

LIBERTY

- Liberty is modern concept which emerged with the development of democracy and constitutional government.
- Liberty emerge with liberalism which justify individualism. **Henry Benjamin Constant** describe the two varieties of liberty:-
- **(a) Ancient liberty:-** Exist in the Greek era where citizens had right to participate in the political decision making directly.
- **(b) Modern liberty:-** It focuses over autonomy and independence of individuals from the restraint.

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- Miller says that there are three traditions of liberty:-
- **(a) Republican liberty:-** It was recognized by the thinkers like Machiavelli, Rousseau and Hannah Arendt. Citizens are entitled to participate in the public decision making. It is possible in a form of direct democracy.
- **(b) Property of individuals:-** Liberals said that individual is owner of his mind and body and therefore nobody is allowed to interfere in the life of others.
- **(c) Self-realisation:-** Liberty is not merely a freedom of choice but it is freedom from our weaknesses, compulsions and from lower desires. Idealist scholars like Rousseau and Green emphasize over **moral development** is the true meaning of liberty.

LIBERTY ACCORDING TO LIBERALS

- **Hobbes** is not liberal but he laid down the philosophical foundation of liberalism. Hobbes said that **silence of law** is liberty.
- John Locke is the father of liberalism who supported idea of freedom of conscience and freedom of religious faith in his book '**Latter on Toleration**'.
- J.S Mill in his essay on liberty (1859) said that liberty means to **left to oneself** and all **restraint qua restraint is an evil**.
- Neo-liberals like Berlin, Hayek are the staunch supporter of liberty.
- Karl Popper defined freedom as non-interference. Hayek in his book '**Constitution of Liberty**' said that state in which man is not subject to **coercion by arbitrary will of another**.

LIBERTY AND LAW

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- Hobbes says that liberty is **silence of law**. It means liberty is not available in the **state of nature**. Absence of law refers absence of state and government.
- **Locke** categorically said that law is essential for liberty and law protects and **enhance the liberty**. The law for Locke is law made by **limited constitutional government**.
- Absolute government destroy liberty therefore, Locke search a middle path which negates **absolute government** and **lack of government**.
- Law made by absolute government may not be conducive for flourishing liberty.
- Liberty means **freedom of speech** and expression against authority and against **customs** and **traditional** society too.

LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY

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- Normally, democracy is considered as a precondition for flourishing the liberty but opinion of **Robert Acton** and **Alexis D. Tocqueville** said that democracy may be harmful for liberty.
- Democracy promotes **tyranny of majority**. Tyranny is dangerous whether it exercised by one person or majority. Majority is not always right.
- **Acton's** famous statement is that **aspiration of equality destroy liberty**.
- **JS Mill** also agrees with the view point of Tocqueville. Mill says that **liberty is essence** of democracy rather than the rule of majority.

MARXIST CONCEPT OF LIBERATION

- Marx said that **end of necessity is freedom**. Necessity is a compulsion created by the capitalist economy and class divided society. Due to capitalism individual is not free to make their choices. On the contrary they are compelled to engage in work which they dislike.
- Neo-marxist Herbert Marcuse wrote a book '**one dimensional man**' he said that human being is having the multiple dimensions but they are becoming merely a **consumer** in the capitalist world.
- Neo-marxist scholar Eric Fromm wrote that capitalist society can't provide freedom and he wrote a book '**the fear of freedom**' and '**escape from freedom**'. He said that **individuals becomes like a machine** in the age of capitalism. Therefore Marxist believe in liberation which requires restructuring of political and economic system.

FEMINIST CONCEPT OF LIBERATION

- Radical feminist like Kate Millet **Betty Frieden** also look for restructuring society which is dominated by patriarchy.
- Merely presence of democracy and constitutional government is not a guarantee of liberty for the women.
- Women don't have control over their won body too. Therefore, they don't receive the right of abortion. They are not free from domestic violence and sexual harassment. **Carol Patman** welfare state is also patriarchal state which provide social goods for male only.

NEGATIVE LIBERTY

- Civil political liberty.
- Neo-liberals believe in negative liberty.
- Absence of restraints.
- Limited role of state.
- Individual is more important.
- Liberty from. Thus, restraint is external.

POSITIVE LIBERTY-FREEDOM

- Moral freedom.
- Positive liberals and socialist believe in positive liberty.
- Moral self-realisation.
- Positive role of state which facilitate social economic development.
- Community is more important.
- Liberty to. It means restraint is internal.

NEGATIVE LIBERTY

- **IDEA OF HAYEK**
- In his book **constitution of liberty** he defined liberty as absence of restraints. Liberty implies equality before law, freedom from arbitrary arrest, freedom of choice, free movement and free to own property. He said that liberty is different from the following three concept:
 - (a) **Political liberty**
 - (b) **Liberty as power**
 - (c) **Inner freedom**

- **THOUGHT OF BERLIN**
- Berlin wrote an essay 'two concepts of liberty' and later this essay was changed in a book that is **four concepts of liberty**.
- Berlin is a new liberal and therefore individualist too who believe that there is no perfect idea or thought of good life and good society. He believes in **pluralism** which implies that no value like liberty, equality or welfare is more important than others.
- Each value carry its own importance and therefore diversity of ideas and thought is essential for flourishing liberty.

- Berlin says that **monism** is oppose to pluralism. Monoist look for a perfect society an state which automatically becomes Utopian.
- Marxist and Fascist believe in Monoism therefore justify a single social order and a perfect society which eventually suppress liberty.
- Berlin was against the **methodological pluralism** too. Which means we can keep different technique and method for studying and analyzing different subjects. Therefore Berlin rejected the positivistic and scientific method of Karl Popper.

NEGATIVE LIBERTY OF BERLIN

- For Berlin negative liberty is associated with following features:-
- (1) Freedom from interference or Absence of restraints.
- (2) It is a choice among options.
- (3) It is not linked with democracy or self-government.
- For Berlin negative liberty is intrinsically important. It is a condition of self creation. It is not means for attaining autonomy or choice of good. Individual is free to fly like an eagle or swim like a whale and free to buy a bread.

CRTICISM OF POSITIVE LIBERTY

- Berlin says that positive liberty implies the following features:-
 - (1)self-mastery or self realisation
 - (2)Obedience of higher will or rational will
 - (3)Society or state knows better what individual requires
 - (4)True want of individual is quite opposite of what he is conscious of wanting
- Berlin says that the scholars like Kant, Fichte, Hegel and Marx support the notion of positive liberty. Positive liberty becomes a tool in hand of non- democratic government for suppressing the liberty.