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POLITICAL PRAGMATISM: HISTORICAL WAY OF IRIDESCENCE

Introduction. From the very beginning, a conception of pragmatism came through a long way of standing, from purely theoretical to philosophical category, that was clearly defined, substantiated, like something, which can be used in practice. These transformations gave us new realms of usage, especially in political sciences. Today it is crucial to consider, that so called political pragmatism is a kind of substratum in the actions of a president or government in foreign policy. Many diplomats and politologists have started to review and reconsider the importance of this issue.

Objectives of the paper. The objective of this article is to show how the conception of political pragmatism has been contemplated for a long period of time. Political pragmatism is a reasonable and logical way of doing things or thinking about problems that are based on dealing with specific situations instead of ideas and theories [2] or this is just the usage of any methods (including cruelty, inhuman treatment etc.) to gain some purposes [4].

Charles Sanders Peirce was a founder of American pragmatism (or so called “pragmaticism”). He was the first who cultivated a view that theoretical conception has to have some ‘material value’. Moreover, he said that the conception should be connected with the empirical observations in the particular circumstances of the material world [1].

Although this definition is far from political sciences, it helps us define one of the most important features in pragmatism as a political category. This crucial thought, that any conception has to have some material value, makes it possible to use this idea in practice (especially in politics). In the second part of Peirce’s definition, we should pay attention to such phrase as: “...empirical observations in the particular circumstances of the material world”. Charles Sanders Peirce told us to omit actions that are built on algorithms or the system for all situations, but make decisions, based on circumstances in every situation.

There are a lot of actions in the foreign policy that cannot be calculated, and the balance of power can change rapidly, that is why sometimes the only way to make the correct decision is ‘to see right now’ what you have and what you can do with this. William James went further in Peirce’s conception. He claimed the total equality of the truth and weal. “A new idea is true, when this idea is working and you can see it is capacity” [5]. William James built up the second feature of pragmatism as a political category. Thinking over this idea from the political point of view, we come to understanding that any idea, which would be useful for political, economic or cultural development of the state, is true and important.

John Dewey was the person who entirely introduced the conception of political pragmatism. He was convinced that a method or a conception, which was successful in science and theory, could be realized in politics. When someone’s own interests or contingency interfere in government or state realms of responsibilities, it undoubtedly leads to disasters. John Dewey said that the only sharpness of your mind and cleverness should be considered in your further steps and decisions [4]. He structured the ideas of previous scholars, philosophers and made them more ‘down to earth’, such, which could be used in practice. Political situation is like a ‘black swan’ and we

cannot avoid it. There are not stable rules or 'eternal allies'. The state's decisions must be based on national (weal) interests.

Conclusion. The conception of pragmatism has undergone a long way of evolution from a simple theoretical idea to political practice. Proponents of pragmatism make an accent on material value and practical usage of any idea that is useful for a country. They talk about importance of mind and intellect, rejecting the emotional or moral part of decisions. The given viewpoint has received a large number of critical discussions in other political schools. The opposition says that pragmatism is just a derivation from American materialism, that this conception is too cynical, narrow and minutely precise. Nevertheless, pragmatism is here, it endures the test of time and shows its viability as a theoretical conception and political practice.

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