





Political Ideologies

Political Ideologies 

What is a Political Ideology?

- A comprehensive set of beliefs about the political world
- A belief system that society can be improved by following certain doctrines
- Four key functions:
 1. Explanatory – How the world works
 2. Evaluative – Deciding whether things are good or bad
 3. Orientation – Supplies one with a sense of identity
 4. Programmatic – What to do and how to do it

Political Ideologies 

Foundational Disputes

- Individual Human Nature
 - Nature v. Nurture Debate
 - Assumptions about individual nature
- Individual and Society
 - What is the proper relationship between the individual and society?
- Conception of Equality
 - To what extent should there be equality?

Political Ideologies



Liberalism

- A political ideology that considers individual liberty and equality to be the most important political goals
- Desire for a free, open, and tolerant society
- Two main types:
 1. Classical liberalism
 2. Modern liberalism



John Stuart-Mill
1806-1873

Political Ideologies



Classical Liberalism

- Individual Human Nature
 - "The state of nature"
 - "Laws of nature"
- Individual and Society
 - Social contract
- Equality
 - Political v. Material



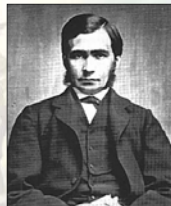
John Locke
1632-1704

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Modern Liberalism

- Freedom means the ability as well as the right to do something.
- Two Types of Freedom:
 1. Negative Freedom
 2. Positive Freedom
- Argues in favor of government intervention:
 - Interventionist government
 - Expansive liberty



T.H. Green
1836 - 1882

Political Ideologies



Conservatism

- Attempts to prevent or slow the transition away from a society based on traditional values and social hierarchy
- Two Main Types:
 1. Classical Liberal
 2. Burkean Traditional



Sir Edmund Burke
1729 - 1797

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Conservatism

- Individual Human Nature
 - Human nature is not rational
- Individual and Society
 - Role of traditional values and ethics
- Equality
 - *Noblesse Oblige*



Joseph de Maistre

Political Ideologies



Socialism

- The most important goal is to provide high-quality, relatively equal conditions of life for everyone, with an active state assisting in the achievement of this goal
- Two main types:
 1. Democratic Socialism
 2. Marxism



François-Noël Babeuf
1760 - 1797

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Socialism

- Individual Human Nature
 - Humans are social and caring
- Individual and Society
 - The good of society is most important
- Equality
 - Egalitarianism
 - Moralism



Robert Owen
1771 - 1858

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Marxism

- A political system based on radical equality; the antithesis of capitalism
- Components of Marxism:
 - Dialectical materialism
 - Class distinction
 - Law of Capitalist Accumulation
 - Dictatorship of the Proletariat



Karl Marx
1818-1883

Marxian Dialectic



| Stage | Oppressing Class | Oppressed Class |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Primitive Communism | No classes | |
| Slavery | Slave Owners | Slaves |
| Feudalism | Landowners | Serfs |
| Capitalism | Bourgeoisie | Proletariat |
| Socialism | State Managers | Workers |
| Communism | No Classes | |

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Democratic Socialism

- Rejects Marxism
- Change with democratic processes
- Democratic governments should promote all types of equality



Claude Henri Saint-Simon
1760-1825

Political Ideologies



Fascism

- A totalitarian political system that is headed by a popular charismatic leader and in which a single political party and carefully controlled violence form the basis of complete control
- Main Characteristics:
 - Nationalistic and ethnocentric
 - Rejects equality
 - Rejects democracy



Mussolini and Hitler

Political Ideologies



Feminism

- Ideology of psychological, political, and economic equality for women
- Rejects Patriarchy and Sexism
- Three Categories of Feminism:
 1. Reform
 2. Revolutionary
 3. Separatist



Mary Wollstonecraft
1759 - 1797

Political Ideologies



Ecologism/Environmentalism

- An ideology that advocates that the environment is endangered and must be preserved through regulation and lifestyle changes
- Reject anthropocentric beliefs
- Advocate ecological stewardship and sustainable development



Rachel Carson
1907 - 1964

Political Ideologies



Islamic Fundamentalism

- Call for a return to religion, & a literal reading of the Qu'ran
- Live according to strict Islamic codes
- Reject Westernization
- Some support the use of violence



The Taliban
