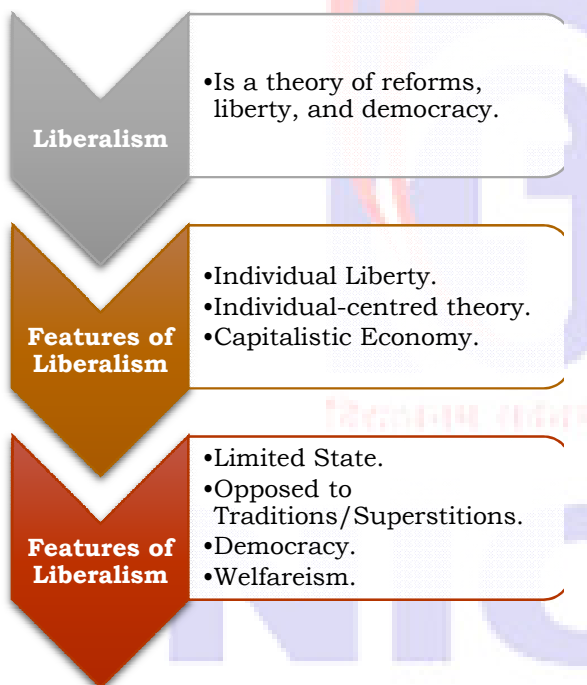


## Lesson- 4

### Major Political Theories

#### Summary –

Liberalism, Marxism and Gandhism are the major political theories. Liberalism and Marxism were popular among the people in most parts of the twentieth century. Liberalism is a political philosophy which advocates the autonomy of individual. Marxism is a political philosophy of the working class, which advocates equality, social justice, absence of all types of exploitation, a planned economy with employment for each and all. Gandhism while challenging the ideals of both liberalism and Marxism, presents not only a critique of both these ideologies, but also provides relevant alternative theories.



#### Weaknesses of Liberalism –

- ✚ It demands liberty, and talks about equality, it works, within the framework of market society and promises equal opportunities to all.

**Marxism-** Karl Marx & Frederick Engels realised the adverse effects of capitalism and brought out the scientific socialism or Marxism.

#### Marxism's Basic Postulates –

- ✚ Nothing happens in the world on its own.
- ✚ The real development is always the material development.
- ✚ The economic factor is the dominant factor in both individual life and social life.
- ✚ Human beings are born in history, but they make history.

#### Marxism's Basic Postulates –

- ✚ Every subsequent society is better than the preceding society.
- ✚ Revolutions mean total and wholesome changes.
- ✚ The state being the result of a class society is a class

- ✚ Marxism advocates communism as the highest form of society.

### Highlights of Marxism -

- ✚ **Dialectical Materialism** - All development is caused by conflict between conflicts and due to economic factors.
- ✚ **Relations of Production** - The social relations among the people are the relations of production.
- ✚ **Productive Forces** - These elements originate from the relations of production.
- ✚ **Historical Materialism** - With the change of the production system, there is a change in the economic relations and social system of the people. Human history is divided into five eras, primitive communist era, slavery era, feudalistic era, capitalist era and socialist era.
- ✚ **Theory of surplus value** - Difference between what the value a labourer produces & what he gets in the form of wages.
- ✚ **Theory of Class Struggle** - Class struggle is characteristic of class societies.
- ✚ **Revolution** is a positive event.
- ✚ **Socialist society** in which workers rule.

### Relevance of Marxism -

Marxism has acquired a unique place in social and political thought as a philosophy and as a practice. Its appeal crosses all boundaries.

**Gandhism**—Gandhism stands for a non-violent state based on, (i) the consent of the people, (ii) the near unity in the society. Gandhiji advocated decentralization of power: both political and economic.

### Gandhi as a Critic of Western Civilization -

- ✚ Against the western style of managing things through centralizing forces, he stood for a decentralized polity.
- ✚ He made a plea for Swadeshi, cottage industries and the theory of Trusteeship against the western concept of materialism, industrialization, & capitalism.

In the Gandhian, the political power is vested in the individuals: the centre of all activity, the repository of Swaraj; from individual, power is transferred to the village, from village, the power goes to the higher unit, and ultimately, ends up with the central/national government which, practically performs only the coordinating functions.

#### Ends & Means

- the means is likened to a seed; the ends to a tree

#### Society and Sarvodaya

- society based on equality,
- good of each with the good of all.

## Features of Liberalism, Marxism & Gandhism

### Liberalism

- Principles of reforms, freedom and democracy.

### Marxism

- Marxism is the political philosophy of the working class.

### Gandhism

- Non-violent state which is on -  
(i) people's consent.  
(ii) unity in society.  
- Political & economic decentralization of power.

### Evaluate Yourself –

1. According to the Marxists withering away of the state means disappearing of the state; Explain the statement in your words.
2. The liberal state is a social service state; if yes, write your view.
3. Discuss the Gandhi ji's thoughts about western civilization.

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