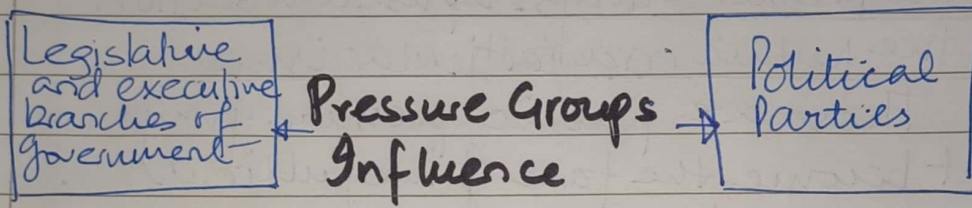


Question 5

(a) Political Dynamics of Pressure Groups

I Definition of Pressure Group

A pressure group is an organized or unorganized body that actively seeks to promote particular interests within a society by exerting pressure on public officials and agencies.



II Political Dynamics of Pressure Groups

(a) Dynamics similar to political parties

Pressure groups and political parties have much in common. Both bodies channel their public's views and interests to government. So, both of them carry out

- (i) representation
- (ii) facilitate political participation
- (iii) contribute to the policy process

(b) Differences between pressure groups and Political Parties



(i) They do not necessarily have to formally participate in politics
 Business and trade union groups as well as individual companies are also pressure groups.

Trade associations, giant private corporations, trade unions and professional organisations are examples of this group.

(ii) Some pressure groups represent a section of the public on a particular issue.

These are public pressure groups that become the face of the public as people place trust on them.

II Provide a mouthpiece for groups and interests not adequately represented through the electoral process

They act as a means of representation when political parties fail to holistically represent groups and interests in the electoral process.

They focus on specific causes and some argue that they provide an alternative line to formal, functional representation.

(b) Marx's theory of Class Struggle

I ^{Classes} ~~Parting~~ Two that are in a conflict
 Marx's theory of class struggle argues that society consists of two main competing classes - bourgeoisie and proletariat.

II The owners of the means of production
 The bourgeoisie is the upper and dominating class that own the means of production and employ wage labour.

III Working class
 The proletariat are the working class who sell their labour to survive.

“The history of all hitherto existing ~~classes~~ societies is the history of class struggles.”
 [Marx]

IV The class struggle leads to Alienation of the working class

(i) From the Act of Production

(ii) From the intrinsic human essence (Gattungswesen)

4 types of Alienation

(iii) From other workers

(iv) From the Product of Labour

(i) From the Act of Production

Under capitalism, where the upper class rules over working class, workers have little or no overall control over the production process

(ii) From intrinsic human presence

Capitalism takes away "Gattungswesen" according to Marx. This is the essence of being human since the individual's labour is forced and coerced and the worker cannot choose according to his desire.

The worker's alienation from his specific-being when his labouring activity is degraded to animal or mechanical functions is

"Estranged Labour"

"Labour is external to the worker"

[Marx]

(iii) From other workers .

Workers are defined in terms of their occupation rather than their own individuality and becomes disconnected from the products they create the moment they are handed to their employers. This causes the worker to lose his self-identity.

(iv) From the product of labour

The workers have no control over design and purpose of the product they create.

(v) Conclusion - Class Struggle manifesting in Historical Materialism and a classless society

According to Marx, Society thus moves from stage to stage when the dominant upper class is displaced by a new emerging class that enforces the old relations of production to change.

This takes place in the superstructure of society in the form of revolution.



Question 2 - social Contract

Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau laid foundations of the Social Contract established between citizens and governing institutions. Hobbes social contract is based on principles of authoritarianism where people place all their trust and rights on ruler. Locke advocates a form of liberal democracy as the state's purpose and foundation is on protection of liberty, life and property. Rousseau's foundation of Social Contract is on the General Will of people. In the current age of populism, a surge of authoritarian form of politics is seen that seeks to consolidate the leader's power and scapegoating of marginalized groups. Fear and Threat are also common foundations on which a strong public opinion is silenced.

I Hobbes foundations for social Contract

(i) Anarchy and fear in England - a lawless society

At the time of Hobbes, there was threat of civil war and Spanish Armada. Immense fear and a society without a regulation mechanism were pervasive.

"My mother gave birth to twins - myself and the fear"

[Hobbes]

(ii) State of nature - selfish, nasty, brutish

The state of nature according to Hobbes is based on the mechanism of survival of the fittest and Might is right. Hence, the social contract people enter into is unilateral and irrevocable to be dictated in their living.

"In the state of nature, the condition of man is a condition of war against everyone"

II Locke's foundations for social Contract

(i) Relative peace in England

Locke was writing at a time when the civil war had ended and the King had surrendered all power to parliament voluntarily.

(ii) State of nature - cooperative, collaborative and social

The foundations of Locke's contract are based on the peaceful nature of man. The social contract guides and guards people's liberty and is representative of people's interests.

III Rousseau's foundations of social contract

“Man was born free but everywhere is in chains”

Rousseau underlined that man is neither good nor bad but works on satisfying desire. The social contract should be based on freedom of general will of people who are sovereign.

IV Current age of Populism and validity of Social Contract's foundations - Hobbes's foundations relevant by and large

(i) Authoritarian politics through populism by Trump

Trump exercised conspiracy mongering, racism toward African Americans and nonwhite immigrants, distrust of democratic institutions in which an element of Might is Right is evident. All these aspects are in a line with Hobbesian foundations of Social Contract.

(ii) Ethnonationalism in France

The Front National party in France has been the most successful of parties in Europe. It shares an emphasis on ethnically homogenous values which puts aside other important groups and democratic participation of all parties.

(iii) Hindutva ideology of Modi popularising Hindu nationalism and dominance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India has also shown populist elements to gain vote of confidence in a country with Hindu majority.

Conclusion - Elements of populism do borrow from Hobbesian ideas, social contract foundations in contemporary times

As discussed, several political leaders use elements of the basis that Hobbes defined the social contract - surrendering all power to popular and majoritarian views, and might is right.

Question 7 - Local self-government as the root of democracy and Pakistan

The notion of local self-government is based on ~~not~~ principles of political participation and effective governance of federating units within a state. In Pakistan, the 18th amendment was a step in the right direction to pave way ~~for~~ subsidiarity and devolution of powers from the center to the provinces.