

American Political Science Review. Especially noteworthy among the books are a number of selections such as: *Quantitative International Politics: Insight and Evidence* (1968), edited by J. David Singer; *Social Processes in International Relations* (1969), edited by Louis Kriesberg; *Approaches to Measurement in International Relations* (1969), edited by John Mueller; Part Five of the monumental and invaluable *International Politics and Foreign Policy* (1969), edited by James N. Rosenau; and *Méthodes quantitatives et intégration européenne* (1970), edited by Dusan Sidjanski.

Conflicting or complementary?

The development of this scientific approach met with strong opposition within the academic community from the proponents of the so-called classical approach — that is, those who reject measurement as being premature, partial or devoid of interest. *Contending Approaches to International Politics* (1969), a selection edited by Hans Knorr and James Rosenau, contains articles by various “scientific” and “classical” authors reproducing the current arguments of both schools. The classical argument, often rehashed, always focuses on the same themes: the scientific movement is characterized by its rejection of intuition and creative imagination, indifference to ethical problems, greater attention given to minor and trivial points added to the impossibility of tackling essential questions, the use of models or conceptual schemes removed from reality, the fetishism of measurement which only confirms what was already known and, lastly, the absence of links with history. Save on this last point, my experience has been that many diplomats share these views of the traditional academics.

Even though some dedicated quantifiers pay little heed to intuition, imagination and moral sense, such a reproach hardly applies to great masters of the scientific approach such as Karl Deutsch and J. David Singer, who have displayed a remarkable creative imagination and whose works clearly demonstrate their philosophical and ethical concerns. Far from overlooking the “great” issues dealt with by the classical authors, the scientific approach is designed to authenticate or invalidate the hypotheses they advance. There is thus a link of continuity between the two approaches, and even a complementary aspect. Indeed, the use of measuring techniques presupposes the existence of propositions set forth in the classical manner. But, whereas classical writers provide at most only a few histori-

cal examples in support of their as already founded them to comparison with a range of systematically collected data. For example, it is commonly stated that non-aggression pacts have seldom amounted to more than “scraps of paper”, and the German-Soviet pact of 1939 is given no supporting reference. However, the “depth” research conducted by J. David Singer and Melvin Small, in the framework of the correlates-of-war project, reveals among other things that between 1939 and 1945 the signers of such pacts actually remained neutral in 93 per cent of cases. Only a quantitative study could invalidate a false assertion of this kind based solely on enduring prejudice.

The use of models

Diplomats share the attitude of members of the classical school in rejecting models and most of them are even more distrustful than the latter in their bristling reaction to any model or conceptualizing. I claim to be concerned solely with reality. But in reality their presentation of models conforms to one of the two following formulas: they either line up general known facts whose interrelations are obscure, or they conceptualize without being aware of it and organize their facts into a model. I have had the opportunity to observe the latter approach — a logical one of the fiercest opponents of models among Canada's diplomats.

Now the model, paradigm or conceptual scheme is nothing more than an intellectual tool making it possible to organize facts that would otherwise be disordered. It is preferable to formulate one's scheme of thought clearly than to stay as close as possible to reality, the best way of maintaining this close contact would seem to consist in constructing models based on operational concepts.

The charge about measuring dissimilar phenomena or elements, of adding apples and oranges, is a familiar one. However, as J. David Singer observes, what harm is there in doing so if the unit of research? In other words, if the elements are sufficiently similar for low comparison, it seems obvious that cannot be exactly the same since there would otherwise be no point in comparing them! It should be noted also that statistical techniques allow the measurement of a greater number of factors than one imagines, for instance, by measuring by rank.

The objection against quantification on the ground that it can only confirm

Cannot reproach great masters of the approach for failure to pay heed to intuition, imagination and moral sense