

QNo2

Introduction

Social contract theory has been presented by various political philosophers and this theory finds its roots in the basis of state of nature. Political philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau were the main proponents of the social contract theory. These philosophers founded the social contract on their philosophical underpinnings of state of nature. Following are philosophies of the social contract in the light of Hobbesian, Locke and Rousseau's state of nature.

Social contract of Thomas Hobbes

Thomas Hobbes was an absolutist political philosopher who gave the concept of state of nature in his book Leviathan.

Hobbesian state of nature.

Hobbes describe state of nature where no state of humans exist. Man is free to pursue whatever he wants. However, Hobbes is pessimistic of man's nature. According to him, man's nature in the state of nature is absolutist, nasty, greedy and

savage. So, there is no law and order thereby the protection of one's rights and property is at stake. All the safeguards and securities are only dependent on what one can protect oneself. Simply, man practices might is right concept.

Hobbesian social contract

Thomas Hobbes illustrates that to protect the life and property of man in the state of nature. Man entered into a social contract, surrendering its freedom to subjugate in front of an authority for the sake of protection of life and protection. The authority guaranteed the protection and safeguard of rights in return of ultimate subjugation. In this way, the concept of state and ruler emerged that is seen in the world.

Hobbes's ruler and his characteristics

Hobbes describes the ruler as absolute and answerable to no one. According to him, the ruler will be authoritative and only this way he can safeguard the rights of people and would protect the people from social evils.

He also says that there is no contract between two of them i.e. the ruler and the ruled. As contract can be withdrawn, the people who are ruled would be the one to withdraw from the contract. So, in this way, the state would descend into state of nature. So, Hobbes is against the revolution.

Practical manifestation of Hobbesian social contract

All the absolute monarchies of the world were the practical manifestation of the Hobbesian social contract i.e. French, Russian, Mughals, Ottomans etc.

Social contract of John Locke

John Locke also supported state of nature and social contract theory with his own philosophical underpinnings.

Locke's Human nature

Locke is very optimistic about human nature. He describes human nature as altruistic, cooperative, rational and peaceful. Moreover, human nature tends to fair.

Locke's state of nature

In state of nature, man is free and happy. All natural rights i.e. right to life, property, liberty is ensured. But, people need authority to ensure these natural rights. The authority will provide the necessary protection.

Locke's social contract

Humans entered into a contract and surrendered some of their freedoms in return of the protection of life. However, all rights are not surrendered. Right to liberty, property and happiness is still reserved by the people.

Locke's authority

Locke's property is democratic and practices separation of power from executive to legislature. The people pledged their consent to obey. In case, the authority fails to protect the rights and life of the people, the people can revolt against the ruler. In this way, Locke presented the concept of revolution in his philosophy. He also described rule of law, limited government as the hall mark of liberal democracy.

Rousseau's state of nature

In the state of nature. Human beings are perfectly free and equal. But, human nature is not rational but rather emotional. It is passionate and cooperative.

Theory of general will

According to Rousseau, the theory of general will arises with the will of human being.

Humans have two kinds of will.

- i) Actual will
- ii) Real will

Those actions that are taken for personal gains are called actual will.

Those actions that are taken for the collective good of the society are called real will.

The actual will of the whole society will be called general will.

Social contract of Rousseau

According to the Rousseau's philosophy, no social contract can be done without the General will of the people. Without it, all the formations of states will be invalid and illegitimate.

However, General will is not majority will. General will is comprehensively the will of all segments of society.

Contemporary manifestations of social contract of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.

→ The modern liberal democracy in the wake of populism is the clear manifestation of Rousseau's General will.

→ The French ban on veil sparked a fierce reaction from the Muslim world but the General will of the people was imposed.

→ Similarly, Islamophobic sentiments amidst populism in the West are the glaring example of General will.

→ In addition to this, the French, Russian and Iranian revolutions are the example of Locke's idea of revolution.

→ Modern liberal democracy emanated from the limited and liberal government prescribed by Locke.

→ The post withdrawal scenario of Afghanistan was a clear manifestation of state of nature.

Conclusion

All three philosophers of social contract presented their own perspective and they are still valid in the contemporary world one way or the other.

Maxx's theory of class struggle

Introduction

Maxx is the theorist of dialectical materialism. He believes in the history that is driven by mode of production. In his theory, Karl Marx discusses about class struggle in industrialized states.

Dialectical materialism

Maxx believes that human history is the history of matter. Mode of production has always been the driving force of civilization. Moreover, history moves with the contradictions of matter and materialism.

Maxx's theory of class struggle

Maxx believes that opposite forces have always been at the opposite end and their struggle has determined the history. Human history is full of contradictions in the mode of production.

Landlord → Peasants

Master → Slave

Capitalist → Labour.

Maxx illustrates that in the highly industrialized states, workers are exploited and their wages are far less than the value of their product. There is a cycle in which these workers are exploited in the industries and the market.

Marx distinguished Labour class as Proletariate and the elite as Bourgeoisie.

He further said when this exploitation in the highly industrialized states would exceed. There would rise a class consciousness among the workers of capitalism.

These workers will rise up against their capitalist masters and start revolution. This revolution will abolish the elitist capitalist system. This revolution would be called revolution of the Proletariate.

When workers revolution will establish there would be universal equality, and a classless society will be there with equality of opportunity.

This would be the ideal state of market with common mode of production owned by the community.

This was the theory of class struggle by Karl Marx.

Conclusion

Karl Marx was the proponent of dialectical materialism. He believed that mode of production has been the driving force of civilization and history. The mode of production should be owned by the community.

Pressure Groups

Introduction to pressure groups

Pressure groups are such groups that do not aspire to take government power in their hands but exert considerable influence on the public policy making.

Types of pressure

Pressure groups are of different types with different nature.

- i) Political pressure groups
- ii) Institutional pressure groups.
- iii) Professional pressure groups.

Nature of pressure groups

Pressure groups are varied in nature of their work. On a large scope, they can be divided into

- i) Internal pressure groups
- ii) External pressure groups

Functions of pressure groups

i) Pressure groups either work from within an institution like bureaucracy or outside.

like a Non-governmental organization to influence the public policy

ii) Professional pressure groups also work as advisory body on expert opinions for the governments. Pressure groups of such kind exert considerable influence on public policy making.

iv) Political pressure groups convey the public opinion and public demand to the government in an effective manner to formulate policies for the public good.

Political dynamics of pressure groups

Some pressure groups are politically motivated and they demand policies and dividends for a particular group of people.

Taking the example of Pakistan, there are many pressure groups that work on behalf of a particular group of people.

i) Young doctors ~~Association~~ Association

This group works on behalf of young doctors.

ii) All Pakistan Textile Mills Association

iii) All Pakistan Kissan Movement

iv) All Pakistan Transport Association

v) All Pakistan Trade Union

These pressure groups are not only supported by opponent political parties but also exert influence on financial and policy matters.

Such pressure groups not only change public opinion but also influence

Political and legal constraints over the sovereignty of parliament.

I. Introduction

In the modern world of liberal democracy, parliament stands supreme as the sovereign body, working to replicate the aspirations of the citizens. However, there are several constraints over the sovereignty of the parliament in terms of political and legal domains.

II. Legal and political constraints over the US congress

i) Legally, the US congress is subjected to the judicial review of the independent judiciary. Judiciary can frame its legislation as null and void.

ii) The political head of the states, the President can turn the bill into veto which is a great handicap.

iii) The financial powers of the senate that is more experienced are far from influence.

iv) Politically, the congress is unable to represent in the executive branch as the cabinet of the President.

v) The US parliament despite being the supreme legislative body of the state cannot scrutinize the judiciary.

3. Political and legal constraints over the UK's parliament.

- i) Being a parliamentary system, the UK's parliament stays in session unless dissolved by the monarch. So, there is no certainty that the parliament would complete its term.
- ii) The UK's parliament is basically dominated by largest political party. So, the legislation and debates are, lawfully, carried out on behalf of the government as per their policies.
- iii) The parliament, or house of commons, politically cannot hold the executive accountable as majority of it is composed of the party incumbent in executive.
- iv) House of lords have most of the responsibility to legislate and debate over the matters of national interest as House of lords is hereditary and often performs legislative duty.

4. Political and legal constraints of Chinese parliament.

- i) Chinese parliament namely People's congress of China meets once a year and lacks effective legislation.
- ii) PCC is a rubber-stamp body for the cabinet of Chinese communist party and the decisions of politburo.
- iii) PCC cannot hold the executive accountable. Executive and politburo of Chinese communist party, in practice, override the Chinese parliament.

Political and legal constraints over the parliament of Pakistan.

- i) The parliament of Pakistan is politically under the majority party and legislation depends on the party policy.
- ii) It has been ineffective in making the executive accountable in practice.
- iii) The Parliamentary bills are subjected to the consent of the president.
- iv) The executive can override the parliament any legislation by passing Presidential ordinances.

Conclusion

Parliaments all over the world are considered as the source of power. However, these bodies are also rived by imperfections in the form of political and legal handicaps. These constraints can be addressed by proper mechanism.

QNo 7.

Introduction to local government.

There are multiple layers of the governments all over the world. Local governments are the basis of democracy that provide the foundation for healthy and thriving democracy. It is the building block upon which that whole structure of modern liberal democracy is erected.

Local Self-government as grass-root democracy. How it serves.

i) Provision of good service delivery

Local government provides good services and public amenities to the people. This good governance ensures the public interest in democracy.

ii) Provision of new leadership

Local government polishes the young and emerging leaders and makes them experienced enough to polish their political and administrative skills.

iii) Political socialization

Political socialization becomes easy as the local government easily permeate

in the deep social settings.

iv) Political awareness

Political awareness and political consciousness is instilled by LG as it make people aware of their rights and duties. People start critically evaluating the political developments rather than cautionalism.

v) Democratic values

LG ensures the promotion of democratic values of tolerance, respecting pluralism, law and order, unity in the classes and respect of each others rights. It also makes citizens better citizens and law abiding ones.

Local government in Pakistan.

According to the article 32-140A of the constitution of Pakistan, each province must have its own local government system. This local government system should be financed and empowered by the

Historical perspective of LG in Pakistan

Historically, Pakistan's local governments have largely been introduced by the non-civilian military rulers. The first was introduced by General Ayub Khan. This system was known as Basic democracy and 80,000 basic democrats were elected by popular voting. This was used as an electoral college for President Ayub Khan.

Later on General Zia introduced the LG with huge powers vested in bureaucracy. Later on, General Musharraf introduced the

Hurdles for LG in Pakistan.

- i) Bureaucracy poses hurdles as certain officials and departments do not share power with the elected local officials.
- ii) Financial autonomy is not granted in most of the cases making the local government ineffective.
- iii) Political parties in the center and province do not wish to strengthen the LG as the local elected officials could be from rival parties and this could compromise their electoral performance.
- iv) Politicians of center and provincial legislatures do not wish to empower or breed another rival candidate in future that could come from LG system. Simply, they want to remain unchallenged in their constituencies.
- v) Moreover, the elections after every two years are an expensive task and dwindling economy of the state cannot do this properly.

Suggestion:

- i) The constitutional provisions should be implemented.
- ii) Effective power sharing and allocation of finances should be made to ensure better service delivery.
- iii) Decisions should be taken by going beyond the political compulsions to strengthen democracy.

Conclusion

Local government is imperative for the better promotion of democracy and democratic values in society. It lays the foundations of healthy democracy by boosting the confidence of the people on democracy. However, local governments in Pakistan are facing political, financial and legal challenges. These challenges can be overcome by making comprehensive and effective public policies.