

SUMMARY

The World Congresses as the Indicators of the Development of Political Science

By Ilkka Heiskanen

The author focuses on two problems: a) the functions of the large scale congresses for political science, and b) the stages of development of political science between the years 1952—1967 such as they are reflected in participation, programs and papers of the congresses arranged by the International Political Science Association.

As to the functions of the congresses the author pays attention to ritualistic and status creating functions of the large congresses. These functions seem often to be of equal or even greater importance than the assumed main function, i.e. the acceleration of scientific communication.

The author sets the development of political science into a broader historical perspective, and suggests that modern political science has been created by two main steps: the first step was taken as the behavioral approach broke away from the old traditional legal/philosophical study of politics and the other step was taken as political sociology (based on the old tradition from Hobbes, de Tocqueville, Marx) was revitalized and incorporated into the main body of political science research. Then the author proceeds to investigate in greater detail, what these two steps imply for logical basis, methods and subject matter of political science research.

Against the background of this broader historical development the author then analyzes the programs of IPSA congresses and indicates the more and less advanced areas of political science research. On the basis of this analysis the author predicts that no greater unification of political science research can be expected within next two decades, but new research areas will be opened and new theoretical approaches adopted.