

## POLITICAL RESEARCH IN SCANDINAVIA, 1960—65

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### DENMARK

Study and teaching in the field of political science in Denmark has developed in leaps and bounds under the influence of the need felt for such studies at different times.

Already at the beginning of the 18th century several Danish university professors were engaged in studies and considerations of the preferable social and political order. Most outstanding among them was *Ludvig Holberg* who was also a very prolific playwright and historian. As most of his contemporaries, he was strongly influenced by the main currents of political thought in France and Germany.

Towards the end of the century popular interest in social, economic, and political reform had an enormous upsurge in Denmark. The material bases for this supposedly could be traced to the need for a new production- and marketing system for Danish agriculture, which was flourishing during the European wars.

A particular role in the development was played by the *Academy of Soroe*, which had been established already in the 17th century for the education of the Danish nobility. From this centre of learning emerged many people who were actively engaged in both the study and practice of politics either as councillors, ministers or administrators. Their common activities were directed towards the "common wealth", and inspired by the European enlightenment; they had a very clear conception of what was good for society as a whole. Their studies were mostly speculative and normative, while empirical research was not considered very important. Besides, they were very practically oriented and wanted to use their insights and knowledge in their day to day activities. This probably is the reason why so much political thought and study in Denmark was directed towards the actual and practical situation. Outstanding representatives of this period were J. S. Sneedorff, C. U. D. von Eggers, Laurids Engelstoff, and C. N. David.

The trend towards the normative and practical was continued in the following period, and the main concern was with juridical, economic and other practical matters. Consequently, it became more and more difficult to find a special branch of study or teaching, which might be called political science. Many aspects of it were studied and taught inside law, economics, and history, but without any coherent or systematic framework.

This situation prevailed until the beginning of the present century, when a new interest in social, economic and political problems was provoked by the fundamental changes in the Danish and the European political systems. Also this time

we can observe the spiritual influence from France, where the sociological and normative schools inspired a Danish historian, *Peter Munch*, the later outstanding politician and foreign minister. He introduced the new subject of social studies in secondary education, but from a scientific point of view his main effort was to establish in 1927 the *Institute of History and Economics*. From this Institute emerged many social, economic, political, and legal studies, for example, Georg Cohn: *Neo-Neutrality*, which was translated into English in 1939 (Columbia University Press).

At the University level studies and teaching was not re-introduced till after the Second World War, when the professor in law at *Copenhagen University*, Sven Clausen introduced teaching in political science. Political science and international relations, were also introduced as requirements for a degree in history.

The significant starting point for a new and scientific study of politics was the establishment of the study of political science at *Aarhus University* in 1958. The background for this may partly be found in the foundation of IPSA in 1949, and partly in a growing need for a new basis for recruitment to the Danish Civil Service.

Since 1964 a few candidates, — until now only nine — have graduated in political science as what is called *cand.scient.pol. (candidatus scientiarum politicarum)*.

The study is stipulated to take about six years. Like most other Danish university studies it consists of two parts, which comprise the following subjects:

*Part one:*

1. Political Science (introductory course)
2. Economics
3. Statistics
4. Constitutional, administrative and international law
5. Sociology

*Part two:*

1. The Political System (Comparative Politics)
2. The History of Political Theory and Political Ideas
3. International Organization and Politics
4. Public Administration
5. Modern Political History.

Two professors were appointed in 1959. Their first years of work had to be concentrated around the founding and building-up of an Institute and the organization of the new educational activities. The number of registered students at the Institute of Political Science is now about 200.

The staff of the Institute grew simultaneously, and now consists of three professors and nine assistant professors, lecturers, stipendiates, etc.

Under the direction of Professor Poul Meyer the first Danish research project was started in the beginning of the sixties. The aim of this project was to identify some of the factors determining the electoral turnout, and official election statistics and a representative sample of the registration lists were used as the main sources. The project was completed and the results published in 1964, as the first publication from the Institute of Political Science: Jens Jeppesen and Poul Meyer, *Sofavælgerne. Electoral Turnout in Denmark* (600).\*

This study, which contains a full summary in English, has among other things documented that the Danish voters are in general characterized by a considerable turnout, but that it is possible to find differences among the various regions of

\* These numbers refer to the 1960–64 bibliography which is published below, after the four country reports on political research.