

## ELITE THEORY OF VILFREDO PARETO

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### Abstract

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the “elite theory”, considered the closest theory of Vilfredo Pareto to sociology. What this theory is about, the differences between the elite and the lower tier, their tasks, role are covered. The role and how consistent the theory Pareto created at the time and in the present has been studied. Can representatives of the lower tier also rise to the elite? How does the elite manage society? The answer to similar questions is explained.

**Keywords:** Vilfredo Pareto, elite, elite theory, elite circulation, rulers, lower tier, management, subordinate.

### Introduction

Vilfredo Pareto is a famous Italian engineer, sociologist and economist. Vilfredo Pareto was born on 15 July 1848 in the House of the Italian marquis. His father was originally from Genoa and became an emigrant due to his liberal and Republican views. Pareto's mother was French. From an early age he was fluent in Italian and French. But throughout his life he mentioned that he felt Italian.

In the first half of the 90s, Pareto conducts a series of studies related to economic theory and Mathematical Economics, making them available to the public. From 1893 until the end of his life, he remained professor of political economy at the University of Lausanne in Sweden. He wrote works such as “Course in political economy”, “socialist systems”, “textbook of Political Economy”, “Transformation of democracy”, “tract on general sociology”. One of his famous theories is the “elite theory”.

Pareto developed his own theory of social change, which contradicted Marx's theory in an absolute way. In Marxian theory, which focused on the role of the masses, Pareto presented an elite theory of social change, which, according to him, relied on the rule of a small elite acting in the interest of enlightenment in society. They control the masses of the people under the influence of non-rational forces. Lacking rational capabilities, it was difficult for the public to gain revolutionary power in the Pareto system. Social change occurs when the elite is to be re-



transformed or replaced by another elite or higher elements of the masses that do not belong to the government.<sup>1</sup>

### Discussion and Results

“To those who have the highest performance in their field, we give the name of the elite”, Pareto wrote.<sup>2</sup> The elite is the chosen part of this population, and the rest of the population adapt to them and strive for its incentive. In turn, the elite divides into two parts. The first, directly or indirectly, took part in the management of society, receiving the name “governing elite”. The other part is not involved in governance, but in the arts and Sciences—that is, the non-governing elite.<sup>3</sup> According to Pareto, the elite and the non-elite make up the upper and lower tier, with alternating positions. Here opens the ideological kinship of the Pareto concept with the concepts of Tard, Lebon, Mossa: the division of society into inventors and imitators (Tard), leader and people (Lebon), dominant and staining classes (Mossa).<sup>4</sup> The rotation of the elites is represented by the Pareto pyramid, which places the elite at the top of the pyramid. This formula is also true to our present day, when a person can rise from the lower or middle layer to the “elite” through his knowledge and managerial ability, that is, his self-confidence. Pareto says, “I have focused on the fact that qualities, inclinations and abilities are unevenly distributed among people.”<sup>5</sup> According to his approach, from the rest of society, the flexibility of the elite will be inappropriate, taking into account both the presence of elites, which are different, and the absence of clear boundaries that distinguish between them.<sup>6</sup> The renewal mechanism is the social mobility that the ruling elite takes place in peacetime.<sup>7</sup>

Elite circulation is the process of interaction between members of a heterogeneous society, which Pareto described as pyramidal.<sup>8</sup> That is, in this, the elite will be at the top of the pyramid; this layer is characterized by self-mental abilities, coldness in any situation and superiority over others, such as counting; weak and emotional people are used in their own interests without difficulty. People with knowledge always control those who live by relying on their emotions. This, in turn, is the virtue of the elite. Pareto shows two main qualities of stewards: persuasion by manipulating people who rely on their emotions, and acting by relying on their power when necessary. It is this that justifies the dichotomy of society. The government also ruled people by force or persuasion i.e. by agreement. Agreement and power have been disproportionate as a weapon of governance throughout history. By how convincing the people,

1 Jiyamuratova G. Sotsiologiya tarixi /darslik/. - Toshkent: “Innovatsiya-Ziyo”, 2020, 466 b.

2 История социологии в Западной Европе и США. Учебник для учащихся. Оцетной редактор-академик РАН г. V. Осиповым. - М.: и строительная группа norm—ИНФРА • М, 1999. 576 С.

3 Фарфиев Б.А, Нуруллаева У.Н. Социология тарихи. «Университет». Тошкент, 2009,110 б

4 История социологии в Западной Европе и США. Учебник для учащихся. Оцетной редактор-академик РАН г. V. Осиповым. - М.: и строительная группа norm—ИНФРА • М, 1999. 576 С.

5 Eisermann G. Max Weber und Wilfredo Pareto. Dialog und Konfrontation. Tübingen: Mohr (Siebeck), 1989. S. 114.

6 Парето В. Компендиум по общей социологии. М.: Издательский дом ГУВШЭ, 2008. С. 308.

7 История социологии в Западной Европе и США. Учебник для учащихся. Оцетной редактор-академик РАН г. V. Осиповым. - М.: и строительная группа norm—ИНФРА • М, 1999. 576 С.

8 Фарфиев Б.А, Нуруллаева У.Н. Социология тарихи. «Университет». Тошкент, 2009, 110.6



the government determines the success of its policies, and in turn, when it cannot use enough power, cannot control the people, it devotes its place to a stronger, courageous and violent governing elite in any situation. Pareto believed that this direction would ensure the desired political success. He pioneered the idea of controlling the masses by manipulating emotions into ideas that worked for the benefit of the ruling elite. “The more successful government policy uses emotion, the more effective it is”.<sup>9</sup>

An elite who skillfully used this style, according to Pareto, could achieve any political contingency. Throughout political history, it has been found that there is little ability to convince people to control themselves, which means that it is necessary to know how to apply violence and the use of force as well. Therefore, the criticism of Pareto is directed against the sentimental ideology of liberalism, due to their inability to use force by promoting humanism, compromise, etc., the ruling elite is in decline and forced to give its place to another, who is more determined and able to resort to violence.<sup>10</sup>

In Pareto’s opinion, the mechanics of exchange of the ruling elite in a peaceful period is considered social mobility. The more “open” the governing class is, the stronger its “health” is and maintains its own government. <sup>11</sup> When the circulation of the elite is slow, the elements of weakness, sluggishness, degradation and fall begin to be seen in the upper layer. These layers begin to lose their psychic properties, which provide an elitist state, and helplessness is expressed in the act of violence.<sup>12</sup> Individuals who also have the ability to control between the lower layers mature and can also take over the upper layer through violence. As a result of the circulation, the shaped class also becomes weak and losing control over time. Those in the lower echelons with their own knowledge and managerial abilities can rise up to replace those in the weaker elite class and restore the elite’s lost power. In situations where it is difficult to live, a person’s upward drive increases. Even in this situation, as mild situations create weak people, some of the elite are weakened.

After the emergence of worthy of the status of the upper class among the representatives of the lower class, the period of the revolution begins. Its main purpose is to change the composition of the ruling elite. The rise or fall of the elite, the rise or fall periods are necessary and unavoidable. The exchange of the elite is considered the law of the existence of human society. In this situation, according to Pareto, the composition of the elite is renewed and social balance is restored. It is from this that Pareto’s famous phrase, “History is the cemetery of the aristocracy”, is derived.<sup>13</sup>

The instinct of “constancy of aggregates” determines the opposite qualities of rulers. They are aggressive, authoritarian, prone to the use of violence, suspicious of manipulation,

9 История социологии в Западной Европе и США. Учебник для учащихся. Оцетной редактор-академик РАН г. V. Осиповым. - М.: и строительная группа norm—ИНФРА • М, 1999. 576 С.

10 История социологии в Западной Европе и США. Учебник для учащихся. Оцетной редактор-академик РАН г. V. Осиповым. - М.: и строительная группа norm—ИНФРА • М, 1999. 576 С.

11 Фарфиев Б.А, Нуруллаева У.Н. Социология тарихи. «Университет». Тошкент, 2009, ,110.6

12 История социологии в Западной Европе и США. Учебник для учащихся. Оцетной редактор-академик РАН г. V. Осиповым. - М.: и строительная группа norm—ИНФРА • М, 1999. 576 С.

13 Pareto V. Traiffi de sociologic gimuralc //Pareto V. Oeuvres complntes. Geimve, 1968. Т. XII. § 053.



maneuverability and compromise.<sup>14</sup> The elite is divided into 2 types: while the first lives with the present, the second tends to the future. Dedication of the individual to the service of society, subordination of individual interests to the public, courage and constancy in the observance of these ideals are the personal peculiarities and spiritual values these types of rulers. Pareto shows two types of governors in this theory. These “Foxes” - a symbol of cunning, hypocrisy, betrayal; “Lions” - a symbol of strength, determination, intolerance, courage. If we adapt it to the present “Foxes” and “Lions” in the field of economic and financial activities it is suitable for the types of “speculators” and “tenants”. Simply put, the “speculator” is an agile, entrepreneur who is not afraid of dangerous combinations, does not know how to regret it and, in any case, succeeds. The “tenant” is the opposite, that is, a timid depositor who is afraid to step in so as not to harm his property, living with constant income. If the “speculator” determines the development in life, the “tenant” indicates stability.

The theory of “elite circulation”, like the theory of social activity, is not built on the analysis of social relations and social institutions by Pareto, but on the study of the innate biopsychic properties of individuals. The main thing in his concept of power was the personal characteristics of the rulers, which he possessed even before taking the position of an elite in society. Pareto, trying to raise the question of the interdependence of biological and social stratification, considered that the capitalist economy provides an opportunity to freely promote the best representatives of society in conditions that contribute to its development and increase its structure in accordance with the biopsychic qualities of individuals.<sup>15</sup> The Italian sociologist considered that for the emergence of an institution of government, such a personal quality as management was fundamental.

### Conclusion

Pareto’s reflections on elite activities were not based on an analysis of real mass social forces, were not clarified in accordance with particular historical periods, focusing on the external formal similarities of the various types of governance cited under the general scheme. Pareto, who formulated the general characteristics of the activities of the elite of power in an antagonistic society, did not take into account the fact that different historical periods make different demands on the owners of power, under the influence of which the dominant groups, formed on the basis of historically changing criteria, are differentiated. Pareto’s socio-historical concept is deeply pessimistic. In his opinion, history is always doomed to repetitive cycles, and its transformation does not develop significantly. As one of Pareto’s researchers correctly noted, his pessimism cannot be explained by melancholic temperament. This is explained by the collapse of the political ideals of the social strata to which the Italian sociologist belongs. Pareto therefore turned his software into historical pessimism, which became the political ideology of conservatism idealizing violence.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> История социологии в Западной Европе и США. Учебник для учащихся. Оцетной редактор-академик РАН г. V. Осиповым. - М.: и строительная группа norm—ИНФРА • М, 1999. 576 С.

<sup>15</sup> right here

<sup>16</sup> История социологии в Западной Европе и США. Учебник для учащихся. Оцетной редактор-академик РАН г. V. Осиповым. - М.: и строительная группа norm—ИНФРА • М, 1999. 576 С.



In conclusion, it can be said that although this theory of Pareto is not true in some places to the present day, but the layers of the population have been illuminated to the fullest extent. This theory, founded by Vilfredo Pareto, about a group that occupies a high position in society according to the ability and talent of its members, has not lost its importance even today.

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