

ALL PPT PDF

**POLITICAL THEORY**

1<sup>ST</sup> SEM, CBCS SYALLBUS

What is Political ?  
and  
Political Theory  
राजनीति ऐवम् राजनीतिक सिधांत

इस टॉपिक पर कैसे लिखे उत्तर ?

DU, SOL, IGNOU BA HONS. POLITICAL SCIENCE GUIDE

# POLITICAL THEORY AND ITS DIFFERENT APPROACHS

**TWO** question every year

2017 : 1.What is Theory? How can we theorise the political?

2.Differentiate between the Normative and Empirical approaches to political theory.

2016 : 1. What is political Theory? Differentiate between the Normative and Empirical approaches to political theory.

2. Examine the relationship between power and politics. Do you think, approaches to studying power help us in understanding politics? Give Reasons.

2015 : 1.What is Politics? How do various approaches to studying power help us in understanding politics?

2. Differentiate between the Normative and Empirical approaches to political theory.

# Politics: institution and activities aimed at securing good life for the community

- Is what concerns the **state** : denotes organisations where rules are made and decisions are taken for society as a whole
- As the conduct of **public life**
  - Public vs private
  - Political vs personal
- As debate and conciliation
  - Politics as compromise and consensus
  - Means of achieving conflict in public affair
- Distribution of power and resources : authoritative allocation of value
  - politics as power
  - Ability to achieve desired outcome by whatever means
- **Political** : something related to polity or politics

# Political Theory

- Coherent set of prepositions having some explanatory principles on a class of political phenomenon
- Systematic efforts to understand, describe and explain how decision are taken in society and how some individuals, groups, or people are excluded from such decision making
- A proposition explaining systematically of a body of empirical data, usually presented as reliable knowledge
- Features
  - Systematic reflection with conceptual structure
  - Explanatory, descriptive, interpretive, and evaluative
  - Rational structure
  - Certain level of generality- autonomous of time & space constraints
  - Aspiration to achieve truth and objectivity
  - Unearth underlying assumptions and presuppositions
  - Not speculative- backed by observations and empirical data
  - Inter-disciplinary

# Political Theory : Scope

- Word dependent systematic reflection on
  - Collective power to take decisions for good life of community
  - Mechanism by which one group exercises over another
    - Use of state by a group
  - State as use of collective power
  - Values on which public life is conducted

# Significance of Political Theory

- Help understand and find solutions of ills of social life
- Enable us to critically analyse social issues and finding their solution by social reconstruction
- Help to reconcile agreed meaning of key words used in describing social life
- Functions : Description, criticism, reconstruction

# Political theory vs political thought, philosophy, cosmology, and ideology

- **Political thought** : systematic reflection on political phenomenon in the context of time and space in which it was propounded
- **Political philosophy** : grand reflection as a means to search objective truth
- **Cosmology** : Non theoretical reflections guided by beliefs and traditional cultures are cosmologies ; highly contextual and local
- **Ideologies:**
  - Belief and ideas stemmed from theories but lacking logical component and hardly connected to reason.
  - Ideologies have strategic connection to reason but reasons short circuited.
  - Ideologies cannot be falsified



# How to write essay type answers on Political Theory?

## Sample question: what is political? What is political theory?

- **Introduction**

- Introduce the concept of 'political'- institutions and activities in public sphere, collective decision making- and political theory- coherent set of prepositions having some explanatory principles on a class of political phenomenon

- **Body** : substance of the answer

- explain the different meaning of political
- List and explain different definition of political theory and its main features
- Differentiate political theory from political philosophy, ideologies, political thought, and cosmology

- **Conclusion**

- Paraphrase introduction
- State your final view and concluding remarks – **changing nature of 'political'**- issue of power, power relationship in different arena- family, community, civil society, subordinations/domination, exclusion/inclusion, have/have not and **approach to its theorizing** – from normative to scientific empirical and then to synthesis

# References: you also should refer

- Political Theory : An Introduction by Bhargava & Acharya
- An Introduction to Political Theory : by O.P. Gauba
- Politics by Andrew Heywood
- Recommended reading list of DU Political Theory syllabus
- Materials available on WWW and you tube videos

Thanks for watching

GOOD LUCK !

# **What is 'politics'**

## **How to Identify 'politics'**

**At work place, in school/college, classroom, and in  
Family**

# For whom this discussion?

- For those who have started studying 'politics' in a structured way- first year students of Political Science in Universities
- For those who completed their studies of 'politics' but still want to revisit to the eternal question- what 'politics' is ?
- And for those who neither study nor practice 'politics' but face 'politics' everyday, everywhere- in office, on playground, on coffee shop, and ....yes...IN FAMILY

# What I shall be Arguing in this Video?

- That sure shot way to identify 'politics' is to find interplay of **INTEREST** and **POWER**

# ‘politics’ vs ‘Politics’ vs ‘Political’

- **‘politics’**: activities and practices of doing politics
- **‘Politics’** : Academic study of ‘politics’
- **Political**: Phenomenon, process, activities related to ‘politics’- adjective
- **Political Science**: studying, observing, analyzing political phenomenon and processes to build testable ‘theory’ and ‘hypothesis’

# So what is ‘politics’?: Conventional Meanings

- **Is what concerns the state** and its institutions
  - Authoritative allocation of values- David Easton
  - Party Politics
  - Art of running government- Governance
- Politics as **conflict resolution and conciliation**
- Politics as **Conflict**
- **As social and Public Activities**
  - activity through which people make, preserve and amend the general rules under which they live –Heywood
  - the activity through which human beings attempt to improve their lives and create the Good society- Aristotle
  - always a dialogue, and never a monologue
  - Public vs Private ; Political vs Personal



# Politics as interplay of **‘Interest’** and **‘Power’** : Interest Maximization by using Power



# INTEREST AND POWER

- Interest
  - Feelings or attitude
  - Attitude shared by group of people
  - Claims or demands
  - Desire or wants
- Power
  - Power as Influence
  - Power as agenda setting
  - Power as shaping thought, ideas, and manufacturing consent

# Political vs Economic vs Religious Man

- **Political Man** : Maximization of **Interest** using **Power**
- Economic Man : Maximization of Satisfaction/**utility** using **money**
- Religious man: maximization of inner **peace** using **spirituality**

# ‘politics’ is every where

- *politics is at the heart of all collective social activity, formal and informal, public and private, in all human groups, institutions and societies’. Adrian Leftwich*
- Politics in office, school & colleges, class room, playground, bus, coffee shop, public places- parks, and in family...yes
- Politics in family- who gets what?

Hence, wherever you find  
interplay of 'Interest' and 'power'

You find 'politics' there...

# References

- **Politics by Andrew Heywood**
- Accessed online : [https://www.macmillanihe.com/resources/sample-chapters/9781352005455\\_sample.pdf](https://www.macmillanihe.com/resources/sample-chapters/9781352005455_sample.pdf)
- **The Concept of Interest in Political Theory by Theodore M. Benditt**
  - Accessed online Jstor: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/191108?seq=1>
- **What is politics?**
  - OpenLearn : <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/what-politics/content-section-2.3>

THANKS FOR WATCHING!

PLZ POST YOUR QUERIES THROUGH COMMENTS!

**Email: [dupolschelp2018@gmail.com](mailto:dupolschelp2018@gmail.com)**

GOOD LUCK !

# **POWER AND POLITICS**

## **How Understanding of Power help understand politics?**

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SCIENCE EXAM HELP**



# Past year's questions

- 1.What is Politics? How do various approaches to studying power help us in understanding politics?
- Examine the relationship between power and politics. Do you think, approaches to studying power help us in understanding politics? Give Reasons.
- Do you think politics is study of power? What are the numerous dimensions of power?
- Steven Lukes three dimensional approach to the study of power?
- Notes: Gramsci's idea of hegemony; Robert Dahl on power?
- Explain why power is essentially an contested concept?

# Power: an integral aspect of politics

- In all the meanings of “politics” power is the underlying theme
- institution and activities aimed at securing good life for the community
- Politics : Conduct of public life, debate and conciliation, collective decision making, authoritative allocation of values

The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of depth and movement. A large, solid green oval is positioned in the center, containing the text. A dark gray, curved shape is visible behind the green oval on the left side.

**POWER: ESSENTIALLY  
CONTESTED CONCEPT**



## Robert Dahl : Power as Dominance

A has power over B to the extent that A can get B to do something which B would not have done otherwise



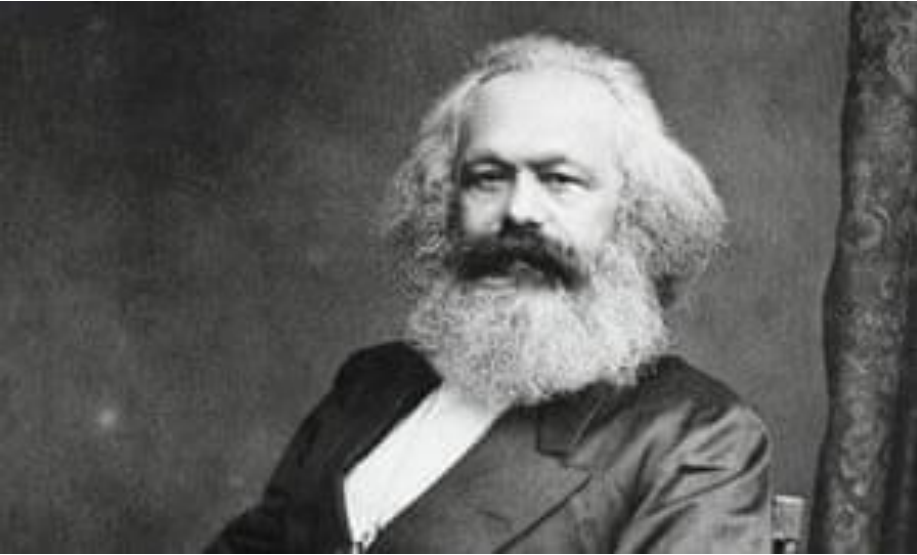
## Talcott Parsons : power is like money

- Power is to political as money is to economy
- Possession of power secures political obligations
- Like money, power also circulates in society



## Steven Lukes : 3 facets of power

- Power as domination in decision making arena
- Power as Agenda Setting
- Power as structural arrangement in which perceptions of people are shaped to perpetuate domination without any observable conflict



## **Marxist view : Power as class domination**

- Power as exploitation
- Class as source of power
- Dominant vs dependent class



## Feminist view : power as domination of women by men

- Men draw power from system of Patriarchy
- Power manifests into sexual violence, lower values attached to feminine attributes and labour, norms and social practices





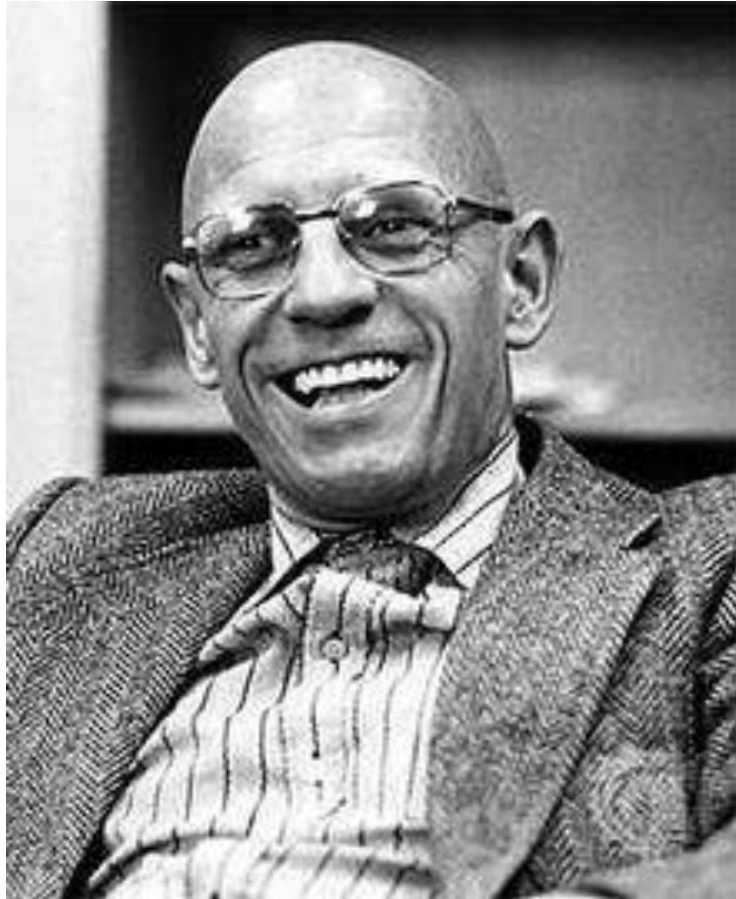
## **Antonio Gramsci : Power as Cultural Hegemony**

- Dominant class manufacturing consent through controlling the prevailing ideas, norms, value, belief system, religion, and various social practices
- Hegemonic values are perpetuated by mass media, public opinion, norms for public discourses, and institutions formed by the dominant class to maintain their hegemony



## C.B. Machpherson : Extractive vs Developmental Power

- Extractive power
  - Power over, power to get other do something
- Developmental Power
  - Ability to fulfils one's own self-appointed goals
  - Creative freedom



## Foucault : power as subjection through governable identities

- Power emanating from multiple sources- like capillary
- Mechanism of governmentality produces identity – controlling by naming
- Normalisation- individual are made to conform to dominant norm
- Mechanism of governmentality dispersed- school, university, medicine, biology, psychiatry, legal, sports systems, etc



Power and violence are opposites; where the one rules absolutely, the other is absent. Violence appears where power is in jeopardy, but left to its own course it ends in power's disappearance.

(Hannah Arendt)

Power "with" vs power to

izquotes.com

**HANNAH ARENDT**

Power as creating action in group by communication to realise public realm

Power "with" vs power to or power over

# How understanding power help understand the ‘political’

- Power as influence, domination- politics as collective decision making
- 3 facets of power, cultural hegemony : politics as consent manufacturing and its sustenance
- Marxist view on power: politics as class struggle
- Feminist view on power: expanding the scope of political
- Power as collective action: Politics as collective action, participatory democracy
- Power as governable identities: politics as manifestation of power of normalisation

# RE-CAPUTUALTE

- Power is essentially contested concept
- From simple meaning- of getting other to do something- to most complex meaning – power as collective action to keep public realm in existence
- 3 Dimensions of power- Lukes
- Power as class domination: Marxist view
- Power as male domination: Feminist view
- Power as cultural Hegemony : Gramsci
- Power as normalisation and governable identity to subjects: Foucault
- Extractive Vs Developmental Power: Machperson

**Ans template: Examine the relationship between power and politics. Do you think, approaches to studying power help us in understanding politics? Give Reasons**

- **Introduction**

- Introduce the centrality of notion of power in politics, how power is essentially contest concept, and understanding different meaning of power help understand the different aspect of the political.

- **Body** : substance of the answer

- Explain different ways in which power has been understood by political thinkers
- Explain how understanding different concepts of power help understand different dimensions of politics
- **Analyse/Discuss** : power is central to the idea of politics, various approaches to study power help us understand political processes, mechanisms of collective decision making, hidden aspects of consent and many other nuances of politics.

- **Conclusion**

- Paraphrase introduction
- State your final view and concluding remarks – despite power being an essentially contested concept, understanding various approaches to its study by different political thinkers broaden our understanding of the scope and processes of the politics.

THANK YOU!

GOOD LUCK !



# Normative Vs Empirical Political Theory

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# **DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THEORISING THE POLITICAL**

2017 : Differentiate between the Normative and Empirical approaches to political theory.

2016 : What is political Theory? Differentiate between the Normative and Empirical approaches to political theory.

2015 : Differentiate between the Normative and Empirical approaches to political theory.

# Political Theory

- Coherent set of prepositions having some explanatory principles on a class of political phenomenon
- Systematic efforts to understand, describe and explain how decision are taken in society and how some individuals, groups, or people are excluded from such decision making
- A proposition explaining systematically of a body of empirical data, usually presented as reliable knowledge
- Features
  - Systematic reflection with conceptual structure
  - Explanatory, descriptive, interpretive, and evaluative
  - Rational structure
  - Certain level of generality- autonomous of time & space constraints
  - Aspiration to achieve truth and objectivity
  - Unearth underlying assumptions and presuppositions
  - Not speculative- backed by observations and empirical data
  - Inter-disciplinary

# Normative approach

- Application of moral notions in the sphere of political relations
- Concerned with basic moral question that affect political life
- Political theorising of a prescriptive or recommendatory type
- Seeks to determine and prescribe value
- Concerned with what “ought to be” as opposed to “what is”
- Bring out normative import of concepts embedded in ‘political’ and subject them to detailed critical reasoning
- Key methods : abstract logic, social-scientific, and historical evidence
- Tends to prescribe a particular solution as dictated by a sense of duty or by commitment to a moral principle or idea

# Normative approach: methods

- Scrutinizes existing political arrangements and prescribe possible alternative arrangements
- Substantive question: issue of distributive justice and its implication for individual freedom and liberty
- Foundational, issue of moral philosophy- rationally objective basis to morality, is morality a human artefacts, the product of convention or community traditions?
- 3 approaches to normative theory: **utilitarianism**, **deontological** liberalism, **communitarianism**
- **Methods:**
  - Internal consistency of moral arguments
  - Formal logic and analytic philosophy
  - Social anthropology and history: to check empirical premises
  - Abstract reasoning
  - Measuring conclusion against their own moral intuitions

# Pros and cons of Normative approach

## **Advantages**

- Set standard of conduct in public sphere
- Value mediates between both prescriptive and descriptive accounts of politics
- Value orientation guides political theorists

## **Criticism**

- Propositions are not empirically verifiable
- Idealistic, utopic
- A priori knowledge of good or bad
- Not based on observations, sense experienced facts
- True only in the context of values, norms of time/place of theorising

# Empirical Approach

- Seeks to discover and describe facts- as it is -of political life
- Behavioural approach: scientific observation of behaviour of different actors in political situation
- Logical Positivism: only statements verifiable through empirical observation are meaningful.
- Concerned with situation which can be observed by our sense experience and verifiable by repeated observations
- Largely descriptive
- Focus on quantitative analysis: facts, data, observations
- Adopts methods common to natural sciences

# Pros and cons of empirical approach

## **Advantages**

- Scientific orientation to the enterprise of theorising
- Broaden the horizon of political theory
- Made 'political' more dynamic

## **Criticism**

- Value neutrality is impossible
- Extracting values, ethics from study of political behaviour stagnate society
- Maintain status Quo
- Couldn't frame credible theories to solve political crisis
- Obsession with hard facts & data made theory lose its generality



# Normative Vs Empirical Political Theory

## Normative approach

- **Prescriptive**- ought to
- **Evaluative** – value oriented
- Morality & **Ethics**
- Less emphasis on observations and data
- Institutional, formal, legal
- Dominated by Philosophy and history
- **interpretative** and **qualitative**
- Aim to **improve** conduct of public life

## Empirical Approach

- **Descriptive** – As it is
- **Value neutral, realistic**
- Backed by observations, empirical data
- informal process of politics and **quantitative**
- Developed and tested by **modern scientific methods, Inter-disciplinary**
- Subject to **testability** and falsifiability
- Aim to understand the **human behaviour** in public life

# Demise and rise of Political Theory

- Post world war II, rising clamour for scientific theory questioned the validity of normative theories
- Logical positivism and Behaviouralism gained momentum
- However, since 1970s empirical wave waned.
- Political thinkers started questioning overemphasis on data, observations, quantifications, and value neutrality
- Essentialities of values, ethics, and norms in managing public sphere was highlighted
- Judicious synthesis of empiricism and normativism was stressed upon



**Michael Oakeshott** : "On Being Conservative" ; *On Human Conduct*

David Hume (1711-76): unconditional political obligation



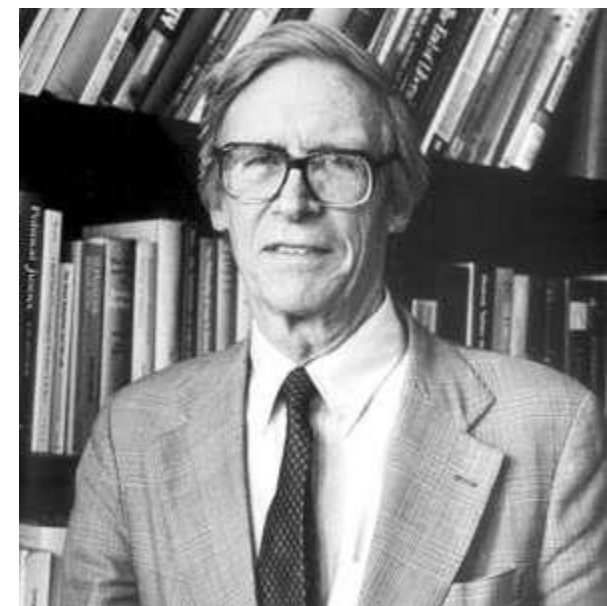
## Thinkers of conservative trend

Edmund Burke: 1729-97: organic view of society



Hannah Arendt

John Rawls



# Other thinkers of Normative traditions

- Liberalarians:
  - Robert Nozick: minimal state maintaining law & order
  - Hayak: state distribution of income violates equality & liberty
- Communitarians:
  - Ronald Dworkin: human beings deserve to be treated with equal concern and respect
  - Alan Gewirth: meliorative supportive state to ensure freedom & well being
  - Michael Sandel: 'situated self'- embedded in community and implicated in the purpose and ends of the community
  - McIntyre
  - Michael Walzer: sphere of justice ( different spheres of distributive justice)
- Utilitarianism:
  - Bentham : greatest happiness of greatest number
  - Mills : hierarchy of pleasures; liberty; moral ground to utilitarianism



**David Easton:** *The Decline of Modern Political Theory, The Political System. An Inquiry into the State of Political Science*

## Thinkers who supported empiricism

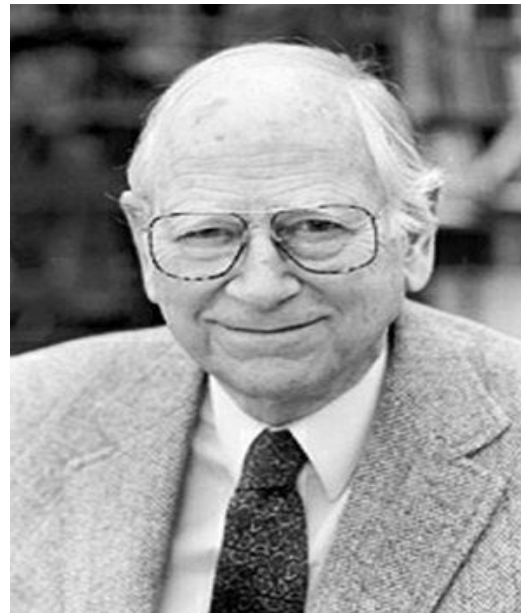


**Peter Laslett:** declared that 'political philosophy is dead'

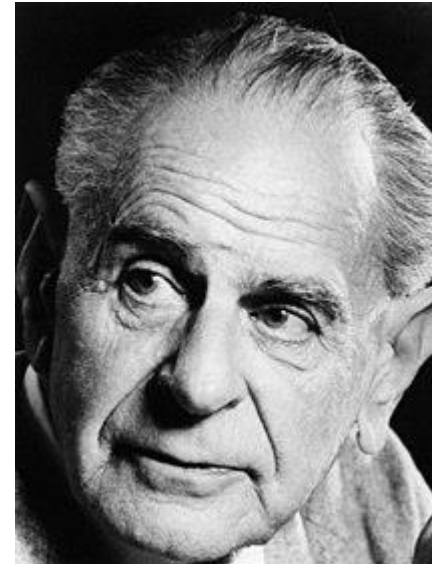
**Karl Popper :**  
scientific theory



**Seymour Lipset:** Political Man : the social bases of politics



**Robert Dahl**



# **Ans template:** Differentiate between the Normative and Empirical approaches to political theory

- **Introduction**

- Introduce the two primary approaches to theorising the political – normative and empirical. Just mention about the conflict between two approaches; demise and rise of normative theory and synthesis between normativism and empiricism

- **Body** : substance of the answer

- explain normative and empirical approaches; their methods, features
- Bring about the differences between them
- **Analyse/Discuss** : how differences were over emphasised by some modern political thinkers, how later on many rebutted those differences ( mentions names on both views); how the balance was restored between value and fact in theorising political.

- **Conclusion**

- Paraphrase introduction
- State your final view and concluding remarks – percolation of scientific temper in all sphere intellectual pursuit led to delineation of sharp differences between classical normative and modern empirical approaches to theorising of the political. However, soon the balance was restored and synthesis and integration of both approaches are now enriching the enterprise of theory building.

THANK YOU!

GOOD LUCK !

# LIBERALISM

**Classical Vs. Modern**



# Individual vs Collective

Difference points	Individualism	Collectivism
Primacy to	Individual autonomy and agency	Society, state and structures and institutions
Political Ideology	Liberalism, Conservatism	Communitarianism, collectivism, Marxism-Communism, socialism
Economic ideology	Capitalism- free market	Socialism-social control of production
Rights	Primacy to right to equality, freedom, life, property	Primacy to socio-economic justice
Property rights	Inviolable	distributive justice
Liberty and freedom	Negative –freedom from	Positive- freedom to
Political Thinkers	<b>John Locke</b> , Adam Smith, Thomas Paine, <b>.S.Mills</b> <b>John Rawls, Neo-liberalists:</b> Friedrich Hayak, Milton Friedman, Robert Nozick	Plato, Marx, Friedrich Engels, chartists- John Goodwyn, Robert Owen, Gandhiji, Lohiyaji

# Core values

- Individual autonomy
- Moral Primacy of individual against claims of any social collectivity
- Rights of liberty, life, property are natural, inviolable, and antecedent
- Egalitarian : equal worth, equal rights
- Universalism : moral unity of human being
- Meliorist : social institution and political arrangements can be improved

# Classical vs modern liberalism

Difference points	Classical liberalism	Modern liberalism
Role of state	Minimal- state necessary evil	Welfare state
Diversity	Universal unity of human	Accepts multi-culturalism, group rights, identity
Property rights	Inviolable	Accepts distributive justice
Liberty and freedom	Negative –freedom from	Positive- freedom to
Political Thinkers	<b>John Locke</b> - natural rights Adam Smith, Thomas Paine  <b>Neo-liberalists</b> : Friedrich Hayak, Milton Friedman, Robert Nozick	<b>J.S.Mills</b> - on liberty, <b>John Rawls</b> - theory of justice <b>T.H.Green</b> : Welfare state Hobhouse, J.Laski, R.H. Tawany

# References: you also should refer

- Political Theory : An Introduction by Bhargava & Acharya
- An Introduction to Political Theory : by O.P. Gauba
- Recommended reading list of DU Political Theory syllabus
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You may ping me at  
DUPOLSCHELP@GMAIL.COM

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# CONSERVATISM

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HELP**

# What is Conservatism?

---

A pragmatic political philosophy respecting established ideas, institutions, social orders, and traditions resisting radical changes in them

---

Political views that favours free enterprise, private ownership, and socially conservative ideas

# Core themes of conservative ideology

- Imperfect Human nature
  - State required for social order
- Preserving ideas, institutions and tradition
  - Only gradual and calibrated change
- Organic society
- Pragmatism
  - Anti grand ideologies
  - historically inherited rather than the abstract and ideal
  - Truth lies in concrete experience than moral preposition
- Hierarchy, order, and authority
- Property rights



# Conservatism vs Classical Liberalism

## Conservatism

- Evil, fickle nature of individual
- State required for social order
- Community is superior than individuals, rights emanates from duty
- Inequality, social differentiation
- Preserving ideas, institutions and tradition
- Rejects ideologies, moral propositions
- Prudence, prejudice, habit, experience better guide to decision

## Classical Liberalism

- Virtuous nature of individual
- State necessary evil
- Individuals are autonomous, precedence of individual rights over society
- Egalitarian, equality
- Change towards betterment of idea, institutions
- Believes in grand ideologies, moral propositions
- reason, abstraction, logic, metaphysics guide to decision



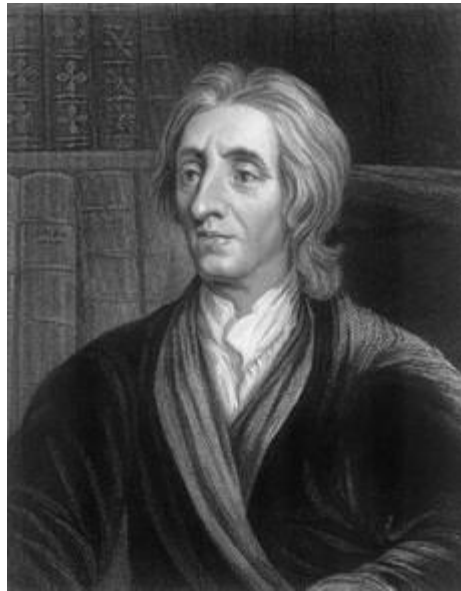
**Michael Oakeshott(1901-90)** : “ to prefer the familiar to the unknown, to prefer the tried to the untried, fact to mystery, the actual to the possible, the limited to the unbounded, the near to the distant, the sufficient to the superabundant, the convenient to the perfect, present laughter to Utopian bliss”.

David Hume (1711-76): unconditional political obligation

## Thinkers of conservative trend

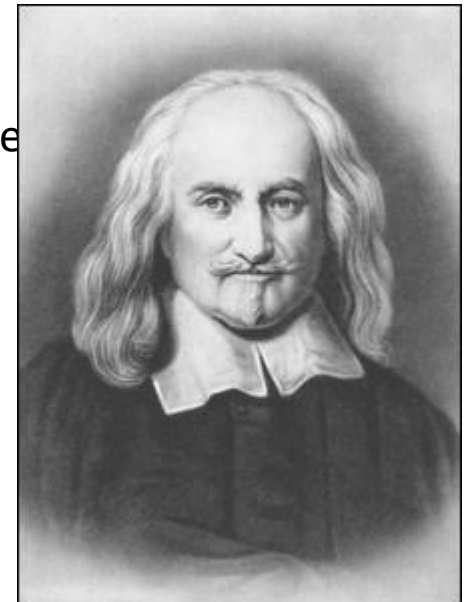


Edmund **Burke**:1729-97: organic view of society



John **Locke**(1632–1704) : rights are bound by social duties and responsibilities.

**Hobbs**(1588-1679): *Leviathan*: state required to maintain social order



THANKS FOR WATCHING!

GOOD LUCK !

# **Marxist Approach to 'politics'**

**Core Thoughts and Critical Analysis**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE EXAM HELP**

# **PAST YEAR'S QUESTIONS**

2018. Notes: Hegemony

2017. Describe the Marxist concept of Alienation and its relevance in the contemporary world.

Notes: Hegemony

2016. Evaluate fundamental Principles of Marxism

# Marxism: Core Thoughts

- **Dialectical and Historical Materialism**

- Materialistic conception of History: Changes in economic base (mode and relations of production) of society brings about changes socio-political-cultural superstructure- historical progression
- History as Perpetual class struggle- exploited vs exploiter; change in mode of production changes the class characteristics- master/slave, lord/serf, capitalist/labour

- **Exploitative nature of capitalism**

- Minority capitalist class owns means and forces of production, majority labour class sell their labour
- Profit, which is nothing but surplus value of labour, is taken away by capitalist, living labour at subsistence level
- Capitalist class dictate the superstructure, their ideas/worldview becomes mainstream, thus status quo is maintained

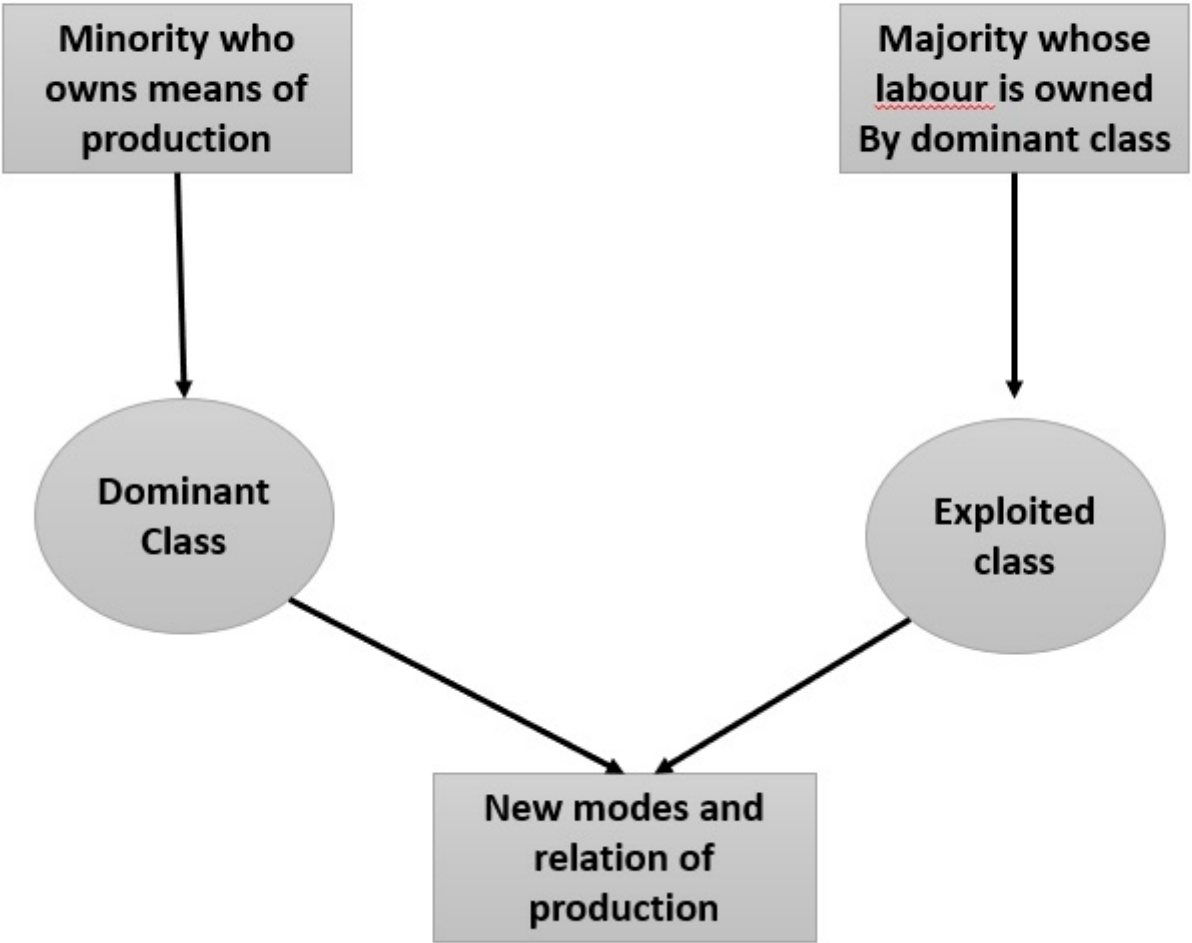
- **Prediction of communist society as next phase of Historical progression:**

- Capitalist system will force the majority exploited class to revolt and bring about socialism and finally communism
- Communism: no private property, no wage-labour, class less society – from each according to his ability, to each according to his need'

- **Theory of Alienation:** Labour, by selling his labour loses ownership and control on his produce, lose meaning of the production process, feels like cog in the wheel and hence gets alienated from his product, from his work place, fellow workers, and from himself..

# Dialectical and Historical Materialism

## MARX DIALECTICAL HISTORICAL MATERIALISM



Hegel's Dialectic  
through the process

Marx turned up  
Historical materialism

Marx : Human consciousness

Ancient time : Materialism

**Proletariat** : class whose surplus labor is exploited

**Bourgeoisie** : Don't own labour of proletariat

new ideas generated

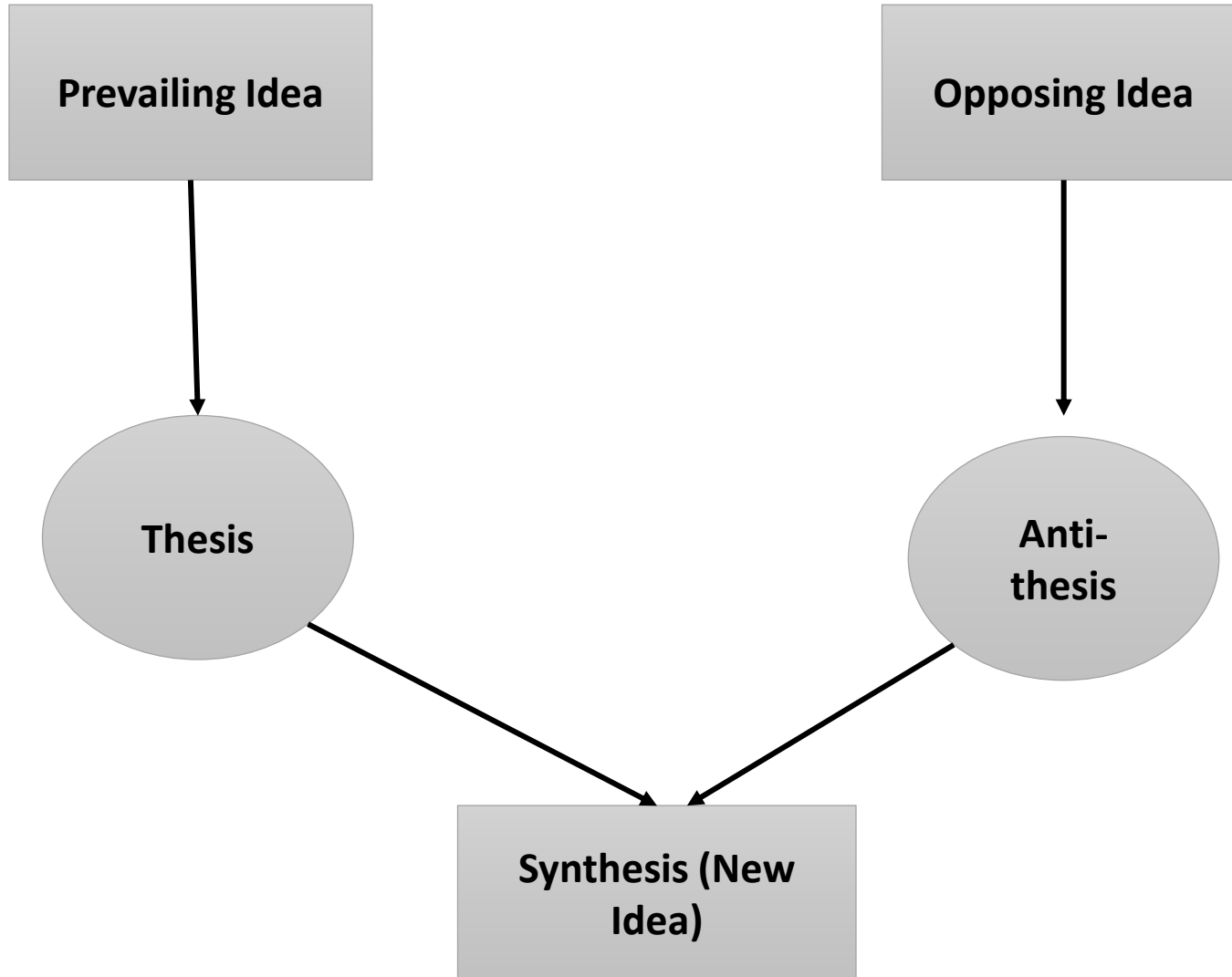
Dialectical and

**proletariat**

exploits the surplus

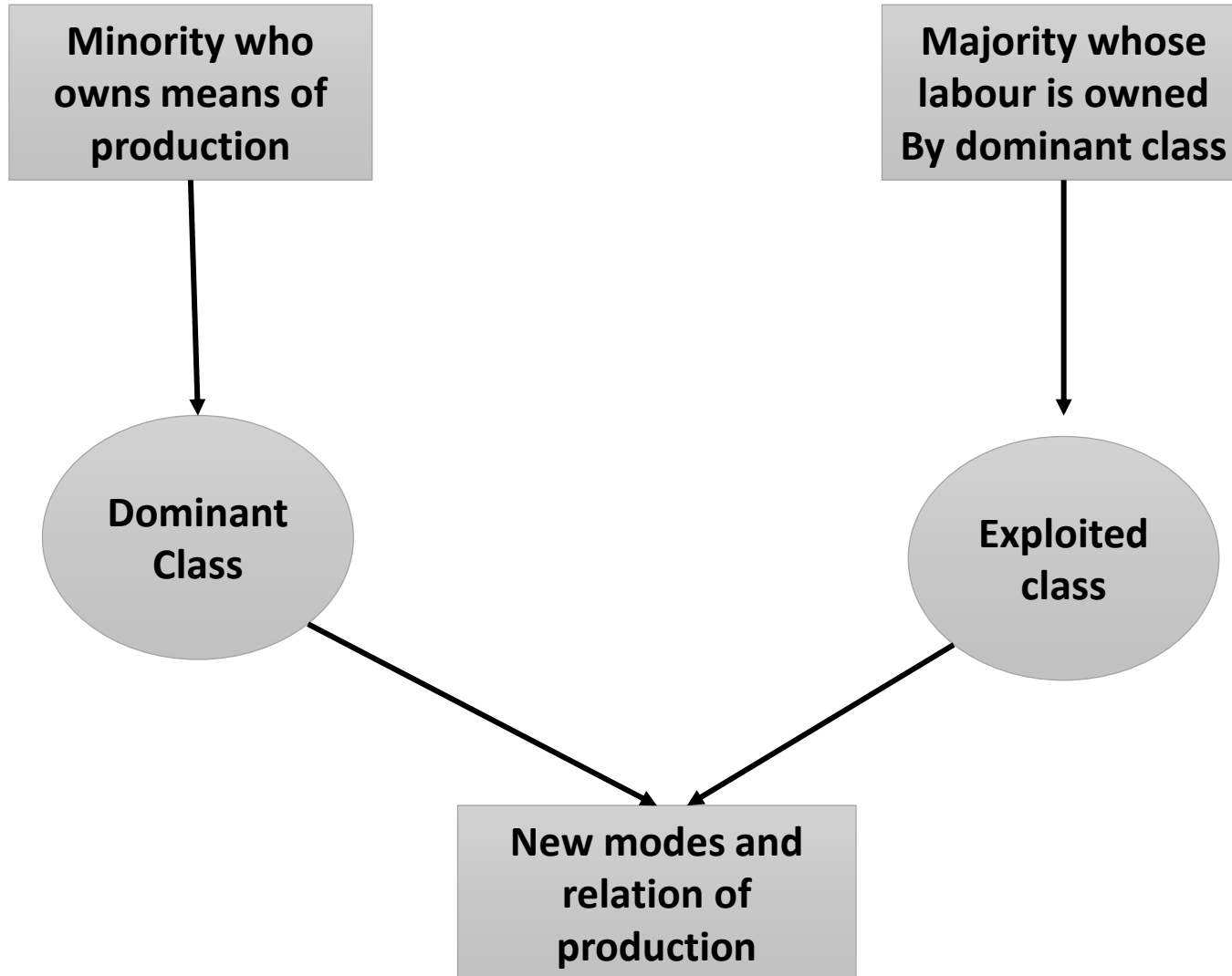
exploits the surplus

# HEGEL'S DIELECTICAL HISTORICAL IDEALISM





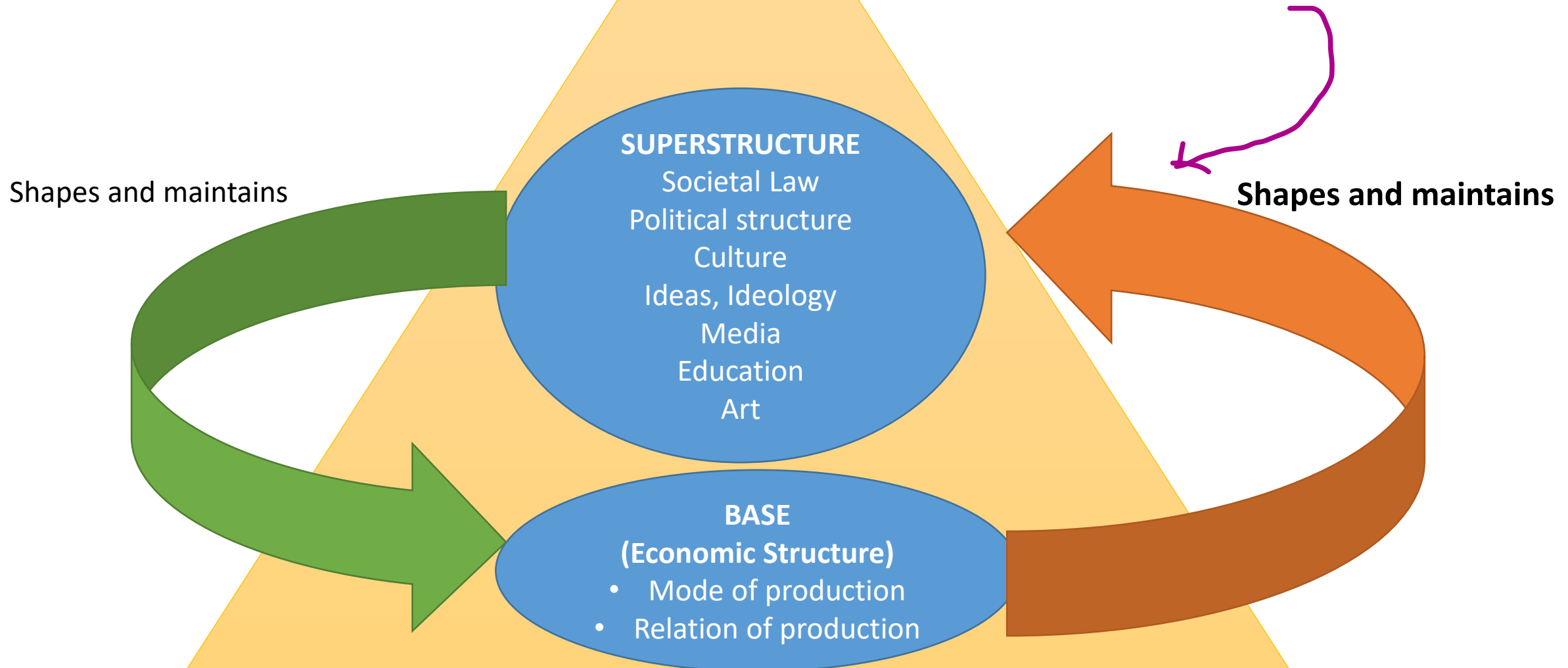
# MARX DIELECTICAL HISTORICAL MATERIALISM



# Base and Superstructure: Marxist View of Societal structure

**Idealism** : people's thoughts( superstructure) shape the material world around them.

**Marx View** : superstructure grows out of the base and reflects and protects the ruling class' interests



# Profit : Surplus Value of Labour

- A capitalist hire a labour to produce chair
- Means of production: Wood, nails, glue, tools, some money(working capital), land(space), and **labour**
- **Suppose total value of means of production(except labour)= 1000 Rs**
- Labour makes 4 chairs in 8 hours ; capitalist sell each chair for 1000 Rs ; he pays labour 800 Rs. For 8 hours
- Surplus labour value=  $4000 - 1000 - 800 = 2200$  is the profit



# Exploitation of labour class in capitalist system

- Except Labour, all other means of production are passive, they do not add any value to the finished product.
- The capital is nothing but accumulated surplus labour from past production process
- Capitalist class pay to labour just enough to survive, keep family, produce labour- subsistence wage
- Thus, without any coercion/force capitalist class takes away the labour value from the labourer/working class
- But who purchases the products of capitalist system? How can labour purchase from its meager wages? What challenges does it poses to capitalism?

# Alienation in Capitalist System

- In pre-capitalist mode of production, producer owned and controlled the produce; dominant class used to take away his produce by force/violence
- By selling his labour, the producer(worker) loses control and ownership of his produce
- Because of division of labour, mass assembly line production labour loses sense of his contribution to the final product
- Thus, labour gets alienated from his product, his work & workplace, his labour, from his fellow workers, from and from his self
- Alienation causes powerlessness, meaninglessness, isolation, normlessness, and detachment from one's own nature, feelings, or activities
- Creates social problems of facelessness, loss of identity, self esteem, crime & violence

# Gramsci's concept of Hegemony

- Built on Antonio Gramsci's concept of 'Hegemony' in his 'Prison Notebook'(1971)
- Hegemony- 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension of power –manufactured consent- moral, political, cultural values/ideas of dominant class accepted as their own or 'common sense' by subordinate/exploited class
- Superstructure : political and civil society
  - Political society: Govt., courts, Police, Army ;
  - Civil Society- school, churches, club, journals, media
- Hegemony is created and maintained by both political society which uses force/coercion, and civil society which manufacture consent by network of institutions- media, educational system, church/religious discourses, etc.
- Through Hegemony, dominant class controls superstructure- socio-political-legal system
- Hegemony manifest in making moral, political cultural values/ideas- dress, food, entertainment, Leisure, worldview, etc of dominate class as mainstream and those of exploited class as 'other' and 'peripheral'

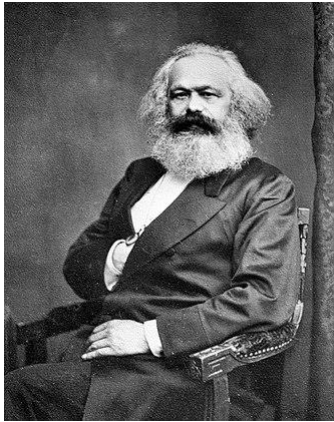
# Pros and Cons of Marxist Approach

## Pluses

- Raises fundamental issue of unequal and exploitative world order from class perspective
- Clearly and coherently brings out contradictions & challenges of capitalism
- Very forceful and potent arguments
- Emancipatory and Transformative
- Provide vision to make world more equitable, harmonious, and less exploitative

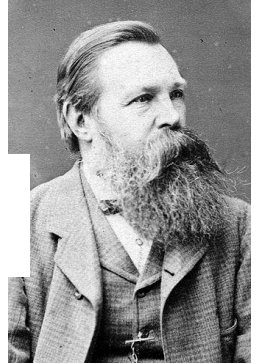
## Minuses

- Economic determinism: excessive focus on Economic aspects
- Undermined other identities- race, Gender, caste, disability, sexuality
- Fragmentation: multiple strand- couldn't develop unified explanatory theory
- Eurocentric : left out Asia/Africa- terming them derogatory- Asiatic mode of production
- Clearly Diagnoses the problems of capitalist system but fails to provide credible alternative ; Utopic approach: very hard to realize



**Karl Marx** (1818 – 1883) was a German [philosopher](#), [economist](#), [sociologist](#), [political theorist](#), and [journalist](#). Arguably the greatest social scientist of 19<sup>th</sup> Century.. ***Das Capital (1867), The Communist Manifesto(1848)***

**Friedrich Engels** (1820 – 1895) was a German [philosopher](#), [sociologist](#), [political theorist](#), and [journalist](#). Best friend and bedrock of support to Marx...



## Main Contributors



- **Lenin:**
- Revolution led by **vanguard** party,
- democratic **centralism**,
- Imperialism as height of capitalism,
- worldwide network of revolutionary activities- **Comintern**



### Mao Zedong:

- communism in **rural** societies,
- rejecting elitism, thought reform, **indoctrination**,
- **state** as **supreme** educator,
- communalism, social experimentation,
- militant **nationalism**



# References

- An Introduction to Political Theory : by O.P. Gauba
- Recommended reading list of DU Political Theory syllabus
- Materials available on WWW and you tube videos
- JSTOR article : **Alienation and Working Class Consciousness** Surendra Munshi in *Economic and Political Weekly*
- Accessed online : <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4367871?seq=1>
- JSTOR article : **Gramsci and the Theory of Hegemony** Thomas R. Bates in *Journal of the History of Ideas*
- Accessed online: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2708933?seq=1>
- Wikipedia article: Theory of Alienation: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marx%27s\\_theory\\_of\\_alienation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marx%27s_theory_of_alienation)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Base\\_and\\_superstructure#Antonio\\_Gramsci](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Base_and_superstructure#Antonio_Gramsci)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich\\_Engels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Engels)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl\\_Marx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Marx)
- <https://thefablesoup.wordpress.com/2017/12/14/gramscis-concept-of-hegemony-and-its-relation-to-marxist-theory/>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-base-and-superstructure-3026372>

THANKS FOR WATCHING!

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GOOD WISHES !

# Post-modernism

इस टॉपिक पर कैसे लिखे उत्तर ?

**DU, SOL, IGNOU BA HONS. POLITICAL SCIENCE EXAM  
HELP**

# What is Post- modernism?

---

A worldview characterized by reaction to established norms, values, and belief of modernism or age of enlightenment; mainly the belief that truth doesn't exist in any objective sense but is created rather than discovered.

---

Such body of thoughts affected the perspectives of historical , cultural, and linguistic studies, art, architecture, anthropology, and political science.

# Core Themes

- a radical reappraisal of modern assumptions about culture, identity, history, or language
- No objective truth
  - Truth is subjective, created, and contextual
- Reject the possibility of universal, normative and ethical judgments
- Question binary and hierarchy of idea, belief, value system
- written texts do not convey objective meaning or notion of truth
  - Texts as "sites of conflict" within a given culture or worldview
- **tolerance–diversity–choice**

# Factors which spurred post-modernism

- Two world wars
- New scientific theories challenging classical Newtonian mechanics
- Globalised Information Society led by ICT revolution
- Anti-colonial, feminist, and indigenous people's movements

# Modernism vs Post Modernism

## Modernism

- Universal and objective truth
- Truth discovered
- Rational, reason, scientific
- Facts derived from logic and observations
- Absolute doctrine
- Objective, analytical, theoretical

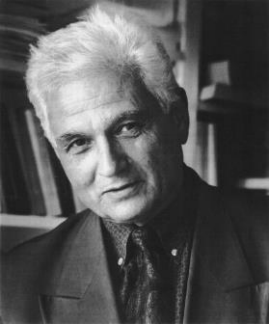
## Post modernism

- No universal and objective truth
  - Only plurality of perspective
- Question rationality, science
- Truth created
- Facts created by assumptions
- diversity of doctrine- distrust of grand theories/ideologies
- Subjective, anarchical, experimental

# Criticism

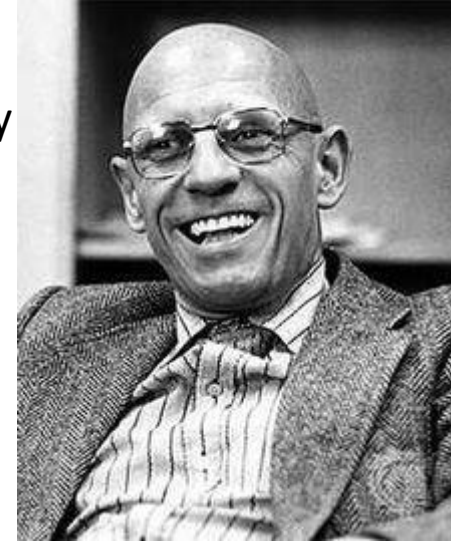
- sophism or obscurantism
  - Difficult to understand
  - Lack explanatory capabilities
  - Beyond testability and falsifiable
- meaningless or disingenuous
- adds nothing to analytical or empirical knowledge. : Noam Chomsky
- reflects the disappointed revolutionary generation



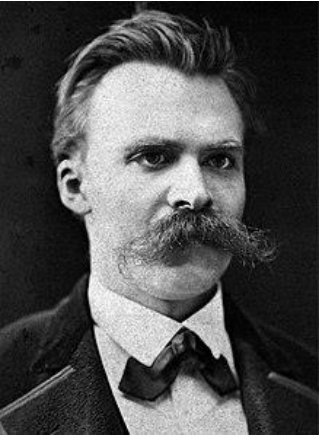


Jacques **Derrida**: deconstruction

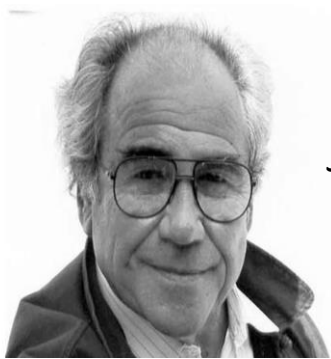
Michel **Foucault**:  
On power, Governmentality



## Post-modernist Thinkers

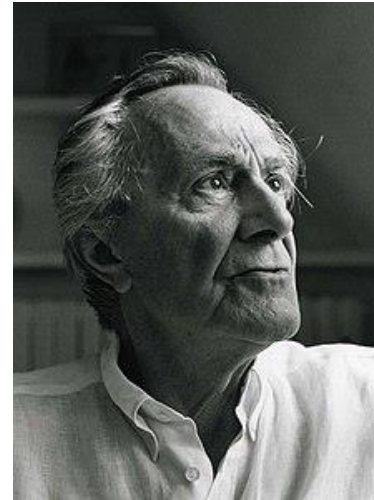


Friedrich **Nietzsche**:  
Perspectivism: conceptions of truth depend on the perspective of the one who is observing



Jean **Baudrillard**: consumerism, gender relations,

Jean-François **Lyotard**:  
mistrust of the grand narratives



THANK YOU!

GOOD LUCK !

# FEMINISM (नारीवाद)

## Core Ideologies and Multiple Strands

इस टॉपिक पर कैसे लिखे उत्तर ?

**DU, SOL, IGNOU BA HONS. POLITICAL SCIENCE**

# WHAT IS IN STORE?

- Analysis of past papers
- Core themes or ideologies
- Different strands of the theory and feminist movement
- Weaknesses
- Guide on how to write answer on this topic in university exam

# **FEMINISM : Past year's questions**

- 2017
  - “the personal is political”. Do you agree? Answer with reference to debates in feminism.
- 2016
  - Examine various streams of feminism. Do you think they sufficiently address the question of women's equality?
- 2015
  - “the personal is political”. Elaborate the statement in light of feminist political theory.

# CORE IDEOLOGIES

- Sex Vs Gender
  - Sex is biological
  - Gender is socio-cultural construct
  - Biological determinism
  - Attributes associated with female gender valued less
  - Sexual division of labour
- Patriarchy, Capitalism, and other social institutions allowed men to oppress women
- These structures of male power over female should be overturned

# DIFFERENT STRANDS OF FEMINISM

- **Liberal**
  - Equal rights in public sphere/political
- **Radical**
  - Patriarchy is root cause of women's misery
  - Personal is political
  - Questioned hierarchical arrangement of masculinity and femininity, reproductive role
  - Universal sisterhood
- **Socialist**
  - Capitalism and private property root cause of women's misery
- Black, Eco, Marxist, anarchist, revolutionary, cultural , multi-cultural, Dalit, many other strands

# POLITICAL THINKERS

- **Liberals**

- Marry Wollstonecraft: vindication of the rights of women- 1792
- J.S.Mills: subjugation of women-1869
- Rousseau: a discourse on origin of inequality-1755

- **Radicals**

- Simone de Beavoir : the second sex – women are not born but made-1949
- Shulamith Firestone: The Dialectic of sex-1970
- Kate Millet: Sexual politics-1971

- **Socialists**

- Friedrich Engles : the origin of family, private property, and state-1884
- Sheila Rawbatham: Women, resistance, revolution and hidden form of history-1943



# WEAKNESSES

- Fragmentation
- Disregard to multiple identity
- Didn't engage with men
- Instead of equality and balance advocated turnings every notion upside down
- Gap in theory and practice

# SUMMARY

- Feminism raised fundamental issue of gender based power structure
- Provided new perspective of 'Political'
- Helped secure voting rights and more equality for females
- Multiple strands- Liberal, socialist, and radicals
- Major weaknesses – fragmentation

# How to write essay type answers on Feminism ?

- **Introduction**

- Introduce the concept of feminism, its core ideologies
- Just mention its different strands
- Give a glimpse of your conclusion- finally what you want to say – raised fundamental questions but failed to provide coherent and workable solutions because of some weaknesses- fragmentations

- **Body** : substance of the answer

- Explain core ideologies and its multiple forms/strands
- Mention ideas of its prominent proponents-at least 4-5 names
- Strength & weaknesses of the movement and theory

- **Analysis and Discussion**

- Analyse the topic/issue in view of question asked and ideas/theories explained above
- Provide your own view – **crux of your answer**

- **Conclusion**

- Paraphrase introduction
- State your final view and concluding remarks – feminism raised most fundamental and difficult questions to the idea of political but could not realize their visions fully because of inherent weaknesses in the movement

THANK YOU!

GOOD LUCK !

# **ANARCHISM**

इस टॉपिक पर कैसे लिखे उत्तर ?

**DU, SOL, IGNOU BA HONS. POLITICAL SCIENCE EXAM  
HELP**

# What is Anarchism?

---

Political ideology proposing absence of hierarchical formal authority in managing individual and social affairs

---

organization of society on a voluntary, cooperative basis without recourse to force or compulsion.

# Core themes of Anarchist ideology

- **virtuous** Human nature
  - Able to manage individual and social life without formal authority
- State an **unnecessary** evil
  - State- law, institutions- represents coercive power & violence
- **Abolition** of all formal hierarchical **authority**
- Accepts rational authority of experts
- Moral authority of collective decision

# Different Strands

- **Philosophical**
  - No individual obligation or duty to obey state
- **Socialist**
  - Socio-economic equality and justice
  - Rejects private property and capitalism
  - mutualism
- **Syndicalist**
  - Trade and labour union based society
- **Peaceful**
  - State as organised violence
  - Peace, love, non-violence
  - Tolstoy- law of love; Gandhiji- hind swaraj
- **Libertarian**
  - Free self-regulated market replaces state
  - Extreme individualistic

**Others:** revolutionary, social, Green, Eco, Anarcha-feminism, religious, national, analytical, Anarcho-Primitivism





**William Godwin (1756 - 1836) : Philosophical anarchism**

**Pierre-Joseph Proudhon (1809 - 1865):** spontaneous order;  
mutualism



## **Thinkers of Anarchist trend**

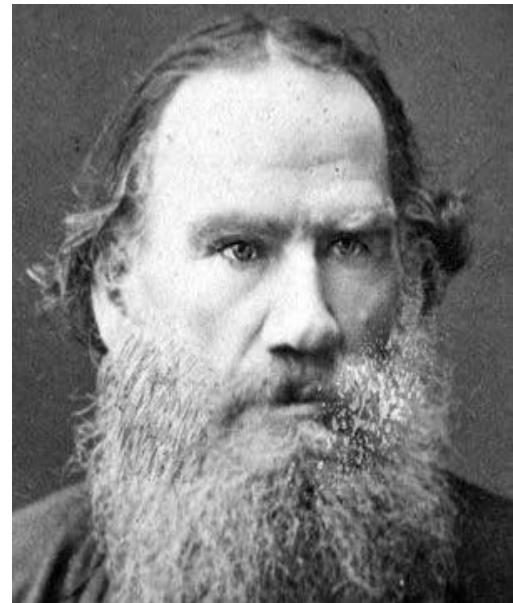


**Mikhail Bakunin (1814 - 1876) :**socialist-  
revolutionary anarchism ; collectivism



**F.A.Hyak (1899-1992) :** libertarian anarchism.

**Leo Tolstoy(1828-1910)-**  
pacific anarchism



# Criticism

- **Optimistic view of human nature**
  - Does not supported by historical evidence
- **Utopic**
  - Never successfully practised in large communities
  - More like utopic bliss
- **Divergent strands**
  - From extreme right to extreme left
  - Ideology lacks coherence

## COMPARING LIBERALISM, CONSERVATISM, MARXISM, ANARCHISM

Attributes	Liberalism	Conservatism	Marxism	Anarchism
Human nature	Rational, logical	Evil, fickle	Contingent upon class	virtuous
State	Necessary evil	Necessary	Not required	Unnecessary evil
Private property	Inviolable	Supports private property	Reject private property	Depends
capitalism	supports	supports	rejects	Depends
Democracy	Representative democracy	Representative democracy	Rejects: dictatorship of proletariat	Rejects
Practical success	Most successful	Successful	Waned after initial success	Still utopic

# How to write note

- Remember class 12 note making?
- 250-300 words
- 3-4 paragraphs
- Need not develop introduction, body, analysis/discussion, and conclusion
- First para: state the definition and meanings of the term/concept
- Second para: its core themes or features- do not explain, just state
- Third para: its main proponents, pros/cons, criticism
- Fourth para: sum up; paraphrase one sentence each from above paras; concluding remarks

THANKS FOR WATCHING!

GOOD LUCK !

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# **The Idea of Political Community Political Obligation**

PDF at <https://polschelp.in>

# **PAST YEAR'S QUESTIONS**

**Ist Sem New CBCS Syllabus: The Idea of Political Community: Political Obligation**

**2020:** Write an essay on the idea of political community

**Other possible Questions**

**What do you mean by political community? How is it different from a nation?**

# Idea of the Political Community-1/2

- Political community consists of all the people in a given geographical area under a **common system of government and laws**. In other words, members of a given political system constitute political community.
  - For example, all citizen of a nation-state, such as India or Iraq, form a political community.
- Political community is **organisation of power for political purpose**. Members of the political community give their powers and some of their rights to the political community.
- State/Govt use this **pooled or common funded power** to maintain peace & order, defence, and achieve common good of the community.
- In this sense, political community is different from any other community- no one **uses power coercively( punish by force)** for political purpose



# Idea of the Political Community-2/2

- Idea of political community is as old as human civilisation.
  - The ideal state mentioned in Plato' Republic' was a political community. Aristotle's best practicable state based on laws/constitution was a political community.
- In modern period the Social Contract theories further gave shape to the idea of political community.
  - As per the social contract theory of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, people form political community by entering into a social contract( imaginary, historical)
  - People as equal, enter into contract with others and with all to form 'Political Community' or Body Politic
- As per Locke, the **contract is a two-step process**:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Step: contract to form political community by pooling their powers and vesting their rights; all consented unanimously to obey laws of the state/govt formed by the contract
  - 2nd Step: political community by majority set up State Institutions/Govt- legislative and Executive( President/PM, King/monarch)
- **Sovereignty** is vested in the political community, which is represented and used by the state/Govt.
- Political Community is different from Nation, State, and nation-state

# Features of political community

- It denotes jurisdictional and territorial boundaries
  - Jurisdiction in which laws/order are applicable
- Different laws and differential application of laws to members of same political community
- Political Community is prior to state/govt
- Grounds of membership to political community
  - Voluntarily- Consent- social contract ( Imaginary)
  - Involuntary- being born in particular political community, by force- under the same rule
- Political norms and values- liberty, equality, rights, justice - are specific to a political community
- Sense of identity, belongingness- community feeling
  - Subject of 'Mughalia Sultanate'

# Political Community and Political Obligation

- **Political Obligation:** Moral duty of members of a political community to obey law and commands of the state/govt.
- **Grounds/bases of political obligation:**
  - **Consent:** individuals by accepting the membership of political community have consented to do so
  - Moral reasons: being members of political community, morally bound to obey the commands of Govt
  - Fairness theory : Duty of Fair Play
    - Benefits and gratitude- peace, order, protection of rights, social welfare, subsidies, etc.
    - Cooperative social enterprise- successful only if all obey
  - Prudential or pragmatic reasons
    - Utilitarianism
  - Consequential- avoiding punishment
- **Grounds of dissent-** no political obligation
  - State/govt fails to protect life, liberty, property ( Locke)

# Political Community vs Nation vs State

- **Nation:**
  - an imagined cultural community, believed to have same past/history, civilization, culture- worldview, way of life, dress, festivals, race/ethnicity, language, etc
- **State:**
  - A sovereign Political organisation consisting of a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and recognition by other states
- Nation- a **cultural construct**; political community- a **legal-political construct**- people under the jurisdiction of same political/legal system
- **Multiple nations may exist within a political community**
  - Roman, Ottoman, Mughal, Habsburg Empire ; European Union
- **People of same nation may belong to many political community**
  - Ex: People of Jewish nation were members of several political community ; NRIs
- State/govt is constituted by political community, state may collapse, but political community may remain intact
- A nation-state may have more than one political community; ex: confederations

# Let us Sum Up

- People under the jurisdiction of same legal and political system
- It is organization of power for political purpose
- Entire world's territories belong to one or other political community
- Political community is different from Nation, and state, and nation-state
- Members of political community are obliged to obey the laws and commands of the Govt- Political Obligation
- Consent is the most general grounds of Political Obligation
- But members retain rights to withdraw Political Obligation- right to dissent and civil disobedience

# References

- **Recommended reading list of DU on this topic**

- Shorten, A. (2016). 'Political Community', in Contemporary Political Theory. Palgrave, pp. 18- 45.

- **Online Resources:**

- JSTOR Articles:

- **Missing Boundaries of Comparison: The Political Community** by Peter Juviler and Sherrill Stroschein

- [https://www.jstor.org/stable/2658205?read-now=1&seq=3#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2658205?read-now=1&seq=3#page_scan_tab_contents)

- **The Political Community Versus the Nation** by Gerhart Husserl ;

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/2988717?read-now=1&refreqid=excelsior%3Abe82a4aa87b7a6035aff491c23f0f973&seq=21#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2988717?read-now=1&refreqid=excelsior%3Abe82a4aa87b7a6035aff491c23f0f973&seq=21#page_scan_tab_contents)

- Power and political community by Joseph L. Allen ;

- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23559553?seq=1>

- **Coursera Online lectures** on political community ; <https://www.coursera.org/lecture/revolutionary-ideas-borders-elections-constitutions-prisons/lecture-6-0-political-community-an-introduction-hGI0t>

# THANKS FOR WATCHING!

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# DEMOCRACY

## Meaning, Forms, Evolution

Analysis of **past three years of DU Pol. Sc. Hons. papers**  
and

**Guide** on how to approach the probable questions on Democracy  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sem Exam December 2018**



# DU Pol. Sc. Hons. Political Theory 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Question pattern

Out of 8 questions 2 questions are from Democracy

One need to write only 4 questions, hence if prepared properly Democracy can win you half the battle!

2017 1st Sem questions: 1. What are the main arguments in favour and against Democracy?  
2. What are the differences between participatory and representative democracy?  
Do you think participatory democracy is possible in contemporary world?

2016 1st Sem questions: 1. Write an brief Essay on the history of Democracy.  
2. What is deliberative democracy?  
Do you think it enriches procedural democracy? Give arguments.

2015 1st Sem questions: 1. Discuss the history of the idea of Democracy.  
2. Write an essay on the idea of deliberative democracy.

# How to write essay type answers ?

- Introduction
  - Introduce the topic , e.g. democracy
  - Provide definition, meaning, and overview of the topic
  - Give a glimpse of your conclusion- finally what you want to say
- Theoretical Foundation or Literature review
  - State the ideas of main political thinkers on the topic/issue
  - At least 4-5 names
  - In your own words- no need to reproduce word by word
- Analysis and Discussion
  - Analyse the topic/issue in view of question asked and ideas/theories stated above
  - Provide your own view – **crux of your answer**
- Conclusion
  - Paraphrase introduction
  - State your final view and concluding remarks

## **2015 1st Sem questions:1. Discuss the history of the idea of Democracy/ Brief history of idea of democracy**

**Introduction :** Literal meaning- power to people or rule of the people

Idea originated in ancient Greek city states- Athens ; also found mention in early Buddhist texts- Vaishali in Bihar  
for next 2500 years both the idea and meaning underwent change  
today what we mean by democracy is different in many ways from the original idea

**Body :Tracing the historical journey of the idea:**

- direct democracy in Athens, Greece
- Romans adopted the idea : Republic, rule by Senate
- With Renaissance, protestants and reformist movements idea gained momentum in western Europe particularly England:  
Individualism, rationality, objectivity was gaining ground ; democracy was enticing idea to propel these movements
- French Revolution spurred the idea: Liberty, equality, citizen rights were linked to the idea of democracy
- Free America further propelled the idea: but it was tempered by liberal ideologies- liberal democracy
- 1<sup>st</sup> world war brought radical changes : ideas of equal worth, rights, popular will, common good, etc gained momentum
- Communist movement, and anti colonial movements during 20<sup>th</sup> century further expanded the idea of democracy
- Presently, despite seemingly undisputed pervasiveness of liberal democracy the idea is still evolving- deliberative democracy, participatory democracy, social democracy, radical democracy, feminist view on democracy, multiculturalism, globalisation and democracy, etc.
- Main proponents : Rousseau – popular sovereignty; Locke, Macpherson - liberal democracy; J.S.Mill, Bentham- utilitarianism; -

**Conclusion:** Paraphrase the introduction- the original Athenian idea of democracy underwent changes in its form and content in past 2500 years. Today what we mean by democracy- representative liberal democracy is different from its original idea. The idea is still evolving and getting tempered by contemporary challenges of social life -globalisation, information revolution, feminism, multi-culturism, etc.

## ***2015 1st Sem questions:2. 2.Write an essay on the idea of deliberative democracy.***

- Social decisions/public policy by active participation of citizens
- Formation of popular will by deliberations- exchange of reasoned arguments among 'equal' citizens to persuade each other and to attain a rational consensus or a shared solution.
- Instead of decisions by aggregation of pre-existing individual preferences, society's common good or preference formed by process of deliberations
- "aggregative" model of democracy vs "transformative" and "discursive" model
- Deliberations and not mere voting is the source of legitimacy to public decisions
- Integrates values of popular sovereignty and liberal democracy
- Empower and enable people, sense of belongings and contribution to common good
- Compatible to both representative or procedural and direct democracy
- Political Thinkers who supported: Aristotle, Rousseau, Habermas, David Miller, J.Drysek, J.Cohen. Walzer, Bernard Manin, Fishkin, etc.

### **Challenges:**

- Consensus difficult to achieve in diverse and complex societies with deep structural inequalities and complex power relations
- Impractical, difficult to design and control deliberations
- Undermine individuality and liberty
- Chaotic, undesired, unwarranted outcomes
- Tension between theory and practice
- Blur the division of labour between citizens and professional politicians/representatives
- Slows decision making process
- Political thinkers who opposed: Liberalists, Marion young , Lynn sanders, Lippmann, Schumpeter, etc

**2017 1st Sem questions : 2.What are the differences between participatory and representative democracy? Do you think participatory democracy is possible in contemporary world?.**

Representative Democracy: people elect their representative by voting in periodic election. These representatives, and not people in general, form government, take decisions, and implement them. People play passive role in governance.

Participatory Democracy: People actively take part in decision making and their implementation . Nearer to direct democracy. Mode of participation : deliberation before decision, public debate, local self govt., civil societies, interest group, initiatives, referendum, gram sabha, mohalla sabha, recall, protest, demonstration, town hall meetings, etc

Difference point	Representative	participatory
Role of people/citizen	Passive onlooker	Active participant
Who actually rule?	People's representatives	Still the representatives, but people have some say
Spread	Most of the currently functioning democracies are representative	Enticing idea whose implementation has been difficult and rare
Implementability	Easier to implement	Difficult to implement
Examples	Most the liberal democracy world over	Ancient Athens, Lichhwai and other ancient republics in India, modern times: Switzerland, Gandhian gram swaraj, Panchayati Raj in India, etc
Political Thinkers	All Liberalists- Locke, Mills,etc., Schumpeter, Lippmann, Downs, etc.	Rousseau, Machperson, Hanah Arendt, Benjamin Barber, Mansbridge, etc.

Feasibility in contemporary world: Not easy in large, diverse, complex societies. Deeply established social structures and power relations inhibit its implementation. Technology may help- social media ; shall be adopted progressively to fulfil the substantive idea of democracy

## **2017 1st Sem questions : What are the main arguments in favour and against Democracy?**

Essence of the idea of democracy – equal worth of each person, people’s autonomy, popular will, popular power, popular sovereignty, right to be governed, govt. by consent, Legitimacy lies with people’s choice, participation, deliberation, empowerment, etc has enamoured human civilization in past 2500 years and got all round support.

However, the idea was also opposed by many political thinkers all through its 2500 years journey. Opposition may be categorised into 1. opposition to classic/direct democracy 2. opposition to liberal/procedural/representative democracy

Arguments in favour	Arguments Against	
	Direct democracy	Liberal Democracy
equal worth of each person – equality/ rights	Mobocracy	Far away from essence of the idea of democracy
Popular power/ popular sovereignty	Tyranny of Majority- Plato	Passive citizen
govt. by consent- legitimate govt.	Public opinion obstruct individual liberty -Mills	Maintains socio-economic equilibrium
participation, deliberation, empowerment	collective mediocrity	Rule by Elites
Idea expandable to society, any organisation, family	Governance requires specialized skills, people lack it	Demean comradeships, communitarianism by notion of individualistic, egoist man
Political Thinkers: Rousseau, Locke, Mills, Macpherson	People’s duty is to fill the office not to direct the office holder- Lippmann	Representative govt. and liberal institution obstruct people’s participation in public life

# References : you should refer them

- Political Theory : An Introduction by Bhargava & Acharya
- An Introduction to Political Theory : by O.P. Gauba
- Recommended reading list of DU on Democracy
- Materials available on WWW and you tube videos

For further help ping me

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**GOOD LUCK !**