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**BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS MODEL:**

 Unlike **the rational actor model**, which looks at **the state as a unitary actor**, the bureaucratic politics model analyzes decisions on the premise that actions are taken by a number of independent, **competing entities within a particular state**. Each of these separate entities brings values to **the decision-making process**, as well as its own view of what’s best for personal, organizational and national interests. **Each party attempts to satisfy its goals, meaning any collective action is contingent upon successful negotiations and the arrival at an ultimate consensus between all entities.**

 A number of factors can influence each party’s decision making and how it achieves its goals, such as **the relative power and degree of influence of each other actor in the group**. Each party has opposing viewpoints and desired outcomes related to an array of issues, and success in achieving certain goals may require other parties to make certain **concessions**, resulting in **decisions that are often seen as more beneficial to one side than the others.** Additional factors that impact decision making include **the degrees of importance of certain goals and the political values each party represents**. The increasingly partisan nature of **U.S. politics** provides an excellent example of this model in action.

The bureaucratic politics approach is often touted **as an explanation as to why states sometimes act irrationally**. However, some argue the model doesn’t account enough for highly concentrated power held by certain entities, such as the executive branch in U.S. governance. It is also seen as very U.S.-centric and difficult to apply in the context of other styles of government.

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