

### **Post-behaviouralism:**

During the late 1950s and early 1960s a spate of political incidents and movements rocked the US politics, such as, the assassination of President Kennedy, the protests against the Vietnam War, rising discontents with unemployment and racial discrimination in public policies, the emergence of radical feminism and so on. The behaviouralists could neither predict about this turmoil nor offer any useful solutions to these burning issues. There was a growing discontent with behaviouralism as an approach to political analysis.

In this scenario **David Easton** in his presidential address to the American Political Science Association in 1969 clearly stated the limitations of behaviouralism and offered seven fundamental theoretical elements of a new method of political analysis that he called as '*Post-behaviouralism*'.

### **Basic Features:**

1. Behaviouralism had failed to help the basic understanding of political life, so Post-behaviouralism should focus on the substance rather than the techniques.
2. Behaviouralism had conceived of the ideology of an 'empirical conservatism' tempered by modest implementational changes – that should be rejected.
3. Behaviouralism was bound to loose touch with the political reality for its superficial methodology, so Post-behaviouralism should try reach out to the needs of the mankind at a time of crisis.
4. Values are indispensable parts of the study of politics. So Political Science can never be evaluatingly neutral. In Post-behaviouralism facts and values should be fused together.
5. The historical role of the intellectuals must be to protect the human values of the civilization.
6. To know is to bear responsibility for acting and to act is to engage in reshaping the society.
7. Intellectuals and their organizations should be involved in active politics; they can not stand apart from the struggle of the day. So, the thrust was given on relevance and action.

### **Critical Appreciation:**

The critics said that the post-behaviouralism was less a separate kind of approach than that of behaviouralism, rather it was a mere effort for the revival of the later. However the emphasis on the values and concern for the real political issues made it more relevant and effective.