

Theory & Analysis of Contemporary Political Philosophy

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Abstract

Here we will discuss about many viewpoints of modern political philosophy. Many modern political philosophers of modern time will be discussed here. Here some philosophers are also economists; scholars and so on. Here the history of political philosophy will be discussed. The origin of this period and long silence of the history are described.

Keywords: History; Politics; Class Struggle; Justice.

1. Introduction

Political philosophy; branch of philosophy that is concerned; at the most abstract level; with the concepts and arguments involved in political opinion. The meaning of the term political is itself one of the major problems of political philosophy. Broadly; however; one may characterize as political all those practices and institutions that are concerned with government.

2. Political Philosophy

Political philosophy; also known as political theory; is the study of topics such as politics; liberty; justice; property; rights; law; and the enforcement of laws by authority: what they are; if they are needed; what makes a government legitimate; what rights and freedoms it should protect; what form it should take; what the law is; and what duties citizens owe to a legitimate government; if any; and when it may be legitimately overthrown; if ever.

Philip Pettit said; “Political Philosophy that is; to normative thinking about the sorts of institutions that we ought politically to try to establish.”

2.1. Politics

Politics (from Greek Politiká; meaning "affairs of the cities") is the process of making decisions that apply to members of a group. It refers to achieving and exercising positions of governance—organized control over a human community; particularly a state.

3. Characteristics of Political Philosophy

Now; I am explaining some characteristics of political philosophy in below.

3.1. It introduces the state

A state is a compulsory political organization with a centralized government that maintains a monopoly on the legitimate use of force within a certain geographical territory.

b. The components of the state are mainly divided into two parts. Such as 1 Essential or principal element and 2. Secondary element.

3.2. Primary Elements

Without this material the existence of the state cannot be imagined. Essential elements of the state Such as 1 Specific terrain 2. Publicity 3 Government 4 Sovereignty

3.3. Secondary Elements of the State

Such as 1 Stability 2. Recognition 3 Freedom and Equality. Therefore; to maintain the existence of the state; every element of the state is important.

4. There are 2 Views of this Philosophy

4.1. Liberal

Liberalism; political doctrine that takes protecting and enhancing the freedom of the individual to be the central problem of politics. Liberals typically believe that government is necessary to protect individuals from being harmed by others; but they also recognize that government itself can pose a threat to liberty. They are reformist.

4.2. Radical

The term political radicalism (in political science known as radicalism) denotes political principles focused on altering social structures through revolutionary or other means and changing value systems in fundamental ways. Marxists are the important example of liberal viewpoint.

d. Political philosophy is evaluative: Something that is evaluative is based on an assessment of the values; qualities; and significance of a particular person or thing.

e. Political philosophy is normative: Normative generally means relating to an evaluative standard.

f. Subject matter of analytic philosophy

4. Political theory

This is concerned with the organization and basis of government. Political theories are generated by social frictions — A. S. Kaufman

4.1 Political Theory is Positive

According to this; certain knowledge relies on natural phenomena and characteristics and relationships. In his book 'Course de Positive Philosophy'; Comte divides the evolutionary trend of human society in three stages. August Vent divides the whole development trend of knowledge into three levels. According to him; the third or last stage of the development of knowledge is positivism. In this age; the nature of the phenomenon is analyzed and the nature of God or any other extreme entity is denied. The scientific experience and the nature of nature are absolutely true and there is no human ability to overcome it. Political theory is positive.

4.2. Political theory is Empirical

In the theory of importance; the importance of practical experience has been said. Emphasizing the political theory; supporter can be mentioned Machiavelli; Aristotle.

4.3 Political theory is descriptive

The ability to analyze is mentioned here. Political theory can be analyzed in the light of real experience.

While pointing out the difference between these two subjects; Hermann Heller said; "Political theory discusses the stable stages of the state; but political science talks about its dynamic stages. The goal of political theory is to explain and interpret the institutions of state.

5. Background Of Analytic Political Philosophy

in the 19th Century; the political discussion was on the basis of this analytical point of view. Originally this topic was famous in Britain. The main talker was Jeremy Bentham; Stuart Mill and Henry Sidgwick. They discussed the broad theory of utilitarianism. The purpose of their discussion was to manage the state institutions in order to get maximum happiness. Mill wants getting happiness from this institution. Purpose They all recognize the price and also think about the value of independence. At the core of their evaluation was happiness. They were all moral philosophers. They were all liberals. But this utilitarian thought quickly ends.

6. The Long Silence

In the 1950's new conditions began. Then the use of the word 'political' was stopped in philosophy. The situation continued till 1959. Peter Laslett wrote in 1956; "For the moment anyway; political philosophy is dead." (Laslett; 1955; p vii)

He told about two reasons. Methodological (procedural) 2. Substantive (basic)

6.1. Methodological

The main purpose was to eliminate language imprecise. Analytical philosophy has become very self-conscious in a systematic way. Many were following logical perceptions. The main goal - to prove the absurdity of science and to establish science on a firm basis. The method used to make these two objectives successful is the rational analysis of languages. Political decisions are also taken in this way. According to them; political language is either ideological or evaluation-based. Political language was emotional One of the two factors of procedural factors is that one is ideological and the other is evaluated. Ideally; political language was based on emotions. The validity was determined based on emotions. Which is called principles of verification There were two types of ideological again. A priori and experience based. A priori isn't based on experience. It trial

Some Theories of Contemporary Political Philosophy

was limited. And they were constant. These issues were not experienced. The systematic reason did not talk about analytical political philosophy. The contribution of Analytical Philosophy book by Philip Pettit said; “They would have suggested that since philosophy is not an empirical discipline and since there are few a priori truths on after in the political arena; its only task in politics can be to explicate the feeling or emotions; we are disposed to express in our normative political judgment.”

6.2. Substantive

Here the political issue was started with totalitarian government. Popper was an analytical philosopher. Many philosophers like him presented such basic reasons.

7. Breaking Long Silence

Richard Peter published some of his books in 1959; through which these conditions began to break. Among them was the Social Principles and the Democratic State. He presented utilitarian thought there. Later; many people gave similar opinions. 1961 H. L. A. Hart presents this concept of anti-utilitarianism through his book The Concept of Law. Where the basics were legal positivism where he presents; 'laws are rules made by human beings and that is not inherent or necessary connection between law and morality'. He criticized John Austin's command theory. Brian Barry highlighted the opposition's anti-utilitarianism. He replaced the value pluralism in its place. He was influenced by Isaiah Berlin's 1958 lecture "Two Concept of Liberty". According to him; people may be influenced by different moral standards; people may be influenced by the libertarian; communist standards. The political viewpoint is not determined only from the utilitarian viewpoint. His notable book was Political Argument. There he mentions that the advantage of the values without preference of any particular value will be priority. His dualistic doctrine he explained in this book.

8. Justice

Justice; in its broadest context; includes both the attainment of that which is just and the philosophical discussion of that which is just. The concept of justice is based on numerous fields; and many differing viewpoints and perspectives including the concepts of moral correctness based on ethics; rationality; law; religion; equity and fairness. Often; the general discussion of justice is divided into the realm of social justice as found in philosophy; theology and religion; and; procedural justice as found in the study and application of the law.

The concept of justice differs in every culture. Early theories of justice were set out by the Ancient Greek philosophers Plato in his work The Republic; and Aristotle in his Nicomachean Ethics. Throughout history various theories have been established. Advocates of divine command theory argue that justice issues from God. In the 1600s; theorists like John Locke argued for the theory of natural law. Thinkers in the social contract

tradition argued that justice is derived from the mutual agreement of everyone concerned. In the 1800s; utilitarian thinkers including John Stuart Mill argued that justice is what has the best consequences. Theories of distributive justice concern what is distributed; between whom they are to be distributed; and what is the proper distribution. Egalitarians argued that justice can only exist within the coordinates of equality. John Rawls used a social contract argument to show that justice; and especially distributive justice; is a form of fairness. Property rights theorists (like Robert Nozick) also take a consequentialist view of distributive justice and argue that property rights-based justice maximizes the overall wealth of an economic system. Theories of retributive justice are concerned with punishment for wrongdoing. Restorative justice (also sometimes called "reparative justice") is an approach to justice that focuses on the needs of victims and offenders.

9. J.C. Johari presented justice in three ways in his book “Contemporary Political Thought”

- a) This is presented differently on the basis of space time and person.
- b) The meaning of justice can be changed by times.
- c) This is an abstract idea and seems complex to some society.

10. Two Directions of Defining Justice is

- a) Normative: The center of social and state is justice
- b) Positive: The law of state

Aristotle said about Distributive and Reformatory Justice: solving problems of state.

J. C. Johari said; “The idea of Aristotle come to lay down the foundation of what is now called the doctrine of distributive justice.”(Contemporary Political Thought; p-343)

11. Four Forms of Applied Justice

- a) This is connected with state of affairs
- b) This is connected with morality
- c) This is connected with the fair distribution of wealth
- d) This is connected with democracy

12. Three Dimensions of Justice

Social Justice, Economic Justice, and Political Justice.

These are called practical justice.

12.1. Social Justice

Here collective interest got priority not the individual interest.

J.C. Johari said;

“ A new awareness has developed that informs that the rights of an individual should be reasonably restricted

Some Theories of Contemporary Political Philosophy

in the wider interests of its community so that the ends of social justice are properly achieved. (Contemporary Political Thought; p-351)

He explained that by giving priority on collective interest priority there will be a social balance created.

J.C. Johari said; "Not only this; if there is a conflict between the two; the latter should prevail over the former." (Contemporary Political Thought; p-351)

12.1.1. Some Functions of Social Justice

- a) Adjustment (different occupations)
- b) Balance of social control
- c) Collective interest protection
- d) Removing problems of society

12.1.2. Criticisms

- a) Robert Nozic and F.A. Hayek thinks this justice is not applicable.
- b) This cannot remove serious problems of society
- c) This justice cannot help in removing serious crimes.

12.2. Economic Justice

This justice has relation with social justice. After establishing social justice; this justice will be possible.

J.C. Johari wrote in his book: "The idea of economic justice means non-discrimination between man woman on the basis of economic basis." (Contemporary Political Thought; p-355)

Fair distribution of wealth is a condition of this justice. Economic freedom is an important issue here.

12.2.1. Criticisms

- a) Here the people becomes ways of exploitation
- b) Personal wealth development is an important issue
- c) In democratic country; this kind of justice may be not applied.
- d) The control of wealth becomes under only specific people

12.3. Political Justice

Here gives importance independence and valid participation in politics of people.

"The notion of political justice requires that the state must protect and preserve certain valuable rights of the individual so that he may develop his personality as a citizen and thereby contribute his share to the welfare of the political economy." (Contemporary Political Thought; p-357)

12.3.1. Characteristics

- a) The implementation of law
- b) The department of governance must be controlled by the department of law.
- c) There must be independent Anti-Corruption Commission.
- d) Independent department of justice
- e) There must be Independence of newspaper
- f) There must be Independence of politics
- g) There must be Independent election council

13. Theory of Justice

On the basis of nature of justice there are four theories of justice

- a) Philosophical Theory of Justice
- b) Neutral theory of Justice
- c) Legal theory of justice
- d) Marxist theory of Justice

13.1. Philosophical Theory of Justice

Philosophical theory about justice can be found for the first time in Plato's philosophy. He said about two kinds of justice. First one is Individual Justice. When an individual does his duty of himself then this justice can be implemented. The second one is Social Justice. Giving the desirable thing of people is social justice. Ideal State is a great part of his philosophy. There he explained about justice. His ideal state was based on justice.

Aristotle also discussed about justice. There he gave importance in equal distribution of wealth. J. C. Johari said:

“The idea of Aristotle come to lay down the foundation of what is now called the doctrine of distributive justice.”(Contemporary Political Thought; p-343)

In the Stoic philosophy we can also get the idea of justice.

13.2. Natural Theory of Justice

This is the extended structure of philosophical theory of justice. Here the justice is ultimate aim of life. For the first time; this justice is found in stoic philosophy. Then the lawyers of Roman's philosophy can show this justice. Stoics think that all the things are pre-decided. The law of nature is equal for all. Romans think that the aim of law is to implement the justice. J.C. Johari said in his book; “The aim of the rules of natural justice is to secure justice or to put in negatively to prevent miscarriage of justice.” (Contemporary Political

Thought; p-345)

13.3. Legal Theory of Justice

According to this view; justice becomes the law of state. There are four basic rules to implement this justice.

- a. The accused will have to know about the complaint
- b. There must be chance to argue with him
- c. The court must be neutral
- d. The judicial process must be neutral

John Austin; Hobbes; Benton are the supporter of this theory.

13.4. Marxist Theory of Justice

This view is significant. Supporter of this view criticized the legal theory of justice. They said that in the state law the interest of Bourgeoisie only can be preserved; but not the interest of Proletariats;

J.C. Johari said in his book; "The laws are needed by the bourgeois class to keep itself ; in power by hook or by cook."

14. Rawls Theory of Justice

"A Theory of Justice" was a famous book by John Rawls. There he explained his distributive theory of justice. Philip Pettit said in his book "The contribution of Analytical Philosophy" Rawls' proposal is that to develop a political theory; in particular a theory of justice."

- a) He started the discussion saying that Justice is the first virtue of social institution. He discussed new contractual discussions in society.
- b) He criticizes utilitarianism here. He was also not supportive of utilitarianism.
- c) He referred to his justice related discussion as justice of fairness.
- d) There he presented the Distributive theory of justice There he presented the way; the way people would like to; the distribution would be like that. In the same system; each of its freedom will be preferred in the system provided.
- e) It is called The Greatest Equal Liberty Principle. He gave priority to getting the benefits of everyone. Benefits of underprivileged will also be brought under the scope. Politics will not pay attention to anyone's special privileges.
- f) He believed in the dualistic values like Brian. According to him; justice is the method which determines political equilibrium by ensuring proper convenience. According to him; justice is the only political right to be elected.

- g) The language of this discussion is; the method of reflective equilibrium He wanted to establish a system of logic that would give a sense of political theory. This equilibrium will be for sure. This reflective equilibrium will be the moral method that will determine the political ideology. This will direct justice.
- h) Rawls argues that self-interested rational persons behind the veil of ignorance would choose two general principles of justice to structure society in the real world: 1) Principle of Equal Liberty: Each person has an equal right to the most extensive liberties compatible with similar liberties for all. (Egalitarian.) 2) Difference Principle: Social and economic inequalities should be arranged so that they are both (a) to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged persons; and (b) attached to offices and positions open to all under conditions of equality of opportunity. This method will be methodical of justification. This method will be universal. It will ensure the benefit of the people. It will work like a lot of constitution. Without giving priority to the benefit of a particular person; all will ensure the benefits. People will consider this system as the latest court. This theory is called The Equal Opportunity Principle.
- i) He said about two things for getting justice in individual life. One is Basic liberties and another is Primary goods.
Basic goods: rights of citizen; basic rights
Primary goods: social power.
 He said that the first will come the basic liberties then primary goods.
- j) He said about **Difference principle**. Here he said about the maximum privilege of weak people. He said about compensation system.
- k) **Individual national choice** is a significant point of his theory.

14.1. Criticisms of This Theory

- a) The idea of primary goods is seemed complex for the society.
- b) Priam Berry criticized and said that he didn't give clear idea about individual interest.
- c) His theory is reformative not revolutionary. Mar sent said his theory is not satisfactory for the society.

15. Class Structure

Karl Marx (5 May 1818 – 14 March 1883) was a German philosopher; economist; historian; sociologist; political theorist; journalist and socialist revolutionary.

Marxism is a method of socioeconomic analysis that views class relations and social conflict using a

Some Theories of Contemporary Political Philosophy

materialist interpretation of historical development and takes a dialectical view of social transformation. It originates from the works of 19th-century German philosophers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Marxian class theory asserts that an individual's position within a class hierarchy is determined by his or her role in the production process; and argues that political and ideological consciousness is determined by class position. A class is those who share common economic interests; are conscious of those interests; and engage in collective action which advances those interests. Within Marxian class theory; the structure of the production process forms the basis of class construction.

Marx distinguishes one class from another on the basis of two criteria: ownership of the means of production and control of the labor power of others. From this; Marx states "Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps; into two great classes directly facing each other":

I. Capitalists; or bourgeoisie; own the means of production and purchase the labor power of others

II. Workers; or proletariat; do not own any means of production or the ability to purchase the labor power of others. Rather; they sell their own labor power. Class is thus determined by property relations; not by income or status. These factors are determined by distribution and consumption; which mirror the production and power relations of classes. The Manifesto of the Communist Party describes two additional classes that "decay and finally disappear in the face of Modern Industry":

iii. A small; transitional class known as the petite bourgeoisie own sufficient means of production but do not purchase labor power. Marx's Communist Manifesto fails to properly define the petite bourgeoisie beyond "smaller capitalists" (Marx and Engels; 1848; 25).

iv. The "dangerous class"; or Lumpenproletariat; "the social scum; that passively rotting mass thrown off by the lowest layers of the old society."

16. The Essence and the Origin of Classes

Pre-Marxist Scholars realized that people were divided into classes. They also realized that class struggle existed in society. They could not make any proposition and could not make any principles to identify this class struggle.

Two classes

16.1. Basic Class

That is where the product is regulated by society. This type of class is mainly seen in the anti-discrimination classes. The other class stood against one class and got the power of production. Discrimination; owners of slaves; slaves; (they were proletariat) and bourgeoisie; feudal lord and peasants. These are historical examples of this class.

16.2. Non Basic

They are not directly involved in the control of the production. The farmer of the capitalist system; the artist of slaves; his example. Apart from this; different social groups have witnessed such classifications in history. Class struggle is not significant in this type of class.

17. The Class Struggle as the Source of Development of the Antagonistic Class Society

- a) The class struggle is the driving force the source of the development of an antagonistic Society.
- b) Class struggle determines the development of an antagonistic Society bored in relatively peaceful periods and particularly in periods of evolutionary forms in capitalist conditions.
- c) The class struggle is important factor in the development of the productive forces.
- d) Class struggle is even more important in the political life of an antagonistic Society.
- e) Classes struggle is very important for the struggle of the working class in the antagonistic Society.
- f) Classes struggle is very important for the Social Development of the antagonistic Society.

Social Revolution the highest form of the class struggle plays a particularly great part in the social progress and results in the great development.

18. Class Struggle in the Capitalist Society

The typical example of class conflict described is class conflict within capitalism. This class conflict is seen to occur primarily between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat; and takes the form of conflict over hours of work; value of wages; division of profits; cost of consumer goods; the culture at work; control over parliament or bureaucracy; and economic inequality. The class struggle in capitalist Society reminds the struggle between the Bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Bourgeoisie and the proletariat are the basic classes in capitalist Society. Basically Bourgeoisie exploits the proletariats. The history of capitalist Society is therefore the history of bitter struggle between the proletariat and the working class. Bourgeoisie's mission was to abolish capitalism and build a classless communist Society. For the later development of the situation the revolutionary steps was needed. After the implementation of feudal Lords of domination in society formed the class struggle of the proletariat. When capitalism developed the forms of the class struggle of the Bourgeoisie became more acute. They wanted to make struggle to improve its material and working conditions. They made the class struggle history the first form of class struggle. This played a big part in the development of revolutionary movement. It was happened with the group of proletariats that became united. The significant thing is that political struggle of the proletariat was for the power of dictatorship of the proletariat the.

19. Marxist party as the organizer and leader of the proletariat class struggle

There became the need of a party to contribute the movement. Marxist party was revolutionary and more advanced and more developed party. This party became the highest form of organization of the proletariat. This party is the advanced; conscious and organized contingent of the working class. This party is a genuine People's Party unites the finest representatives of the people. This party became the inspiration for capitalist countries and the influence of socialism. Marxist analysis of society identifies two main social groups:

Labor (the proletariat or workers) includes anyone who earns their livelihood by selling their labor power and being paid a wage or salary for their labor time. They have little choice but to work for capital; since they typically have no independent way to survive.

Capital (the bourgeoisie or capitalists) includes anyone who gets their income not from labor as much as from the surplus value they appropriate from the workers who create wealth. The income of the capitalists; therefore; is based on their exploitation of the workers (proletariat).

20. The Bankruptcy of Bourgeoisie

Many revisionist theories were presented of class struggle in contrast to the Marxist theory of classes. They wanted to preach bourgeoisie ideology under capitalism. They basically tried to deny the class struggle in contemporary Society of that time. Some of them who were sociologists wanted to speak that struggle to not stay. They wanted to say that the class struggle is not a fact. Classes become created only for the different kind of professions. It can be possible to meet classes of society stayed; according to them. They said about the improve of classes and about the need of classes. They said about the high standard of living about some American workers. They said about their savings.

21. The Class Struggle in Contemporary Capitalist Society

The crisis of capitalist Society have been proved in 1917 after the October revolution of Russia. This is was marked by the Social Development building socialism. More people became improved by the socialism. More people became influenced by socialism. Here can be remembered the history of Lenin in the contribution of world war first World War made Bolshevik party. Many working-class people became united and were against the capitalism.

22. Classes and the Class Struggle in the Transition Period from Capitalism to Socialism

We all know about the struggle of people about the production and production system of antagonistic classes Society. The class struggle during the transition from capitalism to socialism was inevitable are the main part was the dictatorship of the proletariats they had the power of dictatorship. The attitude of the proletariat to the use of force was significant.

23. The Class Composition of Socialist Society

With the building of socialism in the Soviet Union; the class composition of Soviet Society changed radically. Private ownership of the means of production and the exploitation of Man by man were abolished forever. The exploiting classes were eliminated both in Town & Country. Working Class People Remain the most important they became the true Master of the country. the working people was the most important socially-conscious class the social political and ideological Unity of the Soviet people has been formed in socialist society.

24. Conclusion

Thus we may understand about the views of political theory. We can know about the origin of contemporary political philosophy. We can know the history of this. We may have distinct idea about justice. We here also discussed about class struggle. Thus we may know the contribution of many philosophers.

References

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