Transparency & Opac Socıety: From A Political Science Perspective

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Transparency is a cornerstone of a democratic society and promotes participation, accountability and public trust. Without transparency, opaque societies can undermine democratic functioning and foster the spread of corruption. In an environment where public access to information is restricted, misuse of public resources and privileged relationships can increase. This can lead to social discontent and political instability. Ensuring transparency requires facilitating access to public information, adopting open data policies and strengthening independent oversight mechanisms. This would make governments more accountable, public resources more efficiently utilized, and public trust increased. In conclusion, the concepts of transparency and opaque society have an important place in political science. While a transparent society strengthens democratic values, an opaque society can undermine democratic functioning and lead to social problems. Therefore, promoting transparency and reducing opacity is a critical step towards building a healthier and more participatory society.

Abstract

The concept of an opaque society refers to a society in which government and management processes are characterized by insufficient transparency. In such societies, decision-making and policy-making processes often take place behind closed doors.

INTRODUCTION

All social science disciplines attempt to produce relevant knowledge, that is, knowledge that is evidence-based and rule-bound. Because different research communities use different types of evidence and analysis, rigor manifests in different ways within and across the social sciences. For any research community, rigor requires adhering to norms of information gathering and analysis, and accurately using methods associated with their tradition's particular beliefs about how aspects of the social world can be known. Political scientists are accustomed to supporting their findings with an account of the knowledge and analysis used to produce them, to help demonstrate that they adhere to their tradition's standards and practices for producing valid knowledge. At the same time, these supporting explanations help academics to make their work

relevant to different audiences, including audiences that, at least initially, do not see the world as they do. To do this, scholars seek to produce claims that are broadly intersubjective, that is, accessible and understandable from a wide range of perspectives. Broad intersubjectivity can increase the capacity of political science research to inform the perspectives and influence the decisions of a wide range of social entities outside the discipline. Being clear about how they know what they know helps scholars make their work more understandable to those with different methodological or substantive perspectives. The quality and accessibility of these supporting explanations and materials is now more important than ever. The expression "opaque society" is one of the conceptual tools of the Marxist thinker and political scientist Karl Marx, who was influenced by the ideas of the German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. The expression appears in Marx's "Das Kapital" and is used to understand and criticize the functioning of the bourgeois economy. Marx uses the concept of "opaque society" to express the difficulty of understanding the real relations that lie behind the phenomena seen on the surface of capitalist society. In capitalist society, the value of commodities and their relations are often opacified in various ways to conceal exploitation between the working class and the owners of capital. This means that society in general has difficulty in understanding reality. Marx's concept of an "opaque society" emphasizes the difficulty for society in general to understand the realities because the relations and exploitation underlying capitalist society are often complex and difficult to understand. This concept should be understood within a general framework based on Marx's economic analysis and his theory of class conflict. Opaque societies are often associated with problems such as corruption, mismanagement, authoritarianism and abuses of power. A segment of society lives in a structure where participation in decision-making is limited and the powerful have control and influence over the population. This can mean that fundamental values such as social justice, equality and human rights are ignored or violated. One of the disadvantages of opaque societies is that the public finds it difficult to hold rulers and decision-makers to account. Lack of information and lack of transparency allows malicious individuals or groups to mislead the public or act manipulatively to protect their interests. In contrast, in a transparent society, government, institutions and other authority figures publicly explain their actions and decisions and promote accountability and participation. In a transparent society, people are better informed, able to participate and contribute effectively to societal issues. This can help to strengthen democratic values as well as promote a more equitable and stable society

PURPOSE

Transparency is one of the key elements of a democratic society for political sciences. Transparency's impact on opaque societies and its assessment from a political science perspective will be discussed in this essay.

METHODOLOGY

The research was originally written as a review article by reviewing the literature on the negative effects of migration on educational administration in Turkey and abroad.

FINDINGS

In fact, many political scientists work for institutions that ask taxpayers, philanthropic donors, and others to pay a premium for the resources that fund research infrastructure, training facilities, and salaries. Legislators and others who make funding decisions wonder why their hard-earned money should be spent on political science scholarships and why decision-makers should defer to the knowledge claims of political science rather than those produced by interest groups or other individuals (see Cantor & Smith 2013). With increasing scrutiny from within and outside the discipline, political scientists are increasingly being asked to show how they know what they claim to know. These imperatives have emerged as calls and commitments for greater transparency in political science research (Elman & Kapiszewski 2014, Lupia & Elman 2014).

"The transparency society lacks not only truth but also appearance. Neither truth nor appearance is transparent. The only thing that is completely transparent is the void. In order to eliminate this void, the mass of information is activated. (...) The increase in information and communication does not in itself bring light to the world. (...) The mass of information does not create truth. The more information is released, the more complex the world becomes. Hyper-information and hyper-communication are a light in the darkness cannot be." (Han, B; 2017).

Behind what appears to be a world of commodities and commodities lies an invisible social world that determines and governs the mutual relations of work. This invisible world comprises the relations of capitalist production and their real effects on society as a whole (Marx, 2015). The French philosopher Guy Debord, in his book "The Society of the Image" (2021), argues that modern society has become opaque through increased consumption and production of images, and that reality has been replaced by visual representations. Accordingly, people only relate to images instead of reality.

French philosopher Jean Baudrillard, in his work "Simulacra and Simulation" (2016), claims that reality has entered a period in which reality is now imitated by a model or copy. This leads to increased social opacity.

Linguist and thinker Noam Chomsky (2016) discusses how the media can affect social opacity. The media can have a particular point of view or ideology in conveying information, which can make it difficult for society to understand the facts.

German sociologist Ulrich Beck (2019) describes modern society as a "risk society", which he says is complex, opaque and full of unpredictable risks. These risks can obscure views on the future and governance of society.

The statements of these thinkers emphasize the complexity of the opaque society and the difficulty of understanding the realities. Each has addressed this issue in different contexts and from different theoretical perspectives.

Nowadays, the term 'opaque society' may continue to be used to refer to the complexity, uncertainty and difficulty of understanding the facts in different aspects of society. However, although the term is more often associated with capitalism and the functioning of the economic structure, it can be used in different contexts today.

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

Transparency and transparent society are terms that refer to a more open, honest and accessible

management of governance processes and social relations. These concepts are used with the aim of making the public sphere and governance more transparent and often aim to strengthen democratic values, accountability and participation. In particular, transparency is the process of making activities and decisions made by public institutions, governments, the private sector and other organizations easily understandable and traceable by interested parties and the general public. In this context, transparency is achieved by facilitating access to information, clearly defining decision-making processes and strengthening accountability mechanisms. It also aims to increase public trust by encouraging open communication and information sharing. A transparent society refers to a society in which public affairs and management are conducted in an open, fair and participatory manner. It describes an environment in which the public has access to full and accurate information on the activities, policy-making processes and resource utilization of government and other actors. A transparent society aims to strengthen democratic functioning, prevent corruption, increase accountability and promote public participation. Both concepts encourage a more transparent, transparent and inclusive approach to governance, while protecting democratic values and promoting societal development. These concepts are seen as important tools for ensuring transparency in governance and building public trust.

"'Opacity', on the other hand, is a term which is a variant of the word 'opaque', and the word 'opaque' is a French term of origin. The term "opaque" means "impervious to light, invisible, difficult to understand". The term "opacification" probably first came into use when the French term "opacification" was translated into English. The terms "opacification" and "opaque society" refer to situations in which governance processes or social relations are far from clear, understandable and transparent. These terms are often used to describe situations of information secrecy, inadequate accountability and a lack of transparent management of public resources. Opacification refers to a situation where an organization or process becomes less transparent by limiting access to information or concealing decision-making processes. This often occurs when governments or private sector organizations conceal their activities, financial transactions or policy-making processes from the public or interested parties, which weakens accountability, increases the risk of corruption and can undermine public trust. In addition, an opaque society refers to a society in which public institutions and governance are generally far from transparent. In such a society, decision-making processes and policy-making often take place behind closed doors and public access to information is restricted. This can make democratic public participation difficult, increase social discontent and foster the spread of corruption. Both terms are often used to refer to situations that do not support the principles of transparency,

democratic participation and accountability. These terms are important to emphasize why a more open and transparent approach to public administration, policy-making and social relations is important.

The concept of an opaque society refers to a society in which government and governance processes are not sufficiently transparent and information is limited or hidden from the public. In such societies, decision-making processes, policy formulation and implementation often take place behind closed doors. These societies are often characterized as environments where democratic participation is lacking and corruption and privileged relationships are rampant. In this context, the use of the term "opaque society" often describes situations where there is a lack of transparency in governance, information is withheld from the public, and public resources are poorly controlled. The concept can be used in political, social and economic contexts to critically reflect the state of society in terms of democratic functioning, accountability and fairness. Examples of an opaque society include governments not disclosing public expenditures, keeping decision-making processes away from the public, secrecy of public procurement, and restrictions on media freedom. Such situations can hinder democratic participation and accountability by making it difficult for the public to access information. On the other hand, the term "opaque society" is one of the conceptual tools of Marxist thinker and political scientist Karl Marx, who was influenced by the ideas of German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. The expression appears in Marx's "Das Kapital" and is used to understand and criticize the functioning of the bourgeois economy. Marx uses the concept of "opaque society" to express the difficulty of understanding the real relations that lie behind the phenomena seen on the surface of capitalist society. In capitalist society, the value of goods and their relations are often opacified in various ways in order to conceal exploitation between the working class and the owners of capital. This means that society in general has difficulty in understanding reality. Marx's concept of an "opaque society" emphasizes the difficulty for society in general to understand the realities because the relations and exploitation underlying capitalist society are often complex and difficult to understand. This concept must be understood within a general framework based on Marx's economic analysis and his theory of class conflict. The main points of Marx's concept of "opaque society" are the following:

Value and Exploitation: In capitalist society, the value and prices of goods are often

determined by profit-oriented production and market demands, rather than reflecting the value created by the working class. This makes the exploitation of the working class opaque.

Capital Relations: The fundamental relations underlying capitalist society the relations between the owners of capital and the working class are often presented as invisible or difficult to understand. This makes it difficult to understand the true nature of society.

Foreignization: Marx suggested that workers have become detached from the production process and its results and are therefore foreignized from their own labor and creativity. This foreignization can opacify the actual functioning of society.

Ideology: The opacifying effects of capitalist society are also linked to ideology and cultural elements. Ideology can perpetuate opacity by distorting and obscuring the true nature of society.

Although the term "opaque society" is associated with the work of the German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel and the Marxist thinker Karl Marx, it cannot be called a general theory or a specific theoretical framework, as the term is used more in the context of social observation and criticism. Thinkers such as Hegel and Marx focused on issues such as social change, class conflicts, state structures and economic relations and developed important theories in these areas. However, the term "opaque society" is more often used as a description and critique of a particular period or set of conditions. Hegel's use of the term "opaque society" emerged in the context of his criticism of political and social changes in Germany. Marx used a similar concept when analyzing the effects of capitalism and class conflicts. In general, the term "opaque society" is used as a description of a specific historical period or situation in the context of social observation and criticism, and functions more as a description or statement, not as a theory or theory based on a specific theoretical framework. It cannot therefore be called a general theory or theory.

The concept of "opaque society in sociology" refers to the complexity of meaning of society and the difficulty of understanding the facts. The use of this concept in the field of sociology

usually deals with topics such as the understanding of social relations and structures, the analysis of social inequalities, the impact of the media and social change. Research in this field is important for understanding the complexity of social relations and the difficulty of understanding the facts. In political science, the concept of "opaque society" is used to describe situations where governance processes and social relations do not comply with the principles of transparency, accountability and democratic participation. It refers to societies where public administration and political decision-making processes are characterized by secrecy, privileged relationships and information restrictions. In political science, the concept of "opaque society" and related research is of great importance to strengthen democratic functioning, promote accountability and support social development. This research helps to identify the steps that need to be taken to ensure transparency and accountability and contributes to reforming administration. Presently, research and studies from various disciplines are being conducted on the effects and causes of opaque society. In this context, efforts to understand the complexity of different aspects of society and efforts to raise awareness are important. The concept of "opaque society" has also been used in the field of political science and discussed in various studies. However, the use of this concept is often shaped by a particular context or theoretical approach. Some examples of the use of the concept of "opaque society" in political science studies around the world can be summarized as follows:

The concept of "opaque society" in Karl Marx's "Das Kapital", emphasizes the complexity of the capitalist economy and the difficulty of understanding the realities beneath the surface of relations of production. In Marxist political science studies, this concept has been an important tool for understanding and criticizing capitalist society.

Media and Communication Studies: Today, research on the social impact of the media emphasizes its capacity to opacify or manipulate reality. The media can influence the way we interpret political events and social realities.

Political Manipulation and Propaganda: When political leaders and groups manipulate society by distorting or misleading information, this is referred to as political manipulation and propaganda. In such studies, the concept of opaque society can be used to understand the efforts of political forces to influence and control public opinion.

Some examples of the use of the concept of "opaque society" in political science studies in Turkey can be summarized as follows:

The Relationship between Media and Politics: In Turkey, how the media reflects and interprets political events is a frequently debated topic. The media's political manipulation or opacification of information has played an important role in Turkey's political atmosphere.

Cultural and Ethnic Diversity: Turkey's cultural and ethnic diversity can lead to a clash of different views and perspectives. This can complicate the understanding of political decisions and events.

Political Parties and Ideologies: Turkey may have different narratives and perspectives under the influence of different political parties and ideologies. This can make it difficult for the public to understand political realities.

Public Opinion Surveys: Public opinion polls in Turkey are important tools for understanding the political views and attitudes of the public. However, the results of these surveys can be complicated by different survey methods or interpretations.

Historical Context and Memory: Turkey's complex historical past can lead to social opacity under the influence of different memories and understandings of history. These examples illustrate how the concept of "opaque society" can be used in political science and contribute to political analysis. The use of this concept can often differ depending on the specific context or research topic.

Some Distinctive Characteristics & The Effects of Opaque Societies

The concept of an "opaque society" is not a general term that can be applied to different societies and regions around the world. Each society has its own dynamics, historical and cultural contexts, and the causes and consequences of opacity can vary according to these contexts. To characterize a society as an "opaque society", it can be stated that there is a situation in which there is a difficulty in understanding the facts, usually based on an analysis of a particular issue or context. To assess the level of opacity of any society, it is necessary to take into account the economic, political, social and cultural structure of that society. In this context, economic inequalities, political manipulations, information pollution, cultural conflicts and other factors can affect the opacity level of a society. If one wants to use the term "opaque society" more specifically about a particular society or region, it is necessary to examine in more detail the specific characteristics and situation of that society. The concept of an opaque society is often addressed through reform efforts aimed at strengthening democratic processes and promoting public access to information. Reform efforts aimed at transforming the "opaque society" and increasing transparency can take various forms. They can include ways to increase democratic participation, strengthen accountability and make public administration more transparent. Some examples of these efforts include:

Public Information Access Laws: Governments can enact laws that provide wider access to public information. These laws encourage easier access to public information by citizens and the media.

Open Data Policies: Public institutions can share public data in an accessible way on the internet. This allows the public to have more information on the use of public resources, spending and policy processes.

Independent Audit Mechanisms: Independent audit mechanisms can be established to enhance accountability. These mechanisms oversee public spending, policy implementation and governance processes and ensure transparency.

Public Participation and Consultation Mechanisms: Mechanisms can be established to

encourage public participation in policy-making processes, budget planning and other public decisions. This helps citizens to express their views and makes governance more accountable.

Public Communication and Information: Public institutions can further engage the public in public affairs through regular information and communication activities aimed at the public. This ensures that the public is informed about public policies and governance activities.

Education and Awareness Campaigns: Training programs and campaigns can be organized to raise public awareness of the importance of transparency and accountability. These efforts encourage the public to be more aware and active on these issues.

These efforts are just a few steps towards transforming an opaque society and increasing transparency. As the needs of each country and society are different, such reform efforts can be applied in customized ways according to local conditions and needs.

Reform efforts aim to transform opaque societies and increase transparency in order to promote transparency, public trust and democratic values. Efforts aim to raise public awareness, increase participation and make governance processes more open and accountable. Transparency and accountability can address the weaknesses of an opaque society, prevent corruption and strengthen democratic values. In addition, it can encourage public institutions and governments to share their activities and decision-making processes in a more transparent manner. By facilitating access to information, this can help the public understand and influence public policies. Moreover, by strengthening accountability mechanisms, malpractices and corruption in governance can be better detected and prevented. Transparency and the transformation of an opaque society require the active participation of civil society organizations, the media and the public. These reform efforts can improve the overall well-being of society by reinforcing democratic values, increasing public trust and promoting social stability. Therefore, the transformation of opaque societies and the achievement of transparency play a critical role in the governance and development of modern societies.

In opaque societies, information is often controlled by a limited group or authority. Information that should be publicly available is often hidden or presented in a limited way. This can prevent

the wider society from fully understanding the facts. In such societies, important decisions may be made behind closed doors. Since decision-making processes are not transparent, it is difficult for the public to understand why and according to what criteria such decisions are made. On the other hand, unlike in transparent societies, in opaque societies public participation is often limited. The public is not effectively involved in policy-making or social issues. This can lead to weakened democratic processes and citizen distrust. In addition, media freedom is often suppressed in these societies. Independent media outlets may be censored or media outlets may be controlled by government and authority figures. The existence of opaque societies can therefore lead to a number of negative effects, which can be summarized as follows:

-*Distrust and Loss of Faith:* Opacity can increase feelings of distrust among the population. When citizens cannot understand the true intentions and actions of rulers or authority figures, they may lose faith.

-*Weakening of Democratic Values:* Opacity can undermine democratic values and participatory processes. In a society where citizens do not participate effectively, the functioning of democracy can be jeopardized.

-*Increased Opportunities for Corruption and Abuse:* Opaque societies can be a breeding ground for negative behaviors such as corruption and abuse of power. Lack of information can make it easier for those in power to serve their own interests

-*Damage to Social Cohesion and Solidarity:* Opacity undermines social cohesion and solidarity. Lack of understanding and cooperation between people can lead to the division and fragmentation of society.

THEORETICAL OVERVIEW

"The term 'opaque society' is associated with the work of the German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel and the Marxist thinker Karl Marx in particular, but it cannot be called

a general theory. The term is more commonly used within Marxist thought and in works such as "Das Kapital". However, there are a number of different theories and approaches that examine the complexity or opacity that makes social phenomena difficult to understand. In this context, some important theories that can contribute to the understanding of opaque society can be summarized as follows:

Symbolic Interactionism: Symbolic interactionism is a sociological theory that examines the meanings of individuals and their social interactions. This approach emphasizes the meaning and interpretation of social events. Understanding events and situations can sometimes be opaque because individuals assign different symbols and meanings.

Phenomenology: Phenomenology is a branch of philosophy that focuses on understanding and explaining the meaning of human experience. Social events and structures can be understood from different perspectives and through the experiences of the participants. However, this understanding can be difficult due to the presence of opacity.

Postmodernism: Postmodernism focuses on the multiplicity and ambiguity of truth and meaning. This approach emphasizes that social phenomena cannot be understood in a precise and fixed way. Postmodernism can address the implications of opacity for social analysis.

Science and Technology Studies: Science and technology studies examine the interaction of science, technology and society. Scientific and technological developments can often have complex and difficult to understand consequences for society.

Cultural Studies: Cultural studies addresses the meaning and impact of social phenomena by examining elements such as media, popular culture and symbolism. In this context, the complexity and opacity of social realities can be a point of emphasis.

These theories address the effects of opacity and complexity when trying to understand the meaning and impact of social events or structures. "While the concept of an 'opaque society'

does not belong to a particular theory, these theories can be useful for understanding ambiguous or elusive aspects of society.

In his work "The Society of the Image" (2021), French philosopher Guy Debord argues that modern society has become opaque through increased consumption and production of images, replacing reality with visual representations. Accordingly, people only relate to images instead of reality.

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The term 'opaque society' may continue to be used to refer to the complexity, uncertainty and difficulty of understanding the facts in different aspects of society today. However, although the term is more often associated with capitalism and the functioning of the economic structure, it can be used in different contexts nowadays.

The Concept of Transparency from a Theoretical Perspective

Transparency is the open and understandable presentation of information flows, decision-making processes and activities in a social or political system. In a transparent society, it may be easier for the public to trust administrators and decision-makers. In this context, Habermas' Theory of Communication Action can be given as an example of theories based on the concept of transparency. Jürgen Habermas (2019) explains the formation and functioning of the public sphere with his theory of communicative action. The public sphere is considered a space where people can freely exchange ideas and transparency nurtures communication in this space. Another example is Becker's Labeling Theory. Howard Becker (1963) examines the effects of labeling in social interaction on individuals' identity and behavior. This theory emphasizes the importance of transparency and clarity in social interaction.

The Concept of Opacity from a Theoretical Perspective

Opacity refers to the limited or complex flow of information in a society or political system. This may include situations where powerful groups control or conceal information and decision-making processes are not transparent. In this context, Niccolò Machiavelli's (2017) "The Prince" is an example of theories based on the concept of opacity. The book discusses the strategies of political leaders and rulers on how to maintain their power. These strategies can often involve opacity and manipulation. Another example is Foucault's The Relationship between Knowledge and Power. Michel Foucault (2000) examines how knowledge and power are interconnected. According to Foucault, power controls knowledge and this can increase the opacity of society.

CONCLUSION

Opaque societies can undermine democratic values and social cohesion because they lack transparency. To reduce the impact of such societies, transparency, accountability and public participation need to be promoted. By reducing opacity, societies can become more just, trustworthy and sustainable. When the media distort the facts or present misleading information in line with political or commercial interests, Rapid Change in Communication Technologies, Economic Interests and Cultural Differences can lead to increased social opacity. As a result,

social opacity can lead to insecurity, social injustice, scientific and technological decline, insufficient understanding of the facts and the spread of misleading information, resulting in individuals having incomplete or incorrect information, lack of understanding and communication problems between groups with different views, cultural and social conflicts, and weakening of democratic participation. The causes and consequences of opaque societies help us understand how a society functions. Transparent and open societies can offer more conducive environments for democracy, participation, innovation and justice. Therefore, reducing opacity and making society more transparent is important for sustainable development and social well-being. The findings of our study highlight the effects of transparency on society and politics, highlighting the challenges faced by opaque societies. It also concludes that promoting transparency will strengthen democratic functioning and support social development. In this context, the solution to opaque societies requires steps such as increased media literacy, education reforms, support for independent media and transparent governance. These measures can contribute to building a more transparent, fair and knowledge-based society.

LIMITATIONS

The research is limited to scientific researches that have been conducted worldwide and have been included in the literature.

NOTICES

ETHICAL STATEMENT

The publication ethics of Current Science; It is a nationally based scientific journal that aims to ensure that scientific research and publications are carried out in accordance with basic principles such as honesty, openness, objectivity, respect for the findings and creations of others,

and aims to realize these principles in the field of health sciences. Helsinki declaration criteria are taken into consideration.

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