



“SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIETY:” THE APPLICATION OF RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY IN INDONESIA AND TURKIYE

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Abstract

This paper examines how rational choice theory influences governmental decision-making and individual political participation in Indonesia compared to Turkiye. It analyzes the government's ban on nickel exports as a case study to illustrate the application of rational choice theory in policy-making. Employing qualitative research methods and a literature review approach, the study draws from a diverse array of scholarly sources, including academic journals, articles, news reports, and more. Additionally, it explores how this theory can explain voter behavior during elections. In summary, rational choice theory offers a valuable framework for understanding both governmental decision-making and individual political behavior in Indonesia. By considering rational calculations, incentives, and constraints, policymakers and scholars can better comprehend the dynamics of governance and democratic participation. This understanding can inform more effective policy-making and strategies to enhance political engagement among citizens.

Keyword : *Rational Choice Theory, Public Policy, Political Participation.*

Abstrak

Jurnal ini mengkaji bagaimana teori pilihan rasional mempengaruhi pengambilan keputusan pemerintah dan partisipasi politik individu di Indonesia dibandingkan dengan Turki. Laporan ini menganalisis larangan pemerintah terhadap ekspor nikel sebagai studi kasus untuk menggambarkan penerapan teori pilihan rasional dalam pengambilan kebijakan. Dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dan pendekatan tinjauan pustaka, penelitian ini diambil dari beragam sumber ilmiah, termasuk jurnal akademis, artikel, laporan berita, dan banyak lagi. Selain itu, teori ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana teori ini dapat menjelaskan perilaku pemilih selama pemilu. Singkatnya, teori pilihan rasional menawarkan kerangka berharga untuk memahami pengambilan keputusan pemerintah dan perilaku politik individu di Indonesia. Dengan mempertimbangkan perhitungan rasional, insentif, dan kendala, pembuat kebijakan dan akademisi dapat lebih memahami dinamika pemerintahan dan partisipasi demokratis. Pemahaman ini dapat memberikan masukan bagi pengambilan kebijakan dan strategi yang lebih efektif untuk meningkatkan keterlibatan politik di kalangan warga negara.

Kata Kunci: Teori Pilihan Rasional, Kebijakan Publik, Partisipasi Politik.

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of rationality fundamentally underpins human decision-making processes, shaping the actions undertaken by individuals. Over time, scholars have endeavored to elucidate the foundational principles of rationality, leading to the development of rational choice theory. This theory posits that human behavior, across various domains, is guided by the systematic patterns of individual decision-making (Johnson, 1988). Sometimes referred to as the theory of choice or rational action theory, it postulates that all actions stem from the choices made by individuals in diverse facets of life. Consequently, this framework serves as a lens through which to comprehend and design models of social and economic behavior in everyday life.

Central to the premises of rational choice theory is the assumption that all social behavior can be attributed to the actions of individuals, each making decisions autonomously across multiple dimensions. As such, the theory emphasizes the agency of individuals and is hence termed rational choice theory. This perspective underscores the significance of individual decision-making processes in shaping societal outcomes, ranging from economic transactions to social interactions.

Max Weber's classification of social action provides valuable insights into the various dimensions of human behavior, complementing the framework of rational choice theory. According to Weber, social actions are imbued with conscious considerations that inform their execution, thereby influencing the outcomes achieved. Weber delineates several classifications of actions, each shedding light on the rationality and motivations underlying human behavior (Johnson, 1988).

Firstly, Weber identifies instrumental rational action, wherein individuals make decisions based on a rational assessment of means and ends. Here, individuals exercise autonomy in selecting their goals, guided by rational calculations to achieve them efficiently (Coleman, 1990). This perspective aligns closely with the principles of rational choice theory, emphasizing the instrumental nature of decision-making and the pursuit of self-interest. Secondly, Weber highlights value-rational action, characterized by decisions rooted in deeply held values and ethical considerations. Individuals weigh their choices against moral standards and overarching principles, striving to align their actions with cherished ideals (Ritzer, 1996). This dimension adds depth to our understanding of decision-making processes, acknowledging the influence of personal values on behavior beyond mere utility

maximization. Thirdly, Weber introduces traditional action, wherein behavior is driven by ingrained customs or habitual practices rather than rational calculations (Johnson, 1988). This category underscores the importance of cultural and historical contexts in shaping human conduct, illustrating instances where rationality may be subordinate to tradition-bound norms. Lastly, Weber delineates affectual action, characterized by actions driven by emotions or feelings. While rational choice theory predominantly focuses on cognitive deliberations, Weber's classification acknowledges the role of affective states in shaping behavior, highlighting the multifaceted nature of human decision-making (Coleman, 1990).

Integrating Weber's classifications with rational choice theory enriches our understanding of decision-making processes, acknowledging the interplay of rational calculations, values, traditions, and emotions. In the context of analyzing governmental policy-making and individual political participation, these insights offer a nuanced perspective on the complexities of human behavior and decision-making in Indonesian society. By considering the diverse motivations and rationalities underpinning actions, scholars can develop more comprehensive models to explain and predict behaviors in governance and politics.

Fundamentally, every situation we encounter in the present and future presents us with choices that we perceive as the best course of action in life. In reality, humans are often confronted with various choices, as these decisions are inherently driven by individual interests. Subsequently, humans require action in response to the choices they have made. As described by Weber above, social action observes how individuals make rational choices in their lives, as these choices are based on a fundamental need (Johnson, 1988). Moreover, based on such fundamentals, such as religious processes, humans also make decisions to adhere to religions they deem rational, which occurs due to a rational mindset in daily life. Essentially, Rationality in selecting something within an action is a fundamental concept used by Weber in his classification of types of social actions (Coleman, 1990). Rational actions, according to Weber, involve consciously chosen considerations based on reality. Therefore, rationality here, according to Weber, means making sense in performing an action (Ritzer, 1996). Weber illustrates a rational action as someone buying a cheaply priced shirt rather than an expensive one, which is rational because

everyone naturally desires a lower price, and again, it's a choice (Johnson, 1988).

This statement reflects the essence of rational choice theory as elucidated by Weber. It emphasizes the centrality of rationality in human decision-making processes, highlighting how individuals weigh their options and make choices based on their perceived self-interests. By acknowledging the role of rationality in shaping behavior, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities inherent in human decision-making. Thus, integrating Weber's insights into the discourse on rational choice theory enriches our understanding of human behavior and decision-making processes across various domains of life.

Within this context, rational choice theory provides a theoretical framework for analyzing and predicting the behaviors of both governmental actors and individual citizens in the realm of public policy-making and political participation. By examining the rational calculations, incentives, and constraints that influence decision-making processes, scholars can gain valuable insights into the dynamics of governance and democratic citizenship. This paper seeks to explore the application of rational choice theory in understanding governmental policy-making and individual political participation, with a specific focus on Indonesia and Turkiye. Through this analysis, it aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the interplay between rational decision-making, governance, and democratic processes in contemporary societies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Rational choice theory emerges from the observation of societal behaviors and cognitive processes, wherein individuals make decisions based on rationality or cognitive frameworks. Coleman's contributions refine this theory by emphasizing the necessity for a precise conceptualization of rational actors, ensuring its relevance to real-world scenarios. While rooted in economics, rational choice theory also draws upon insights from sociology, reflecting its interdisciplinary nature. Coleman underscores the centrality of rational decision-making in individual choices, wherein actors are perceived to maximize utility or satisfy needs through conscious deliberation. This perspective integrates economic and sociological perspectives, enriching our understanding of decision-making processes (Coleman, 1990).

However, further elucidation on how Coleman's conceptualization of rational actors diverges from previous formulations and empirical evidence supporting claims about

rational decision-making in societal contexts would enhance the argument's robustness. In sum, this statement lays the groundwork for a comprehensive exploration of Coleman's contributions to rational choice theory, providing insights into its interdisciplinary nature and implications for understanding human behavior (Coleman, 1990). Coleman's studies catalyzed new policies, such as the acquisition of school buses to promote educational equality in the United States. His experiences in the American education system also led him to novel ideas about sociology: sociology should possess the capability to utilize quantitative methods to investigate both micro and macro social systems, without forsaking conventional methods (Ritzer, 2012).

Coleman asserted that one of the sociological theories focuses on social systems, where macro phenomena must be explained by internal factors, especially individual factors, as all rational decisions are based on the realistic mindset of an individual according to their circumstances (Coleman, 2013). Furthermore, the focus on individuals is driven by the intervention needed to create social change, as an individual's intervention is based on how social progress or change occurs within society. Therefore, the main idea from Coleman's perspective is that social theory should influence society through intervention, not merely as academic knowledge (Coleman, 2013). In addition to individual phenomena, there are several phenomena that serve as benchmarks for success, one of which is micro phenomena that can be the subject of analysis. Phenomena emerging at the systemic level, phenomena unintended or unpredicted by individuals, are considered sources of interaction among individuals, or phenomena of collective mindset aiming to achieve a common goal (Coleman, 2013).

It is important to note that Intervention carried out by an individual or two individuals, or even a country, is called intervention. Intervention is commonly carried out by the state through the formulation of public policies. Therefore, Intervention is expected to bring about social change, in the sense of promoting the common good. Furthermore, in a social system, individuals play a crucial role because essentially they determine whether a system functions or not. This is because essentially every individual is collected and aggregated, then organized to create a system, often occurring within an institution or country to achieve a goal. Therefore, rational choice theory becomes a highly significant theory for individuals, as its presence can provide individuals with a rationale for choosing

something based on reality or rational circumstances.

The fundamental concept of Coleman's rational choice theory is that individual actions lead to a goal and that these actions are determined by values or preferences, i.e., choices, meaning that all forms of individual actions are choices in accordance with reality to achieve a goal. Consequently, Coleman states that a precise notion of rational actors is required in order to ascertain clear goal points from their choices (Ritzer, n.d). This concept originates from economics, which views actors as selecting actions that maximize their utility and needs (Ritzer, 2012).

Furthermore, actors and resources are the two main components in Coleman's theory, where these two components cannot be separated in terms of rational thought processes. Actors and resources are two inseparable components of rational choice theory. Resources are things controlled by actors, and the existence of these resources leads to the formation of systems in society. Coleman further states that in social actions, at least two individuals are involved, each with desired or needed resources to fulfill their respective needs and desires in achieving a goal. Because of the desired resources from other actors, cooperation, interdependence, and the formation of systematic actions occur.

Therefore, rational choice theory considers the role of actors to be crucial in making rational choices that align with reality. Actors also have the power to determine the choices and actions they wish to undertake in all aspects. Hence, resources are where actors exert control and interest, yet actors also possess the ability to control them. Thus, the roles of actors and resources constitute two fundamental components in rational choice theory (Ritzer, 2012).

II. METHOD

This article employs a qualitative research methodology as the methodological foundation to obtain a holistic, systemic, and comprehensive analysis within the context of the Rational Choice concerning the dimensions of Public Policy also political participation. The qualitative research method places emphasis on the investigative and projection processes to examine the social phenomena under study (Hennink et al., 2020). Subsequently, this article adopts a literature review approach that curates a configuration of scholarly sources, including academic articles, books, news reports, and other relevant materials. In this regard, Pan (2016) explicates that there are several stages in the literature review process,

which have also been utilized in the composition of this article. These stages encompass (1) selecting the research topic, (2) accumulating and scrutinizing previous studies or research, (3) defining a specific research objective, (4) conducting structured interpretation and synthesis of the curated studies or research, and (5) composing the research report as the finalization stage.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

a. Rational Choice in Indonesia's Policy on Nickel Ore Export Ban

Indonesia implemented a policy banning the export of nickel ore in 2014 with the objective of maintaining sovereignty and control over natural resources, enhancing the value-added of nickel products, and optimizing the utilization of nickel wealth to improve societal welfare and strengthen the national economy (Farhani et al., 2019). This policy was also adopted to bolster Indonesia's bargaining position in global trade and demonstrate independence and courage in making decisions that would yield long-term benefits for the nation (Sangaji et al., 2020). From the perspective of rational choice theory, the policy of banning nickel ore exports is a result of ideological preference considerations, focusing on efforts to generate downstream nickel products processed domestically in Indonesia to subsequently enhance the value-added of nickel products in the international market, thereby contributing to the economic self-reliance of the nickel industry (Santoso et al., 2023). Additionally, the aim of this policy is to bolster Indonesia's bargaining position in international politics and global trade, particularly through nickel diplomacy.

Indonesia holds a strategic position in the nickel industry as the world's second-largest owner of nickel resources. Therefore, the nickel supply chain appears to be significantly impacted by Indonesia's policies (Sangaji et al., 2020). In 2019, the European Union (EU) filed a lawsuit against Indonesia at the World Trade Organization (WTO) regarding Indonesia's protectionist policy of banning nickel ore exports. The EU assessed that Indonesia's protectionist policy could lead to an increase in global nickel prices, which could harm the EU steel industry that relies on imports of raw nickel ore from Indonesia. According to the EU, this policy also violates the principles of free markets and could trigger a race of protectionist policies among other countries.

Indonesia responded to the EU's lawsuit by defending its protectionist policy and claiming that the policy aims to enhance the value-added of nickel products and protect limited natural resources. Indonesia also stated that they have granted extensions for foreign companies to build nickel processing facilities (smelters) in Indonesia since the implementation of the export ban in 2014 (Sangaji et al., 2020). Subsequently, the Indonesian government officially enforced a policy to ban the export of low-grade nickel ore below 1.7% since January 1, 2020, based on Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Regulation Number 11 of 2019 on Mineral and Coal Mining (Prakoso, et al., 2022). The implementation of the nickel ore export ban by Indonesia has sparked debates on protectionist policies and international trade, as well as their impacts on domestic industry and natural resources. As a country with the largest nickel reserves in the world, this policy is one of Indonesia's efforts to manage its natural resources and enhance the value-added of nickel products domestically (Andy, 2022). However, this policy also has significant impacts on the international steel industry and raises questions about fairness and balance in international trade. In November 2022, the WTO made a decision supporting the EU, stating that Indonesia's protectionist policy violates international trade agreements and unfairly benefits EU steel producers. The WTO called on Indonesia to repeal the policy and reopen the market for raw nickel ore exports (Davies, 2022). It provides a balanced overview of Indonesia's stance on the issue, acknowledging both the rationale behind the policy and the criticisms and challenges it faces from international entities like the EU and WTO.

The policy of banning nickel ore exports in Indonesia can be analyzed through the lens of rational choice theory. Rational choice theory posits that individuals or actors make decisions based on rational calculations aimed at maximizing their utility or benefits. In the case of Indonesia's nickel export ban, the government's decision can be seen as a rational response to various economic, political, and social considerations. The rational choice theory, as viewed from Coleman's perspective, advocates for the active intervention of social theory in shaping societal dynamics, rather than remaining solely as theoretical knowledge. This perspective emphasizes the need for deliberate actions and interventions to influence social phenomena and achieve desired outcomes (Satz et al., 2023).

In the case of Indonesia's nickel ore export ban, the government's decision reflects a form of

intervention driven by rational choice theory. By implementing the ban, Indonesia seeks to exert control over its natural resources, enhance domestic economic value, and assert its position in global trade. This intervention aligns with Coleman's notion that social theory should not merely be a passive observation but should actively guide policy interventions to bring about desired changes in society. Furthermore, Coleman's perspective underscores the importance of considering both individual and systemic phenomena in assessing the success of interventions (Satz et al., 2023).

In the context of the nickel ban, the policy addresses individual actors, such as government officials and mining companies, who are affected by the ban. Simultaneously, it aims to influence broader systemic dynamics, such as trade relations and economic development, by reshaping the nickel industry's structure and value chain within Indonesia. The concept of intervention, whether undertaken by individuals, groups, or states, resonates with Coleman's idea of deliberate action to influence social outcomes. In the case of the nickel ban, the Indonesian government's intervention through policy formulation exemplifies the application of rational choice theory in addressing societal challenges and pursuing national interests.

b. Comparison of Elections in Turkiye and Indonesia through the Application of Rational Choice Theory

Fundamentally, the underlying concept of Coleman's rational choice theory is that individual actions are directed towards a goal and that these actions are determined by values, preferences, or choices, meaning that every action taken by an individual is a choice based on reality to achieve a goal, with the consciousness of the individual. In rational choice theory, there is relevance to various perspectives, including political participation (Saraswati, 2020). Political participation involves a series of activities related to involvement in political life, which constitutes social action and rational choice by humans (Saraswati, 2020). In the political realm, an individual's participation in politics is generally recognized in activities related to, among other things, but in reality, political participation takes various forms (Saraswati, 2020).

Furthermore, in political participation, especially in general elections, there is an element that influences it, where there are actors and resources at play, which fall within the context of rational choice theory. Actors are the agents of political action influenced by certain goals,

considerations, and motivations, thus influencing their constituents' attitudes in choosing political actors. Then, resources are the potentials possessed by an individual or actor that play a significant role in political contests or general elections. General elections essentially occur in countries with democratic systems, such as Indonesia and Turkiye, which have presidential democratic political systems, where in the political contest, there is a presidential general election system.

In comparing the elections of Turkey and Indonesia through the lens of Rational Choice Theory, several compelling reasons arise for this comparative analysis. Firstly, both Turkey and Indonesia operate under a presidential system, providing a foundational similarity that allows for a coherent examination of electoral behaviors and outcomes. Despite this shared governance structure, the two countries exhibit distinct political landscapes, socio-cultural contexts, and historical backgrounds. These differences offer a rich contrast that can highlight how rational choice theory operates in varying environments. Moreover, both nations have experienced significant political transitions and democratization processes, making them ideal case studies for understanding how institutional and individual choices shape electoral dynamics.

Turkiye has an extraordinary historical footprint, having been home to kingdoms such as Byzantium, Rome, and the Ottoman Dynasty. However, after a political transition, Turkiye transformed into a modern state by implementing a presidential system, initiated by the founder of modern Turkiye, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Mustafa Kemal became president after the shift in power identity from the Ottoman Dynasty to the Republic of Turkiye, and to this day, Turkiye has adopted a parliamentary system since 1923. Additionally, Turkiye has firmly established the Presidential Threshold as a requirement for presidential candidacy. Furthermore, Turkiye's governance system shifted to a Presidential one in 2017 from a Parliamentary form, also adopting a multi-party system. The mechanism of general elections in Turkiye is regulated in Articles 77 for legislative elections and 101 for presidential elections in the Turkish Constitution. The implementation of the Presidential Threshold in Turkiye is also regulated in Article 101 of the Turkish Constitution. In Indonesia, the presidential election mechanism follows the electoral process involving various political parties, as it operates under a multi-party system, as stipulated in Laws No. 23 of 2003, No. 42 of

2008, and No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections (Pamungkas, 2009).

General elections in Turkiye and Indonesia are not only significant political activities but also subjects of in-depth analysis when viewed through the lens of rational choice theory. This theory, which originally developed in the field of economics and later applied in political science, assumes that individuals act based on rational calculations to choose options they believe will maximize their personal gains, considering all the information and preferences they possess. In the context of general elections, rational choice theory helps us understand how and why voters make certain decisions when they are in the voting booth. To apply this theory in analyzing elections in Turkiye and Indonesia, we first need to understand the structure of the electoral systems in both countries. Turkiye, for example, implements a simultaneous parliamentary and presidential election system, which may influence party strategies and voter choices. Meanwhile, Indonesia uses separate legislative and presidential election systems, each with its own strategic dynamics.

General elections in Turkiye and Indonesia are two interesting cases that can be examined through the lens of rational choice theory, a theory in economics and political science that considers individuals to act based on rational calculations to maximize their personal gains. This theory takes into account how individuals make decisions based on the available information and their preferences. To analyze general elections in these two countries, we need to delve deeper into several aspects: first, the structure of the Electoral System. The structure of the electoral systems in these two countries differs and provides different contexts for voters' rational choices. In Indonesia, the legislative electoral system uses a proportional representation method with an open list, while in Turkiye, the system is proportional representation with a closed list. This difference affects how voters evaluate the candidates, where Indonesian voters have more freedom to choose specific individuals on the party lists, while Turkish voters vote for the party as a whole without being able to select specific individuals. Rational behavior in this system will vary depending on the extent of individual influence in influencing election outcomes. On the other hand, someone who can vote certainly considers how one will choose an actor, therefore the electoral system has a significant influence on the election.

Furthermore, Voter Behavior: In rational choice theory, voter behavior is considered the result of a calculation of benefits versus costs. For

example, voters may choose candidates or parties that offer policies most advantageous to their personal or group interests. In Indonesia, where ethnicity and regional identity often play significant roles, voters may be more inclined to choose candidates who are ethnically or geographically close to them if they are deemed to benefit their region or group. Meanwhile, in Turkiye, with a more dominant party system, choices may be more based on party ideology or programs. Third, Political and Economic Contexts: Political and economic contexts also play crucial roles in shaping voters' rational choices. For instance, if the economy is in poor condition, voters may be more inclined to choose candidates or parties promising economic change or reform. In Indonesia and Turkiye, economic conditions such as unemployment and inflation rates, as well as political scandals or political stability, can significantly influence how voters assess the benefits of choosing one candidate over another. Through this analysis, we can understand that general elections in Turkiye and Indonesia, despite being in different contexts, can still be analyzed through the principles of rational choice theory. This illustrates how voters, in each system, adopt different rational strategies based on electoral structures, available options, and broader political and economic dynamics. On the other hand, an individual in choosing a presidential candidate or leader is certainly based on a rational choice according to each individual, so this rational choice theory is highly relevant in political systems, especially in general elections.

Criticism of rational choice theory highlights several weaknesses that detractors argue limit its applicability and explanatory power. Ritzer, for instance, identifies three main shortcomings in Coleman's rational choice theory. Firstly, he contends that the theory prioritizes the micro over the macro, thereby neglecting other potential relationships (Ritzer, 2012). Secondly, Ritzer argues that issues pertaining to the micro and macro levels are often overlooked, leading to a unidirectional focus that disregards dialectical relationships among macro-micro phenomena (Ritzer, 2012).

Moreover, Tilly criticizes the theory for its lack of explicit causal mechanisms, incomplete reductionism, and its tendency towards generalized rational choice analyses (Ritzer, 2004). Over time, rational choice theory has been accused of leading social scientists into a conceptual dead-end and falling victim to individual reductionism. Researchers have also found the theory inadequate, and it has faced substantial critique from proponents of alternative sociological perspectives (Ritzer, 2004). Critics like Blau suggest that sociology should prioritize macro-level phenomena, implying that individual behavior, as addressed in rational choice theory, lies beyond the realm of sociology (Ritzer, 2004). Additionally, rational choice theory has been faulted for its ambitious aims to supplant other theoretical perspectives entirely. Smelser, for instance, suggests that rational choice theory has declined due to internal evolution or in response to external criticism (Rahmawati, 2015). These criticisms underscore the need for a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of social phenomena, one that considers both individual agency and structural constraints within a broader sociological framework. (Rahmawati, 2015).

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, rational choice theory underscores the pivotal role of individual actors in making decisions that align with their perceived realities. Originating from the foundational assumption that all social behavior stems from individual actions, the theory emphasizes the

centrality of individual choices across various contexts. James S. Coleman, a notable figure in the development of this theory, asserted that societal phenomena, including macro-level dynamics, can be understood through the lens of individual decision-making processes. He contended that individuals, driven by their preferences and values, navigate towards goals in a rational manner, thereby necessitating a clear understanding of rational actors' decision-making calculus. Coleman's framework highlights the significance of actors and resources as fundamental components in rational choice theory. Actors possess agency and autonomy in selecting courses of action, while resources serve as the means through which actors exercise control. By acknowledging the agency of individuals and the influence of their choices, rational choice theory provides insights into various social phenomena and policy outcomes.

Furthermore, the theory's implications extend beyond the realm of academia, influencing practical interventions and policy formulations. For instance, the Indonesian government's implementation of a nickel ban in 2014 serves as a compelling case study demonstrating the application of rational choice theory in policy-making. This policy aimed to assert sovereignty over natural resources, enhance domestic value-added production, and strengthen Indonesia's position in global trade. By analyzing the decision-making processes of policymakers and the incentives driving their choices, rational choice theory offers valuable insights into the motivations behind such policy interventions.

Moreover, rational choice theory sheds light on individual behavior in the realm of political participation, particularly during elections. Individuals weigh the costs and benefits of participating in electoral processes based on their perceived interests and preferences. Rational actors may engage in voting or other forms of political participation if they believe their actions can influence outcomes or advance their interests. This perspective underscores the importance of understanding individual motivations and incentives in shaping political behavior.

In essence, rational choice theory offers a nuanced understanding of human behavior and decision-making processes. By recognizing the rationality behind individual choices and the interplay between actors and resources, the theory provides valuable insights into complex social dynamics and informs policy-making endeavors aimed at promoting societal welfare and progress.

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