

Marxist Perspective

Marxist political theory focuses on social change and revolutionary reconstitution of

society. In this context, Marxism consists of three interrelated elements:

- An examination and critique of the present and past societies. This is known

as dialectical materialism and historical materialism.

- The notion of an alternative model against a society based upon exploitation

and divided among classes. The new society is based on the common ownership of the means of production on which human potential will be allowed

to freely develop its manifold facets. Such a society will be classless and stateless.

- Though there was a general agreement that capitalist system was unstable

and crisis-ridden, the advent of socialism required a revolutionary action by the proletariat, whose growing impoverishment will lead to revolution, and establishment of a socialist state and society.

The central themes of Marxist political theory are modes of production, class

division, class, struggle, property relations, revolution and state as an instrument of

class domination. Marxism also examines the nature of rights, liberty, equality, justice

and democracy but came to the conclusion that in a class divided society, they are

the prerogatives of the propertied class. Real liberty and equality can be achieved

only in a classless and stateless society. Thus, Marxist political theory preoccupied

itself with the establishment of a socialist state through revolutionary action.

Marxism as the economic, social and political theory has been enriched by a

number of revolutionaries, philosophers, academicians and politicians. It has also been subject to a variety of interpretations. In the twentieth century, the prominent contributions to Marxist thought were made by Lenin, Bukharin, Stalin, Rose Luxemburg, Gramsci, Lukacs, Austro-Marxists, the Frankfurt school, Herbert Marcuse, the New Left theorists, Euro-communists, Mao Tse Tung and various other people. Up to the First World War, Marxism was highly deterministic and represented a philosophy of socio-political changes which culminated in the Russian revolution. However, during the inter-War period and the post-Second World War, Marxism developed more as a critique of present socio-economic and cultural conditions than a philosophy of revolutionary action. Known as contemporary Marxism, it has been more concerned with the problems of superstructure, culture, art aesthetics, ideology, alienation, etc.

Other than the aforementioned perspectives of political theories, there are some other perspectives also which explain political theory in detail, such as the empirical-scientific perspective of political theory and the contemporary perspective of political theory.