

Question:

Communism is inimical to democracy, freedom and actual rights.

Introduction:

There are many political ideologies including communism and democracy. Communism is a political theory that advocates classless society and communally owned enterprise. It is pitted against democracy which allows freedom, actual rights and presence of capitalism. The basic objective of communism which involves censorship positions it against the stance of democracy.

Communism opposes democracy, freedom and actual rights:

In order to build a classless society communism is against the capitalistic view, presence of free public opinion and right to private ownership. All these ideas are against the basic principle of democracy which encourages free will of an individual, strengthening capitalistic view and political participation.

(i) Right of political participation:

Idea of communism is built upon single party system, mostly; while democracy involves multiple party system to be present. Single party system concentrates power in the hands of few which is against the separation of powers in democracy.

Example:

After 1949, Nationalist Party of China was defeated and China's Communist Party took over by Mao Zedong. That started the process of building second largest Marxist-Lenin State of world. However, presence of single party system in China i.e. China's Communist Party curtails and restricts the right of an individual to select a leader from any other party.

(ii) Economic structure of state:

There is a stark difference seen in economic structure of communism and democracy. Communism involves central planning system which is quite complex and leads to stagnation. Whereas, democracy

is on the side of capitalistic view and allows private ownership that provides incentive in market to create competition and progress.

Example:

USSR, before its disintegration in 1989 was a communist state and had a slow growing GDP due to main focus on heavy industry production that led to decline in economy. Even though multiple reforms like perestroika and glasnost were introduced but stagnation due to centralised planning could not be tackled. As opposed to that liberal democratic states of that time including USA had high GDP growth.

(iii) Right to property and freedom of expression:

Communism is strict ideology that does not tolerate the presence of capitalism in state as opposed to democracy, which is open to multiple views. Former restricts the public opinion while latter encourages freedom of expression.

Example:

Communism, as seen in China, curtails the freedom of opinion of public through censorship while limiting the participation of public in governance as well. However, democracy allows freedom of speech as it permits people not to be governed only but to be part of governance as well.

(iv) Role of state in controlling public:

Communism disseminates limited number of rights to individual while there is concentration of power in few hands. It fully controls the function of an individual in society in contrast to principles of democracy.

Example:

As seen in communist states, such as in North Korea and Cuba, communism restricts the power of an individual in state while authority vests in major organ of government.

(v) Concentration of power in governing structure.

Communism overpowers few individuals involved in running the state whereas democracy is against the usurping of power by any one organ of government.

Example:

As seen in China, presence of single party system that is China's Communist Party concentrates the power of state in hands of few individuals while democracy allows system of check and balance.

Position of Communism and democracy in today's time:

Communism and democracy are poles apart in terms of their principles. Communism restricts the interaction of state with others leading towards decline in GDP. For the same reason communism is seen in few countries ^{nowadays} and led to change in regime of communism due to strict policy. For this reason USSR after disintegration

was compelled to change its regime of governance and China, has also slightly delineated from path of communism through presence of some capitalist reforms.

Critical analysis:

Tension between communism and democracy had laid the foundation of cold war that led to fall of communists due to strict policies and less acceptance in society.

Communism is different in views of democracy and freedom of rights due to central policy planning, curbing private ownership, restricting the rights of freedom of an individual through censorship.

Conclusion:

The ideology of communism is constructed against democracy and capitalistic view. Therefore, it limits the freedom of an individual in terms of opinion and property ownership, leading towards revolutionary vanguard.