

**YUGOSLAVIA AND THE POLICY PLANNING PROCESS:**  
**COMPARATIVE POLITICS' METHODOLOGIES TO THE RESCUE**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This paper is based on a fundamental assumption: the time and efforts spent to enhance our cumulative knowledge of political phenomena are wasted except when this cumulative knowledge is politically purposeful. This bias in favor of applied knowledge by political practitioners<sup>1</sup> will certainly displease many political scientists who have devoted their whole career to the development of abstract models and theories.<sup>2</sup> This bias results from the author's underlying belief that there is a large gap between the cumulative knowledge produced by political scientists and the applicability of this knowledge in the "real world" as defined by political practitioners.

2. While political scientists try to grasp a complex political reality and provide it with meaning through the conscious building of models, schemes or theories, political practitioners are struggling with a never ending agenda of topics upon which positions or courses of action - or, ironically, inaction - have to

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<sup>1</sup> The term applies here to elected politicians, their political advisors and the bureaucracy beneath them. Though in principle apolitical, the bureaucracy which interests us here operates on the world scene and as such its acts constitutes the essence of foreign policy study, a sub-subfield of political science. Its accountability to elected political masters does not denude the nature of state's acts - which is the essence of its work - of its political contents on the international scene. The reader is reminded that the context of our discussion is Canadian.

<sup>2</sup> Of course, the fact that, at times, pure abstract theory can provide understanding benefitting political practitioners cannot be denied.