

IDEOLOGY

Q What is an ideology? Discuss its emergence and importance.

Answer:

The Term; Ideology

- The term ideology is a complex phenomena in study of social sciences on which a great deal of controversy exists among scholars on its meaning and definition.

Antoine Destutt de Tracy:

- The French philosopher Antoine Destutt de Tracy used the word ideologie during French Revolution and define it as the **science of ideas** meaning thereby as the study of the origins, evolution and nature of ideas.

Karl Marx:

To Karl Marx ideology means the **ideas of ruling junta who seeks to perpetuate (continue, support, secure, sustain) the prevailing order of capitalism and their own privileged position.**

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Karl Mannheim

According to Karl Mannheim, ideology is the conservative, self-seeking and biased views of the dominant class in society.

- Ideology is a different form of those comprehensive patterns of moral beliefs about man, society and the universe in relation to man and society.
- A way of thinking about the cultural and social programme of a political movement launched to emancipate (free, liberate, release) a suppressed group from the exploitation of a more dominant social class.
- A systematic set of arguments and beliefs used to justify an existing or desired social order.

Political Ideology:

A political ideology is a system of beliefs that explains and justifies a preferred political order, either existing or proposed and offers a strategy (institutions, processes, programmes) for its attainment.

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- In short we can define an ideology as;

'An ideology offers an interpretation of the past, and explanation of the present, and a vision of the future.'

The Emergence Of an

Ideology:

- Ideologies often reflect the way of thinking of a nation or a social group who has been rejected a social position
- It grows amongst the dissatisfied and disgruntled group of society as a challenge to the prevailing (old) social set up.
- The ideologies are propagated as a systematic programme of logical ideas, which convincingly explain the human destinies.
- The ideologies are highly integrated around one or few pre-eminent (greatest) leading, prominent) values, such as, salvation, equality or ethnic purity.
- Ideologies tend to rise in times of crisis and social stress.
- They originate and get support among those sections of society who have

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rejected the prevailing conditions.

- In short we can say that ideologies emerges;

"When people feel strongly that they are being mistreated under an existing order, when their status is threatened by fundamental changes occurring in the society, and when the prevailing ideology no longer satisfies them."

Importance Of an

Ideology:

The importance of an ideology can be discuss in the following points;

- 1- Ideology is a motivating force for a nation
- 2 It is striving hard to bring stability and homogeneity (uniformity) to its nationhood.
- 3 It provides the cement-binding base to the scattered groups in a society and brings them closer to each other on a common platform.
- 4 Ideologies impel (force, push) their adherents (supporters) to follow a joint line of action for the accomplishment of their goal.

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- 5- Ideologies give shape to revolutions and give birth to new cultures and civilizations.
- 6- They stress on their adherents (supporters) to insist on the realization of their ideals through total transformation of society.
- 7- Absolute and firm individual obedience is demanded of those who accept it and an unquestioned agreement with each other on the ideals is the most vital prerequisite of an ideology.

Conclusion:

In short we can conclude it that an ideology is a science of ideas, a systematic programme of logical ideas that explains human destinies and give birth to political ideologies, on the basis of which a scattered group of society gets integrated and struggle for the accomplishment of their goal.
