice is. Explain how rational choice is used in different issues, explaining the decisions and actions of actors under constraints and its role in other theories.

Results of research. Rational choice entails some very general substantive commitments. Focusing on the goal seeking presumes that explanation should proceed in terms of relevant actors, the goals they seek, and their ability to do so. Within and beyond this, rational choice is remarkably open to alternative specifications. While the baseline theory is often developed in terms of hyper-rational actors with powerful calculating abilities, the theory is open to incorporating limits to their capacities or constraints on their decision making. Finally, the theory is mostly often used as a positive theory of how actors behave in practice, but it can also be used as a normative theory to evaluate how actors behave or to indicate how they should behave. Any application of rational choice that aspires to be a theory “of something” requires more detailed substantive commitments [1, p. 87].

In International Economic Relations, the “neo-” tradition has assumed that states are the key actors, that they seek goals such as power or wealth and that they are relatively effective at pursuing their interests while rational choice is not limited to

conceptions of self-interested, materialistic “economic” actors, and different substantive specifications can lead to different theories within the broader cover of rational choice [2].

Moreover, rational choice analysis is not inherently causal as it is reflected in the centrality of equilibrium analysis in the Marshall theory. Equilibrium is a statement of consistency among specified elements where there is no pressure on any of the elements to change the given values of the other elements. Thus, it is an evaluation of a whole state of affairs and it claims that the elements can coexist with one another while stipulating nothing about their sequence or causal relation. In this respect, equilibrium analysis is more constitutive rather than causal [3].

Conclusions. Rational choice can play a useful role in clarifying because it provides a common conceptual framework for specifying the problem, machinery for checking consistency and implications of arguments. Gaining the full advantage of these capabilities explains the importance both of arguments formalization and of empirical connections developing.

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FREELANCING AS A FORM OF EMPLOYMENT ON UKRAINE’S LABOR MARKET

Introduction. In terms of globalization and integration, vanishing of borders and increasing mobility, active resource conservation, labor relations between employer and employee are being transformed into a qualitatively new form – remote employment. Ukraine is not an exception, although there are certain peculiarities of penetration of this form of employment into the Ukrainian labor market.