



PARIS TROIKA? NO,
PERESTROIKA!: THE STORY OF
A SUB-DISCIPLINE

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Topics to be Covered

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Paradigms in Comparative Politics:

- 1) Traditional
- 2) Behavioural
- 3) Post-Behavioural
- 4) Constructivism
- 5) Perestroika

Traditional Paradigm

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- Late 1800's to mid-20th Century
 - Overwhelmingly Case Studies
 - Not for Theory Building
 - Empirical Observations and Philosophy
 - European Institutions (states, elections, political parties, constitutions, etc.)

Behavioural Paradigm

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- 1950's and 1960's
 - Rationalism (Supposedly Objective)
 - Econometrics and Statistics
 - Large-N Studies Commonplace
 - Meta- and Mid-Range Theories
 - System-Level Analysis
 - Formal and Informal Structures and Functions

Post-Behavioural Paradigm

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- 1970's and 1980's
 - Rational and Scientific (supposedly objective)
 - Small-N Studies
 - Comparisons Across Nations and Time
 - State Level Analysis

Constructivist Paradigm

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- 1980's to Present
 - Subjectivity of Knowledge
 - Qualitative/Interpretive Approach
 - Case Studies
 - Marginalized Groups and Individuals



Perestroika

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- 21st Century
 - Quantitative and Qualitative Research
 - Interdisciplinary Approach
 - Mid-Range Theory (Normative, Positive or Foundational)
 - Case Study/Small-N/Large-N/Discourses/Narratives
 - Analysis can be: Cross-National/Cross-Group/Cross-Time
 - System, State, Group, and/or Individual Analysis

Questions / Discussions

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- What questions do you have?