participation in the political process.

The governmental structure of new nations is often weak. In many developing nations, dictatorships and military regimes emerge to replace weak governments. These authoritarian regimes, lacking an effective, responsive civil service, have problems with governmental administration.

In many developing nations, the bureaucracy tends to favor one group over others. In rural or agriculturally oriented nations, local leadership tends to be traditionally oriented. Development of a capable, modern civil service is difficult under these conditions.

In most developing nations, there are powerful organizations outside the formal structure of government. These groups usually reflect interest based on kinship, class, ethnic, religious, or regional factors and perform functions similar to those of political parties.

Formally established political parties often exist to exercise only roles acceptable to the government. While they put a stamp of "legitimation" on the government, their status and objectives frequently depend upon the will of the governing authority.

The leadership experience and tradition in a developing nation are often authoritarian. For this reason, when appointing key government officials, the leadership often places personal loyalties before individual capabilities. Under these circumstances most decisions, even those of minor importance, are often made only at the highest level of government.

Authoritarian decisions may conflict with, or even violate, the recognized law of the land. Any such decision, regardless of its wisdom and intent, may cause a reaction which undermines the "legitimacy" of the government. It also may provide a cause which opposition elements may try to use against the government.

The following political factors are common to many developing nations:

■ Geographical barriers have caused population groupings with little contact between the groups and lack of national governmental authority in the remote areas.

■ The stability of the political system often depends upon a single key political leader.

■ There is reluctance to delegate authority to the various departments and agencies of government.

■ A distinct elite class or ethnic group often controls the government.

■ Instability may result from conflict between ethnic groups, interest groups, economic groups, other groups such as students or bureaucrats, or some combination of these groups.

■ Government is characterized by an inadequate civil service and an inadequate political organization.