

# Political Science

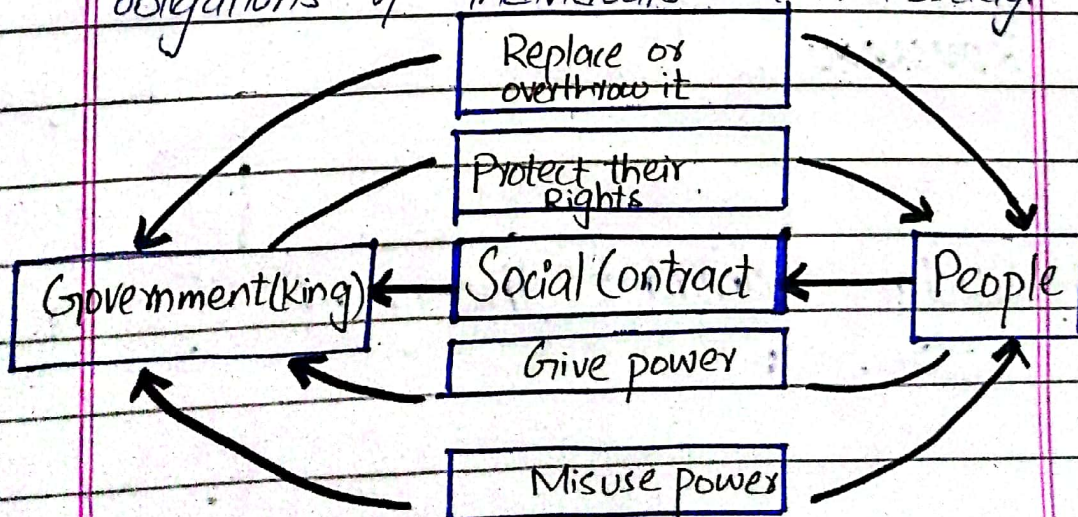
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## Question #04

Critically analyze the Social Contract Theory of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.

### Introduction:-

State of nature, in political theory, the real or hypothetical condition of human beings before or without political association. The notion of a state of nature was an essential element of the social contract theories of the English philosophers **Thomas Hobbes** and **John Locke** and the French philosopher **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**. The social contract theory is a fundamental concept in the political philosophy that seeks to explain the origin and nature of legitimate political Authority and the rights and obligations of individuals within a society.



# "Beyond Idealism and Realism: A Critical Exploration of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau's Social Contract theory"

The social contract theory of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau were distinguished and analyzed by their attempt to justify and delimit political authority on the grounds of individual self-interests and rational consent.

	Human Nature	State of Nature	Social contract
<b>Hobbes</b>	Man is a wolf onto his fellow man.	A state of war	Leviathan (Absolute Monarchy)
<b>Locke</b>	Man has Perfect Freedom	Property is not secure	Common-wealth (Representative Democracy)
<b>Rousseau</b>	Man is free but 'immoral'	No security or morality	State guided by the general will. (Direct Democracy)

## 1- Social Contract theory of Thomas Hobbes:-

"In the state of nature, life is

solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."  
- Thomas Hobbes

In the tumultuous aftermath of the English Civil War and the execution of King Charles I, English philosopher Thomas Hobbes wrote "**Leviathan**", defending the absolute power of kings. Hobbes's social contract theory emerged from his portrayal of the '**State of nature**'. He described the 'state of nature' as a chaotic and dangerous condition, where people were equal and free but lived in constant fear. In the state of nature, human beings are driven by their natural instincts and desires, leading to "**a war of all against all**" (Latin: "bellum omnium contra omnes").

To escape this state of chaos, individuals enter into a **Social contract**, willingly giving up some of their natural rights to a **sovereign** authority in exchange for protection and order. This sovereign, whether a **Monarch** or a representative government, has

absolute power, which is necessary to maintain peace and prevent a return to the state of nature. This contract is among people not between sovereign and people, can be removed only in case of life threat.

## Critiques-

### i- Oversimplified Human Nature:

Critics argue that Hobbes' pessimistic view of human nature as inherently selfish overlooks the complexity and variety of human motivations. People are not solely driven by self-interest but can also display altruism, empathy, and a sense of community.

### ii- Excessive Authority:

Critics argue that Hobbes' social contract granting absolute power to a sovereign authority raises concerns about the potential for tyranny and abuse. Hobbes' advocacy for a strong central authority might undermine individual liberties and lead to an oppressive regime.

## 2- John Locke's Social Contract Theory:-

"All mankind being all equal and

independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions".

- John Locke

John Locke (1632-1704), English philosopher, during English civil war, supported the protestant Parliament against King James II in the Glorious Revolution of 1685. In 1690, Locke published his **Two treatises of Government**. He generally agreed with Hobbes about brutality of the state of nature, which required a social contract to assure peace. But he disagreed with Hobbes on two major points:

i- John Locke argued that individuals possess natural rights like life, liberty and property, which are inalienable and cannot be given up.

ii- He differed from Hobbes, stating that the social contract involved an agreement between the people and the sovereign, preferably a king.

Locke argued that natural rights limit the king's power. If the

king violated these rights, people could rebel and form a new government.

Thomas Jefferson drew upon Locke's ideas when writing the Declaration of Independence, making Locke's theories influential in shaping the foundation of American democracy.

### Critique:

#### i- Vagueness of Natural Rights:

While Locke's theory rests on the concept of Natural Rights, there is no consensus on what these rights entail precisely. This ambiguity can lead to differing interpretations and potential conflicts over their scope.

#### ii- Lack of Historical Basis:

Some critics argue that Locke's theory rests on the concept of natural rights, there is no consensus on what these rights entail precisely. hypothetical scenario of individuals forming a government, which may not accurately reflect the historical development of society and governance.

### 3. Rousseau's Social contract theory:

"Man is born free, and every where he is in chains."

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Rousseau's social contract theory emphasizes the concept of the "general will" which represent the collective will or common interests of the community or the society as a whole. He believed that in the state of nature, humans were inherently good, but societal structures and inequalities corrupted them. The social contract is an agreement among individuals to create a government that acts in accordance with the general will.

#### Critique:-

##### i- Ambiguity of the General Will:

Defining and discerning the general will is challenging, as it may not always be clear what the majority truly desires. This vagueness opens the door to potential manipulation by those in power, claiming to represent the general will.

## ii- Neglect of Individual Rights:-

Rousseau's focus on the collective good arises concerns about the potential disregard for the rights and interests of minorities or dissenting individuals. The emphasis on the general will might lead to a tyranny of the majority.

## Conclusions:-

These social contract theories offers distinct perspective on the relationship between individuals and the government. While Hobbes emphasizes the need for a strong central authority, Locke focuses on limited government and the protection of natural rights and Rousseau stresses the importance of a government guided by the general will. Each theory has strengths and weaknesses, and the ongoing debate surrounding these ideas continue to shape modern political philosophy.

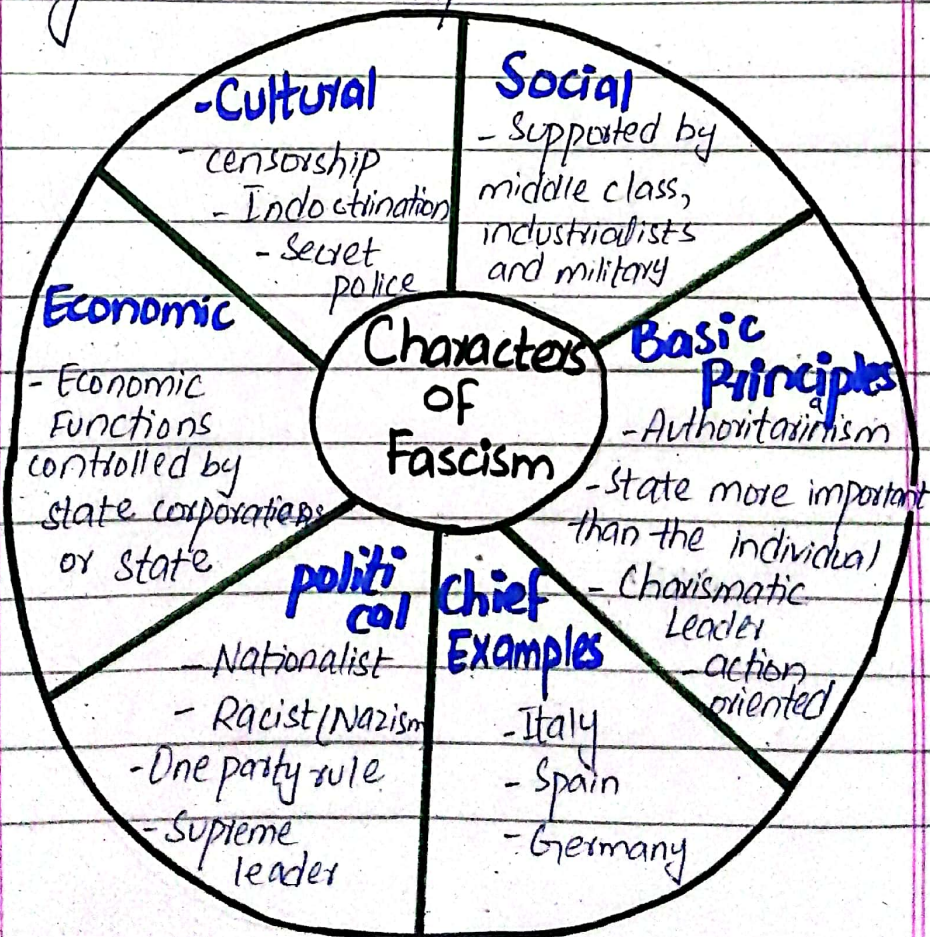
## Question #6

Critically examine the basic principles of Fascism?



# Introduction:-

Fascism is a far-right, authoritarian ultra-nationalism that was developed in Italy in the post WWI period as a reaction against socialism and the economic distress which prevailed in the country after the war. Some of the basic principles of fascism are nationalism, dictatorship, militarism, the negation of parliamentary democracy and marxism, opposition to liberalism, and individualism. Moreover, Fascism favours the totalitarian concept of the state and believe in the supremacy of the military, economic regulations and imperialism.



## Principles of Fascism:-

Fascism is a political ideology that emerged in the early 20th century, notably in Italy under **Benito Mussolini** and later in Germany under **Adolf Hitler**.

Critically examining the basic principles of fascism involves analyzing its key tenets and their implications:

### i- **Staunch Nationalism:-**

Nationalism is the first and most fundamental principle of fascism. Fascism holds that a nation remains vulnerable, weak and enslaved, as long as individuals of foreign and inferior races, cultures and religions coexists with a superior race which constitutes the vast majority of the state. Consequently, this co-existence causes cultural and racial conflicts, within a nation which ultimately erode a nation's foundation.

A **country**, according to the fascist definition, is a group of people who share a common ancestry, religion, and culture and who constitute the majority of the population in a particular

geographical territory. Only individuals of such a nation, according to Fascists, can share a spiritual and emotional relationship, and with the land where they dwell.

**Benito Mussolini** issued the following proclamation in 1922:

"The nation, for us, is more than a physical location; it is also a spiritual being".  
- **Mussolini**

The intense nationalism can lead to aggressive expansionist policies, xenophobia, and discrimination against minority groups perceived as "outsiders".

## ii- **Authoritarianism:-**

Fascism promotes a highly centralized and authoritarian form of government, concentrating power in the hands of a single leader or a small group. It believes in the leadership of a single charismatic leader, having absolute and unchallenged authority. The concentration of power can lead to the suppression of individual liberties and marginalization of opposition voices.

### iii- Totalitarianism:-

Fascist regimes seek to control every aspect of society, including the economy, media, education and culture. Totalitarian control can stifle dissent, suppress free speech and undermine democratic institutions. The state is considered supreme in social, economic and political fields.

"All within the state, nothing outside the state"  
- Mussolini

### iv- Militarism:

Fascism glorifies military strength and aggression. It views war and conflict as means of achieving national greatness and dominance.

"A minute on the battlefield is worth a lifetime of peace."

- Mussolini

This militaristic stance can lead to devastating wars and human rights abuses.

### v- Anti-Democratic:

Fascism is a staunch opponent of democracy. Parliamentary institutions are disdained in Fascism. Fascists

criticize parliamentary institutions as corrupt, slow moving and stupid. To Fascists, democracy is decaying corpse. Moreover parliaments are viewed as nothing, but talking shops, incapable of producing anything significant and completely useless in times of crisis and urgency.

The Rejection of the democratic norms can lead to the erosion of civil liberties and human rights.

## vi- Opposition to Marxism

Fascism strongly opposes marxism.

"The elimination of socialism and everything resembling it." - Mussolini

Benito Mussolini, as a fascist, made his first appearance by unleashing blackshirts' armed squads on labourers and peasants. Marxism talks about classless society, however, fascism maintains it. As Fascists says:

"We defend the hierarchy of classes. Everyone knows that there will always be different social levels; the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor, the governing and the governed."

## vii- Right-wing Ideology:-

Furthermore, on the political spectrum, Fascism falls on far-right ideology, advocating racial and ethnic purity, limited individual freedom and religious fundamentalism.

## viii- Corporatism:

Fascism seeks to unite the interests of the state, corporation and workers under the control of the government. While it claims to create harmony, this can lead to collusion between big business and the state, eroding workers' rights and perpetuating economic inequality.

## ix- Propaganda and Censorship:

Fascist regimes use propaganda and censorship to control public opinion and manipulate perceptions. This can result in the dissemination of misinformation and the suppression of alternative viewpoints.

## x- Cult of Personality: Dictators

Fascist leaders often cultivate a cult of personality, where they become dictators and even revered as almost

god-like figures. This can create a dangerous level of devotion and blind loyalty, undermining critical thinking and dissent.

### **xi- Favours Violence and Wars:-**

Violence is the fundamental character of fascism. There is state-sponsored violence in the fascist states. Moreover, fascism regards war as inevitable.

"Live by the sword, die by the sword."

- Adolf Hitler

### **xii- Imperialism:-**

According to fascists, imperialism is a need, as well as a hallmark of a vigorous and vibrant nation. As stated in the Italian Encyclopedia published in 1932:

"For Fascism, the growth of empire, that is to say, the expansion of the nation is an essential manifestation of vitality, and it is opposite a sign of decadence?"

### **Critical Analysis:-**

Fascism, a political ideology, is extremely violent and militant in nature, and it has resulted in immeasurable agony and devastation around the world.

most notably in European continent, biggest examples are Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler. Moreover Fascism is considered one of the main causes of world war II (1939-1945). Hence, this ideology must be opposed as it's highly violent and had caused the death of 50 million people.

### **Conclusion:**

In a nutshell, Fascism is an inherently brutal, fundamentally inhumane and potentially destructive political ideology, based on the principle of violent militarism, nationalism, imperialism, dictatorship, elitism, and totalitarianism. Understanding these principles is crucial to safeguard democratic values and promoting tolerance and inclusivity in society.