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Paper

Political Science - I

Batch

ISB-053

Subjective Section  
Section - (A)

QNO:02

Evaluate the foundations of 'Social Contract' by various political philosophers. Are these foundations valid in current era of populism?

Social Contract:-

According to political thinkers social contract is an agreement between the state and her subjects. The condition upon which social contract based vary from philosophers to philosopher. However, in all nation states, a 'social contract' is present in any form to form a government to govern the people of that state.

Foundations of Social Contract by various political Thinkers

1) Foundation of Social Contract by Thomas Hobbes:-

Thomas Hobbes was a English philosopher

who gave his political philosophy of social contract. His philosophy was impacted by the prevailing conditions of his time. At that time England was under civil unrest, political power was divided among pope, king and their supporters protestants and Catholics. Catholics were backing for Pop; while Protestants were supporting the king. Under such circumstance Thomas Hobbs supported the king, which can be evident from his nature of social contract, centered by an absolute monarch.

### Hobbs's Contract:

Thomas Hobbs stated that man in state of nature was living in abysmal conditions where there was no law and morality. Everything was subjected by force. Might was right. There was state of war. Everyone was in war against everyone.

Under such conditions, for the preservation of life and security, men gathered and gave their all rights and sovereignty to a one person called as monarch to govern them and protect them. This social contract b/w monarch and his subjects was ~~bindi~~ founded up:

- All sovereignty belongs to Monarch King.
- The contract was binding upon all.
- The contract was irrevocable except when monarch fails to provide security
- monarch was not subjected to law.

## John Locke's Social Contract:-

John Locke another political philosopher who gave another foundation for social contract.

According to him in state of nature reason and morality prevailed and men were living in peace. People number when enhanced, there felt a need for central authority to govern them. So they decided to undergo a social contract.

### Social Contract:-

In his treatises of government he gave his nature of social contract.

In First treatise; he asserted that people gave their consent and sovereignty to government. A government is established only by the consent of the subjects. The people gave their consent so that a government is formed to protect their natural rights of life, property etc.

In his second treatise; he stated that a monarch or a body has no right to rule by divine right. They can rule only as far as they are doing the duty for which people have selected them. If a monarch fails to protect the life and liberty of his subjects, then people has the right to overthrow the government.

of monarch and they undergo a new social contract in which their basic natural rights are protected. So John Locke's social contract has following features:

- Social contract is based upon people's consent.
- Contract is conditional and revocable.
- State is a means and people's rights of life and liberty are the ends.
- People have a right to revolution if a state failed to protect its subjects' rights.

### Social Contract of Rousseau:-

His political philosophy also started from taking into account of the state of nature. According to him there was peace in state of nature; man was living peacefully with 'due morality and reason'. Man was social in state of nature even before going to social contract.

### Foundations of his social Contract:-

Social contract of Rousseau was based upon the general will. General will is formed when people gathered at some specific opinion and submit their personal will for the formation

of general will. General will is for the benefit of 'whole'. If someone is against the general will, then the 'whole' persuade him to accept the general will. This general will resulted in formation of an agreement b/w the state and his citizens.

The social contract of Rousseau has following feature:

- Social contract is base on general will, which means it is base upon majority.
- A will that lacks the support of the people in majority, cannot be qualified as general will.
- Whenever social contract deprived of the general will, it is broken out and government formed will be dissolved.
- No one is above law in this social contract.
- Laws formed would have the acceptance of general will. NO law can be made which lack the consent of general will.
- Revocable social contract
- General will which is based upon majority could on be lost when the basic life and liberty rights of the majority is protected.

## Validity of foundations of Social Contract in current era of populism:-

Validity of foundations of social contract in this era of populism is still present. However, foundation of social contract varies from state to state on the basis of nature of government. Various states having different foundations for their social contract are as follows.

### Absolute monarchies and Autocracies:-

States having absolute monarchy today have the foundation for social contract, as was proposed by the Thomas Hobbs where people submit their consent to monarch, who then rule the state. However, in absolute monarchies people consent may have lost, while they still exist the social contract in form of monarchy. In the middle East various monarchies, autocracies are which may lack social consent. As populism was shown during the Arab Spring, but this populism was crushed by the monarch and change of social contract was inhibited by the monarch. According to Hobbs monarch in his social contract can stop revolutions to ensure stable government which is imperative for security.

and peace which is the paramount duty and function of monarch.

### Constitutional Democracies and Constitutional monarchies:-

In liberal democracy like USA, France and constitutional monarchies like UK social contract is exist as proposed by the John Locke and Rousseau. Their social contract was based upon popular consent, in the same liberal democracies h. also have government on popular consent. Secondly, democracies and constitutional monarchies government is responsible to the people when resentment occur b/w both, then government take the popular consent so social contract breaks away and another government is chosen in next election or in given assembly by vote of confidence in parliamentary democracies. Thirdly, social contract of Locke and Rousseau based upon popular support, in the same way in democracies social contract (government) is based upon majority votes. Fourthly, their social contract asked for responsible government, in same way current governments are responsible to their subjects. Lastly, current government head of states have no divine right to rule as proposed by social contract of J. Locke and Rousseau.

## Political Dynamics of a Pressure Group

### Pressure group:-

A pressure group is an association of people for a particular specific interest to attain by forcing and putting pressure upon government.

### Features of a Pressure Group:-

- A pressure group is a well organised collection of people.
- It has a well defined and specific agenda.
- A pressure group do not fight or struggle to capture power (political) for itself.
- It plays pressure tactics on government either on its executive for administrative purpose or on its legislature for legislative purpose.
- Strength of a pressure group depends upon its popular appeal and lobbies power.
- Organization of a pressure group is interest or goal oriented and uncommittedness among its members both for the attainment of its goal and the vitality and legality of its goal.



## Types of Pressure Groups:-

Type of pressure group varies on the basis of purpose for which it is striving.

→ They may have global purpose or national or regional or ethnic etc.

Some Pressure groups have goal at global level are called as **global pressure groups**:

- Pressure groups for peace; They have goal of disarmaments, denuclearization etc.
- Pressure groups for protecting environment. They have purpose and vision for decarbonization of planet eradication on use of fossil fuel etc.
- Pressure groups for Gender equality. They strive for women rights.
- Pressure groups for human rights.

Some pressure groups play role at national level, as their goal is national government oriented. They are:

- Pressure group for religious cause i.e islamization
- Pressure group for trade oriented policies.
- Pressure group for ethnic oriented goals etc.

## Political dynamics of Pressure Group:-

A pressure group has any political dimension based upon two things. One is the objective of pressure group and second is the way or method which the pressure group opted for the attainment of the goal.

So, pressure group play various political dynamics which are as follows:-

- 1) It may pressurized the incumbent government to fulfill its demands.
- 2) It may enhanced its bargaining position by getting or involving more public.
- 3) A pressure group may form a group or a block in the legislature and then pressurized the assembly to fulfill its demands.
- 4) A pressure group may threatened the government to fight election against it if it does not fulfill its demands.
- 5) A pressure group may involve institutional pressure especially judicial pressure by suing the government in any case.

QNO:05

(b)

## Marx's Theory of Class Struggle:-

Karl Marx gave his political philosophy of 'Marxism' which is based upon socialism, communism which is a counter to capitalism. His political philosophy has one major part as Theory of class struggle.

### Pretext:-

Marx's theory of Class Struggle based upon the aftermaths of the capitalism. He criticized capitalism on the basis that capitalism has created economic divisions which results in unjust distribution of wealth. Secondly he presumed that capitalism has imperial design both in term of states and individuals which resulted in colonialism. Thirdly, he preferred the economic factor as the basis and derivative of all other institutions in the state so he declared whole system of capitalism as unfair.

### Theory:-

According to Karl Marx, Class Struggle started from the origin of forces of production in capitalism. In forces of production a class which owns the means of 'production' is

## Bourgeoisie

called as ~~Proletariate~~ also called as capitalists which have the capital to own the means of production. While in forces of production the class which do not own means of production and have to work as labour are called as ~~Bourgeoisie~~ <sup>Proletariat</sup>. Under capitalism, in forces of production on one side are proletariat who work as labour while on the other hand are Bourgeoisie who own the means of production. With the passage of time Forces of Relations between the two classes i.e. Bourgeoisie and Proletariat become conflictual and resulted in class conflict or **class struggle**. This class struggle / conflict is due to economic factor which is due to capitalism. Under capitalism wealth goes on concentrated in the hands of Bourgeoisie because they have means of production, which proletariat goes on poorer and poorer because lack means of production.

According to Karl Marx this class conflict goes on with time which has impact on the state institutions. The Bourgeoisie who also control the state institutions because of capital modified the state institution to 'appease' the proletariat for time being, however exploitation of proletariat does not

end by this, so class struggle goes on. And the time come when proletarian class organized themselves under a strong leadership. and a conflict between two classes results in a **revolution**. This revolution led to the victory of the proletariat and they formed their own government called as **proletariat dictatorship**. For sometime the class struggle continues but now the government belong to the proletariat. Finally with reforms undertaken by the proletariat dictatorship which involve revoking of the right of property ownership and all the means of production thus comes under state control marked as **socialism**. Then the difference b/w the classes which was of due to means of production now ended, and then a **class-less** society came into being.

## Section-B

QNO: 06

Discuss the political and legal constraints over the sovereignty of parliament in various countries

### Parliament Sovereignty:-

Parliamentary sovereignty lies in its law making authority which it gain by the popular consent of its citizen. However its sovereignty is constrained by various legal and political constraints in various states owing to various form of governments.

### 1- Constitutional / legal Constraints:-

Legal constraints in parliament sovereignty is changed from parliamentary form of government to presidential form of government.

#### a) In Parliamentary form of Government:-

In parliamentary form of government the parliamentary sovereignty is restricted by various legal means:

- Its sovereignty is challenged by judiciary through judicial review of its law. Judiciary may declared new law as ultra vires or null and void by interpreting it as against the constitution of state.

eg:-

Pakistan's parliament during previous government passed the Supreme Court Review act, which was declared null and void on basis of its contradiction to the constitution of Pakistan. However in UK there is no judicial review.

- In a parliament ~~ruling party~~ ~~with the majority~~ second constraint is put by senate.

b) In Presidential form of government:-  
Under this form of government legal constraint is put upon parliament by the presidential veto of the laws passed by the ~~congress~~ parliament.

eg:-

In USA president can veto the act passed by the parliament.

2b) Political Constraints:-

a) In parliamentary form:-

1) In parliamentary ~~form~~ parliamentary sovereignty is challenged by the cabinet.

eg

In UK, law making is mostly controlled by cabinet result in the development of cabinet dictatorship.

→ ii) In Pakistan, if <sup>ruling</sup> majority party lack the majority, then in coalition government, the law making authority is challenged by the coalition members.

iii) Parliamentary sovereignty is also politically constrained by horse trading, forward blocks, and rebellion member.

### In Presidential form of government-

Under this form of government sovereignty of parliament is challenged by:-

i) When Presidential power is controlled by one party, while the congress majority belongs to the other party.

eg  
= In USA congress - Republican and Democrats.

ii) President through popular pressure can stop some kind of legislation

iii) Laws which have unpopular impacts may be effected <sup>parliamentary</sup> sovereignty in fear of losing popular support by majority party.