

## **A CRITIQUE OF THE USEFULNESS OF THEORIES IN EXPLAINING SOCIO-POLITICAL PHENOMENON**

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### **ABSTRACT**

A theory presents a systematic way of understanding events, behaviors and/or situations. It is a set of interrelated concepts, definitions, and propositions that explains or predicts events or situations by specifying relations among variables. Theories are by their nature abstract and not content-or topic-specific. Theories vary in the extent to which they have been conceptually developed and empirically tested; however, 'testability' is an important feature of a theory. Social science theories are better understood as models that work in a limited range of settings, rather than laws of science which hold and apply universally. A theory is therefore central to explaining the dynamics of world politics. No single theory captures the complexity of contemporary world politics. Theories diagnose, predict, prescribe and evaluate. They also try to explain what states try to achieve in the external realm and when they try to achieve it. This paper will thus critically interrogate the usefulness of theories in explaining socio-economic phenomenon.

**Keywords:** Theory, Socio-Political, Phenomenon, World Politics, Parsimony, International Relations.