

POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

- **MEANING**
- The term 'ideology' was coined in 1796 by the French philosopher **Destutt de Tracy** (1754-1836). He used it to refer to a new 'science of ideas' that set out to uncover the origins of conscious thought and ideas.
- De Tracy's hope was that ideology would eventually enjoy the same status as established **sciences** such as zoology and biology.
- However, a more enduring meaning was assigned to the term in the nineteenth century is the writings of Karl Marx. For Marx ideology amounted to the ideas of '**ruling class**', ideas that therefore uphold the **class system** and **perpetuate exploitation**.

LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES

- Alternative uses of the term have also been developed by liberals and conservatives. The emergence of totalitarian dictatorships in the interwar period encouraged writers such as **Karl Popper**, **J.L. Talmon** and **Hannah Arendt** to view ideology as an instrument of social control to ensure **compliance** and **subordination**.
- A distinctively conservative use of the term 'ideology' has been developed by thinkers such as Michael Oakeshott. This view reflects a characteristically conservative skepticism about the value of **rationalism** that is born out of the belief that the world is largely beyond the capacity of the human mind to fathom. As Oakeshott put it, in political activity 'men sail a boundless and bottomless sea'. From this perspective, ideologies are seen as abstract 'system of thought'.

END OF IDEOLOGY

- Objectively ideology refers a world view, systematic thought towards political objects. But various ideologies define ideology from different perspective for example liberals Marxists defined ideology from their own perspective.
- In 1960, American sociologist **Daniel Bell** initiated the debate of end of ideology. Marxist countered the view of Daniel Bell and said that **end of ideology is a conspiracy of capitalist ideology**. Because capitalist ideology is in crisis.
- End of ideology depends upon the perception of scholar. **Objectively** ideology cannot come to an end because it is believe and world view of a person but **particular** ideology may decline or come to an end.

END OF HISTORY

- After disintegration of Soviet Union, Francis Fukuyama's concept of end of history became popular. He said that liberal ideology has won the battle of various ideologies. Liberal ideology is the most rational and accepted ideology across the world.
- Fukuyama said that the **Hegelian** interpretation of history is scientific which defines the climax of history in development of nation state.
- Fukuyama also said that **Marxist analysis** of history is also imperfect and Marx projected that communism is a climax of history. However, Fukuyama said that **reason, capitalism, and democracy** shapes the history.
- The need of **recognition** and **scientific knowledge** are the two core features for understanding the history. Although universal victory of liberalism is contested by **feminism, environmentalism** and **multi-culturalism**.

POST-MODERNISM

- The debate of end of ideology is disputed idea and emergence of post-modernism proves that no ideology is perfect and universal.
- Post-modernism is a movement which originated in France in 1960's. the propounders of post-modernism are **Gilles Deleuze, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault and Jean Francois Lyotard.**
- Basic features of post-modernism includes:-
- **(a)Rejection of metanarratives:-** Lyotard said that modernity is based on metanarratives or grand narratives and they believe that their thought and ideas are universal and objective. However, Lyotard said that knowledge is plural, diverse and multidimensional.

- **(b)Anti-foundationalist:-** Richard Rorty said that knowledge is not objective therefore truth is not objective and one for all. Knowledge and truth depends upon society, history and the tradition.
- **(c)Deconstruction:-** Derrida said that the modern knowledge of truth is binary that can be categorized in two opposite blocks like rational or irrational. Capitalist are Marxist. However, truth is relative, therefore the knowledge and perception established by scholars needs deconstruction- it means **reconstruction**.
- **(d)Knowledge is power:-** Michel Foucault said that knowledge is determined and shaped by social context and social conditions. It is not objective.
- The debate of end of ideology is not sustainable since various ideologies like communitarianism, multi-culturalism and environmentalism are becoming stronger in the contemporary era.