

A DISCUSSION OF COMPARATIVE METHOD IN
THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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The application of the comparative method in social science and politics has a long history, especially in comparative politics, such as comparative political analysis and policy analysis. This discussion is mainly based on two books: *Strategies for Comparative Research in Political Science* by B. Guy Peters and *A New Handbook of Political Science* by Robert E. Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingemann.

Firstly, it discusses the theories of comparative research in political science, such as the definition of comparison in the study and the forms and types of comparative analysis used in political science. Secondly, it investigates the logic of comparative research design and explores which type of cases to study and how to build a case analysis. Finally, it discusses the practicality of the comparative method in political science, especially in studying international relations.

Discussing two countries' policies is challenging, although studying some individual countries' policies can provide a basic understanding of this country's dynamics. It is difficult to comprehensively understand this country's system and economic and political policy. Moreover, building a general framework and model of an individual country's system is complicated. On the other hand, the world is connecting closely because of globalization. The state of international relations, such as China-US and China-EU relations, also becomes complicated and dynamic. One qualitative method, like literature analysis, is limited to analyzing complicated bilateral relations.

Therefore, using mixed methods to analyze dynamic international relations is essential. The comparative method can give an objective and comparative perspective to investigate political phenomena by choosing suitable cases to determine which factors influence the incomes and outcomes of one country's economic policy and diplomatic strategy.

In conclusion, the comparative method is suitable for applying to study and compare two different objectives and find the similarities and dissimilarities.

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