

Paper : POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

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Anarchism

-Anarchism is a political ideology that advocates the model of self-governed societies based on innate cooperative instincts of man.

-Etymologically, anarchism is derived from the Greek word '**anarchos**' meaning '**without authority**'.

-One of the earliest political philosophers of anarchism was **Pierre Joseph Proudhon** who famously described **profit as theft**.

-Russian thinker **Peter Kropotkin** and French pacifist **Leo Tolstoy** are among the other important advocates of this philosophy.

=Anarchism as an ideology seeks to abolish all authority and emancipate man from the State, property and religion. It alternatively visualises a society based on voluntary association of human beings.

=Anarchism considers the **State as an unnecessary evil**. State is an evil because it suppresses rights and liberties of man hindering his moral development.

-Unlike the negative liberalists who called the State necessary even though it is an evil, anarchism rejects the State as an unnecessary institution. They argue that the

-State does not perform any useful function in society and, therefore, it must be exterminated immediately.

-**Bakunin**, another famous anarchist thinker. asserted that if there is a State, there must be domination and subjugation of one class by another class and therefore all States must vanish.

-Anarchism does not champion the cause of disorder and disunity. On the contrary, it **claims to embody order and unity**.

-Human beings are naturally provided with **cooperative instincts**. They can lead a life of happiness and fulfilment guided by the instinct of voluntary cooperation. But the artificial institution of the State suppresses the cooperative instincts of man. It endangers freedom and rights of man.

-Anarchism aspires to destroy the State and implant in its place a new system of voluntary associations. Every man will voluntarily and enthusiastically participate in public life.

- **Anarchy does not mean a society without rules, rather without rulers.**

-Anarchism believes in the **principles of self-determination and self-ownership**. Every human being has the right to self-determination and can decide his or her life based on his wishes and freedom.

-Similarly, every person has complete ownership of himself or herself and this is the most basic form of property. The State threatens these two important principles and therefore should be discarded.

-Anarchism opposes not only State but also other social institutions like family and religion criticising them to be responsible for the abominable exploitation of man.

-Some anarchists **equate property with tyranny** and condemn it as source of crime.

Anarchism is similar to Marxism in demanding the abolition of the State. But while Marxism believes that the State will wither away after the establishment of socialism, anarchism demands the immediate destruction of the State.

Gerard Casey supported anarchism in the 21st century by stating that not only the totalitarian and repressive ones but also all States are criminal organisations.

-**A new system of Stateless societies** is the cherished goal of anarchism.

There are different kinds of anarchism.

-They can be categorised as **philosophical anarchism, socialist anarchism, revolutionary anarchism and libertarian anarchism**. However, not all of them demand the abolition of the State. The libertarian anarchism wants to restrict the State to the minimum possible extent. Still, majority of anarchist philosophers advocates the abolition of the State.

-Philosophers, critical of anarchism, opined that anarchism **is too optimistic of the human nature**. Their assumptions are **plainly naive**.

-They are oblivious to the ground realities especially the selfish side of human beings. Not all human beings are instinctively cooperative.

- Moreover, as man is not only rational but also emotional at times strongly influenced by emotions a cooperative individual may become selfish.

-A world or society without the State will prove to be a source of immense misery as issues like terrorism, cybercrime, and environmental pollution will spiral out of control.

-The safety of the world becomes fragile in the absence of the State as extremist groups will gain access and control over nuclear weapons and herald death and destruction.

Idealism

- Idealism believes in the organic nature of the state. It views the state as an organism. The state is capable of independent growth. It possesses a distinct identity. The whole is more important than its parts.
- The state is more important than the individuals living under its jurisdiction
- The objective of the state is the moral development of man. Idealism has an intrinsic relationship with morality and moral development
- Friedrich Hegel is the greatest advocate of idealism
- He was a German philosopher who authored the book *Phenomenology of Spirit*
- Hegel says that the **World Spirit is the true Master and Sovereign of the World**
- World Spirit is also called by him as Reason
- World spirit created everything in the world in its journey of self realization and development
- It undertakes several embodiments to realize itself.
- Physically it takes three kinds of embodiments Inanimate Objects, Animate beings and Man.

- Socially it takes the embodiment of the Greek Society, Roman Society and the modern Civil Society

-The Modern Civil Society is the State

- Man is the highest level of embodiment in physical domain and State is the highest level of embodiment in social, political domain

- Real is Rational and Rational is Real

- As the Spirit created everything in the world all the real things in the real world are equal to that of the ideal world represented by the Spirit

- No distinction between the actual and the ideal

- Hegel famously stated that **the State is the March of God on Earth**. The State is nothing but the highest form of embodiment of the spirit

- Freedom lies in the obedience of the individuals to the orders and commands of the state

-Hegel is an ardent advocate of war. He disliked peace

- Hegel believed in Dialectical Idealism. He advocated a new kind of logic called **Synthetic Logic**

-Every affirmation in the world is called a **Thesis**. It develops its own opposition called **Antithesis**.

They react with each other and final form called **Synthesis** emerges.

Synthesis is a fusion of Thesis and Antithesis.

It contains the positive content of both Thesis and Antithesis.

It results from the elimination of contradictions between Thesis and Antithesis

- Idealism and Hegelian thoughts are criticized by many other thinkers as favoring authoritarianism and dictatorship