

## POLI 103 Book Summary

### Chapter 1 - Understanding Politics

#### Why is Politics important?

- Ancient greek philosophers viewed politics as the “master science”
- There is not an acceptable unique definition of politics (different perspectives)
- Some political scientists view the study of politics as including relationships that involve power

→ but... generally poli science focuses on the making of decisions that relate to governing of a political community

- The books **Politics** defines it as: **Activity related to influencing, making or implementing collective decisions for a political community**
- Political activity: people trying to influence decisions and policies. Political parties wanting to have control over the gob.
- **Power:** **The ability to achieve an objective by influencing the behaviour of others, particularly to get them to do what they would not have otherwise done**

Ways to exert power:

1. **COERCION:** using fear or threats of harmful consequences to achieve an outcome
  2. **INDUCEMENTS:** achieving an outcome by offering a reward
  3. **PERSUASION:** Trying to persuade others to think and act in a particular way. It can be truthful information or manipulation (exaggeration)
  4. **LEADERSHIP:** e.g one country is wealthy, providing harmony → other follow
- But its not only power exerted, also negotiations and bargaining
  - **Political agenda:** The issues that are considered important and given priority in political deliberations
  - Dominant ideas can make **weaker groups act “against their own truth”**. e.g. Women that think they should only think they serve to do domestic responsibilities
  - Subordinate groups are unlikely to act in their own interest because they have accepted the ideas that benefit the dominant group (third face)

First face	Ability to affect decisions
Second face	Ability to ensure that issues are not raised
Third face	Ability to affect the dominant ideas of society

#### The distribution of power

- Resources that give people **potential to exert political power are unequal distributed**
- Although citizens in a democracy have **power through their right to vote**, others resources are less equally distributed
- Government and business elite for example are small groups of people that make huge decisions

#### The positive and negative sides of power

- BAD: Power is thought of in terms of people, groups or countries having **POWER OVER** others, **which is then used to benefit of those holding the power**

- GOOD: **POWER TO ACHIEVE** worthwhile collective goals

This goals are difficult to achieve by self-individuals but not by groups

→ **FREE - RIDER PROBLEM:** A problem with voluntary collective action that results because an individual can enjoy the benefits of group action without contributing.

→ The use of coercive power (for example to pay taxes) is useful to achieve goals = **COMMON GOOD** (everyone collaborates)

## Authority and Legitimacy

**Authority:** The right to exercise power and accepted by those being governed

**Legitimacy:** Acceptance by the members of a political community that those in positions of authority have the right to govern

### 3 basic types of authority

#### **1. Charismatic authority**

→ Authority based on the perception that a leader has extraordinary or supernatural qualities (devotion for their followers)

#### **2. Traditional authority**

→ Authority based on customs that establish the right of certain people to rule (monarchs)

#### **3. Legal - rational authority**

→ The right to rule based on legal rules and procedures rather than on the personal qualities or characteristics of the rulers

- Using procedures established by law to select those authorized to make governing decisions is often considered to be the best way to establish legitimacy of government.
- **Legitimacy crisis:** when the government is ineffective or corrupt

## The significance of legitimate authority

- Governing not only depends on governing institutions but also maintaining a legitimate authority → being accepted by a significant proportion of the population
- Having **legitimacy** gives government a powerful resource to achieve goals → people obey laws even when they find them against their interest or values

## The common good

- **Common good:** What is good for the entire political community

→ Is difficult to achieve as members of a political community have different interest and values. Not everyone will agree in what is good for the community as a whole

- **Individualist perspective:** A perspective that views human beings as acting primarily in accordance with **their own interests** (selfishly) → OWN INTERESTS

→ They think that every person is free to their own interests → overall a better results for all members of the community

- Individuals engage in political activity not only to advance their own interests, but also to pursue the values they think should guide the actions of the government
- Democracy is seen as a form of government that seeks the common good, here the opinions of the majority of people would be reflected
- **Pluralist system:** A large number of groups representing a wide variety of interest are able to influence the decisions of the government. It tries to satisfy as many groups as possible, and no group has a dominant influence on government.

## What is political science?

- **Political science:** The systematic study of politics (with different approaches to it)
- 1. **EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS:** Analysis that involves explaining various aspects of politics, particularly by using careful observation and comparison to develop generalization and testable theories
- 2. **NORMATIVE ANALYSIS:** Includes examining ideas about how the community should be governed and what values should be pursued through politics

## Chapter 2 - The Nation-State and Globalization

### The state

- **State:** an independent, **self governing political community** whose governing institutions have the capability to make rules that are benign to the population residing within a particular territory.
- **Government:** The set of institutions that makes decisions and oversees their implementation on behalf of the state for a particular period of time
- Modern states are involved in: regulating business activity, fostering economic development, stabilizing the economy; providing health, education and social services to the public, etc
- **GDP:** the total monetary value of all goods and services produced within the country usually calculated on an annual basis. **More GDP= More developed country**

### Sovereignty and the State

- **Sovereignty:** The principle that states are highest authority for their population and territory and are no subject to any external authority
- All countries are viewed legally equal to other states regardless of differences in power
- The treaties comprising the **Peace of Westphalia** (1648) which ended the devastating Thirty Years War, established the idea that states and their rules were the supreme authority in their territory
- Devastating civil wars led to the idea that a **single absolute power** with the means of coercion was needed to maintain order
- There was a development of bodies that represent different part of the country (such as the Parliament) that collected taxes
- Also the development of a capitalist economy system and the industrial revolution were important factors in the development of the sovereign states
- Costly infrastructure (roads, railways) were built, a common language, educational system and extensive array of laws governing business activities
- **Governance:** The making and implementation of decisions often with the involvement of state and non-state organizations
- **Failed states:** A state that is unable to enforce laws, maintain order, protect the lives of citizens and provide basic services

### The Nation - state

- Nation -state: A sovereign state based on people living in a country who share a sense of common identity as a members of a particular nation
- **Nation:** A group of people who share a sense of common identity and who typically believe they should be **self-governing** within their homeland.
- National identity exist when people share the same ethnicity, language, culture

### The Development of National Identities

- Some describe it as “imagined community” → people that now know each other but are and feel in the same nation
- To promote national identity government promote the replacement of local dialects or cultures with a NATIONAL cultura, language and identity

### Nationalism

- **Nationalism:** The idea that the nation-state is the best form of political community that as nation should have its own self- governing state and that the interests, culture and values of the nation should be promoted
- **Peoples primary loyalty:** to their nation. Some want to stop foreign cultural influence and protect domestic business from foreign investment

#### Types of Nationalism

→ **Ethnic nationalism:** Nationalism based on common ancestry along with the cultural traditions and language associated with a particular ethnic group

→ **Civil Nationalism:** Nationalism based on the shared political values and political history of those who are citizens of a country

### The Development of Nation-States

- **National self-determination:** The idea that nations should have the right to determine their political status, including choosing to have their own sovereign states
- In some cases the creation of homogeneous nation-state has only been achieved by the traumatic expulsion of those of different nationalities (as in the WWII)
- **Binational or multinational:** States whose populations are composed of two or more nations → thanks to immigration

### Multicultural States

- Instead of encouraging group to give up their distinctiveness and assimilate the dominant group some countries decide to adopt official multiculturalism
- **Official multiculturalism:** The policy of recognizing the cultural diversity of the country and providing encouragement and support for those of different cultures to help them retain and foster their cultures and traditions
- This strengthens national unity

### Citizenship

- **Citizenship:** The idea that a country's permanent residents are full members of the political community with certain duties and rights
- A citizen not only subject to the laws passed by the governing institutions of that state, but also shares the power of the sovereign state

- Citizenship is based on the view that all citizens should be equal members of the political community regardless of social status, ethnicity, gender, wealth, etc

### Globalization

- The process that are increasing the interconnectedness of the world
- The obstacles of space and time are being overcome by contemporary technology such as high speed, low cost communications
- It is as an inevitable process, nevertheless sometimes could slow down (Great depression 1930), or accelerated (policies promoting free trade, free markets- 1980)

### Economic globalization

- It has an important political implications in the development of a global economic system in terms of production, trade and finance
- Many business have become global, they move their facilities to where goods can be produced at the lowest cost and sell their products and services to many countries
- Large amounts of capital can flow instantaneously in and out of countries that do not have restrictions on currency movements
- Globalization increases economic efficiency by increasing competition, allowing countries to focus on the products and services they can produce at lowest cost
- Consumers can benefit from lower prices and wider selection of goods

### Cultural Globalization

- Is viewed as a process in which Western culture is spread globally
- Spreading cultural products and values around the world
- Internet → increased interaction of individuals, businesses and political groups
- Coke, Pepsi, McDonalds and Nike had become familiar around the world
- American movies, television shows, music videos. CNN and BCC (new worldwide)

### Political globalization

- Problems like global climate change, international crime and terrorism and spread of diseases cannot be dealt effectively by individual states alone
- A variety of institutions have developed to try to coordinate the actions of states, promote trade and investment and deal with global problems
- Agencies like the United Nations have had some success in dealing with global issues like promoting human rights, international law, humanitarian aid, etc

## Chapter 10 - Democracy and Democratic Government

- **Democracy:** Rule by people
- Democratic ideal: all adult citizens should have an equal and effective voice in the decisions of the political communities where they belong

### I. Direct democracy

- **Direct democracy:** A system in which citizens themselves make the governing decisions

### Aristotle's Basic Classification of Types of Rule

RULE BY	LAWFUL RULE FOR THE COMMON GOOD	ARBITRARY RULE FOR THE RULERS OWN INTERESTS
One	Kingship	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many	Polity	Democracy

- Aristotle viewed democracy as a perverted form of the government in which the poor, being the majority, governed in their own interest by taking away rich's property
- Therefore → democratic government did not work for the common good
- He thought that the best way of governing would be the combination of democracy and oligarchy if there were a large middle class → could moderate the tensions between rich and poor

## II. Representative democracy

- **Representative democracy:** A form of democracy in which citizens elect representatives to the legislature to make decisions on their behalf (elections)
- **Legislature:** An institution whose responsibilities include the approval of the legislation and the raising and spending of funds by the government
- The political executive with the leading advisors to the political executive, who have a key role in the development of laws and policies
- The role of the **PARLIAMENT** is to debate and approve proposed laws that are presented by the prime minister and Parliament
- **Representatives** → members of the political party and elections focus on competition among political parties to determine which party will form the government

## III. Liberal Democracy

- Liberal democracy: A political system that combines the liberal ideas of limited government, individuals freedom, and the rule of law with a democratic system of governing based on the election of representatives
- Democracy should be based on a vibrant **civil society** → The voluntary groups and organizations that are not controlled by the state. Free to discuss, act, organize
- It is based on the belief that power (even power of a government supported by the majority of people) is liable to be abused

Liberal democracy includes the following principles:

- Limits should be placed on what governments can do
- All people should have freedom to express their views, freedom to criticize government and to organize themselves for political actions
- The communications media should be free of government control so that diverse sources of information and ideas are easily available to the government
- Candidates and political parties should be able to freely compete for political power

## Political Pluralism

For a Liberal democracy to function properly, there must be centre of power that are independent of government:

→ business, unions, political parties, etc → to question what the government does

### The Rule of Law

- The rule that limits the government, as it requires to act in accordance of the law
- Is the keystone of a system that protects the people of community against the arbitrary and abusive use of government power
- It exists on 3 conditions
  1. The law is known
  2. The law applies equally
  3. Even the government that makes the law can be made to obey the law by having and independent court system that is free from political pressure

### **Democratic government**

- Build up by the executive (primer minister and Cabinet normally elected by the House of Commons) and the Parliament (legislative body). Also the president

### Accountability

- Government can be held accountable for their actions or inactions
- Citizens can access the performance of their elective representatives and vote wherever or not to allow the to continue to hold office
- They can also contribute to re election or defeat of the government
- When a party holds the majority of seats in the legislature, it is very unlikely that the legislative body will withdraw its support of the government and force an election

### Transparency

- Government obligation to provide timely access to information and to operate visibly so that it can be held accountable for its actions → its avoid corruption too

### Popular participation

- Informed public participation from all sectors is important to ensure that governments are responsive to the needs and wishes of people

### Government Responsiveness

- Free and fair elections provides an important incentive for governing party to be responsive to the electorate
- Governments engage in public opinion polling to find out views of public issues
- Public consultations allow for some dialogue between government and interested members of the public
- Governments spends lots of money on advertising, not just to inform the public about programs and services, but to promote a favourable image if it

### **Extending democracy?**

**-Plebiscitary Democracy:** A form of democracy in which citizens have a greater control than in representative democracy through the use of such devices as referendums, citizens initiatives and recall elections

→ Populism: Perspective that advocates putting power in the hands of the people rather than the elites who control politics and society

1. **Referendum:** A vote by citizens on a particular issue or law
2. **Citizens initiative:** A procedure that gives citizens the right, by obtaining a sizable number of signatures on a petition, to have a proposition that they have drafted put to a vote by the electorate approval
3. **Recall:** Procedure that allows citizens to remove representatives from office. By gaining sufficient number of signatures on a petition before its term is over

**-Deliberative democracy:** A political system in which decisions are made based on discussion by citizens rather than by elected representatives alone

- Brings citizens into decision making through discussion, rather than voting

## Chapter 18 - Politics and Governance at the Global Level

### International Politics and Governance

- States are entities composed of population, government and territory
- They are sovereign, meaning that their government have the final authority to make and enforce rules on the population living within their territorial boundaries  
but... the world DOES NOT have such a central authority
- **International anarchy:** The absence of central authority to make and enforce rules upon states in the international system
  - Nevertheless, there are rules → agreements negotiated and signed by states
  - International governmental organizations do exist → associations of sovereign states created to facilitate cooperation among specific reasons
  - **Global governance:** The process whereby a number of different actors act to provide a certain degree of order and predictability to relations among states

### REALISM

- **Realism:** Approach to the study of international politics that assumes that, because the international system is anarchic, security is the major preoccupation of states
- Peace rests primary onf deterrence,a and the possibility of international governance is limited because states are reluctant to put constraints on their sovereignty
- **National interest:** Most important common good that governments pursue when conducting foreign policy → that is, when acting in relation to other stated or actors outside their national territory
  - Realists tend to regard each state as a unitary actor that makes decisions
  - **International system:** Both important international actors (states and international governmental organization) and the pattern of interactions among them
  - Pole: Concentration of power in the international system. It could be a state or an alliance of states

### Multipolarity

- Multipolar: System contained at least four and sometimes more than 4 major poles
- Great powers in the multipolar system tend to maintain what is called balance of power: A situation in which no great power is dominant in global system

## Bipolarity

- When two superpowers compete with one another. The other states in the system fall within the sphere of influence of one or the other 2 superpowers

## Unipolarity

- An international system with a single superpower

## Chapter 13 - Multiple Governments

Every country has more than one government, in addition to the central government, often termed national government. Also many have regional countries

- **Supranational government:** Government above the governments of its member-states. e.g. European Union. Each country share some of its sovereign power
  - **Unitary system:** Sovereign authority rests with the central government above the regional and local (is hierarchical). It generally provides uniformity across the country in terms of common laws and politics
- **Devolution:** System of government in which the central government grants some legislative (law-making) power as well as administrative responsibilities to regional bodies
- **Federal system:** Sovereign authority is shared or divided between the central and regional governments, with each deriving its authority from the constitutions
- Citizens directly elect representatives for both the provincial legislature and national Parliament, and laws and policies of national and provincial government affect people
- **Classical or dual federalism:** A version of federalism in which the federal and provincial or state governments each concern themselves with their own areas of constitutional authority without infringing upon the areas of authority of the other level government

## Intergovernmental relations

- Contemporary federal systems typically feature both levels of government involved in many of the same areas of activity, often jointly involved in developing and administering important public services as well as financial resources
  - **Equalization payments:** Payments made by federal government to try to ensure that poorer provincial governments are able to provide an equivalent level of services to their populations without resorting to excessive levels of taxation
  - **Co-operative federalism:** System in which two levels of government are jointly involved in developing, financing and administering many government systems
- it involves the prime minister, Cabinet and premiers and their Cabinets, senior officials)
- There can be serious power struggles if the central government tries to impose national standards on programs run by provincial or state governments
- The competition between political parties may also bring tensions
- The Canadian federal system often features considerable conflict between national and provincial governments

## Regional Representation

- In most federal countries, the interest of states are represented in the upper chamber of the national legislature
- In some cases, each state has the same number of representatives in the Senate regardless of the population differences, in others, equal representation of each province in the Senate does not exist
- In many countries, the members of the upper chamber are elected by voters in each state

### **Centralization and Decentralization**

- The Canadian federal system can be viewed as quite decentralized as it features strong provincial governments whose decisions have major impact on the lives of their residents
- Provincial governments in Canada control a larger share of government revenue than in most other federal systems
- The extent to which a federal system is centralized or decentralized is affected not only by the provisions concerning the division of powers in the constitutions and how the constitution's division has been interpreted by judicial bodies, but also by various political, social and economic factors

### **Modernization and globalization**

- There has been a tendency in both unitary and federal systems to disperse power from the central gov. to regional and local gov.
- Some suggest that globalization encourages decentralization as the ability of central gov. to manage the national economy is reduced
- Impacts of globalization appear to be mixed: in some cases, it has encouraged a trend toward centralization, in others decentralization. Others, no effect
- Globalization has not been powerful enough to change the balance between centralization and decentralization in various federal systems

### **Asymmetrical Federalism**

Asymmetrical Federalism: A version in which some provincial or state governments have a greater degree of self-government than others

## **ASSESSING UNITARY AND FEDERAL SYSTEMS**

### **Benefits of the Unitary Systems**

1. The governing authorities may be more likely to work for the common good of the country, as there are no strong subnational governments promoting the particular interests of their region at the expense of the country as a whole
2. National unity may be promoted because greater attention is given to national issues or problems. In a federal system, provincial gov. may find it politically advantageous to highlight and exaggerate grievances → perceived by voters as defenders of their country
3. The central gov. can be more easily held accountable by citizens as it cannot easily shift blame for problems to other gov.
4. People will be more likely to have the same level of gov. services available in all regions
5. With a central gov. policies can be directed toward certain objectives without different gov. pursuing different or inconsistent goals.

6. People may find it easier to have professional, technical and educational qualifications recognized, find employment or conduct business in different parts of the country

### Benefits of the Federal System

- Provincial or state gov. may be more sensitive to the needs and desires of people in particular areas of the country.
- **Less populated and remote areas** of the country might be ignored in a unitary system, but can find a voice in their own provincial gov.
- Citizens may find it easier to participate in the policy-making process in their own province than in the processes of a distant central gov.
- A federal system allows for greater diversity than does a unitary state. Minorities that are concentrated within a particular province can use their provincial gov. to develop their culture. Example: French language and culture in Canada has been preserved.
- Helps to limit the concentration of power. Consistent with the ideal of liberal democracy, a federal system places constitutional limits on the power.
- Can allow for experimentation with different policies and approaches by different gov. Example: The government of Saskatchewan initiated the system of free medical care that was subsequently adopted by other provinces.

**Confederal systems:** System of governing in which sovereign states agreed to delegate some of their authority to a joint gov. with limited authority while retaining sovereignty

### The European Union

**European Union (EU):** An economic and political union of many European countries that have pooled some of their sovereignty

**European common market:** A stage in the process of economic integration in which the member states remove all duties on trade with one another (as in a free trade area), adopt a common external tariff on trade with other countries (as customs union), and allow for the free movements of people from one member state to another

**Eurozone:** The countries of the EU have adopted the euro as their currency

- The Council of the EU: is composed of ministers from each council of the member-states. Decisions can be taken by majority of vote
- European Commission: Initiates the proposals for EU legislation and oversees the implementation of EU policies
- European Parliament
- Court of Justice of the EU: makes decisions based on the EU laws
- European Central Bank: manages the euro

It is committed to the basic principle of subsidiarity: Decisions and actions should be carried out, if possible, by the level of government that is closest to citizens

### Legitimacy

→ The EU is often described as having a “democratic deficit” because its institutions and operations seem remote and inaccessible to ordinary citizens

### Local governments

- Local (municipal) govts. are responsible for many of the services that affect the quality of life in our communities such as water, sewage, garbage, roads, police

- Also involved in promoting the economic development of their communities
- They have the authority the central gov. decide to delegate them(subordinate)

### The Canadian Version

- In Canada, provincial govts. have authority over local govts. → generally adopt rules and regulations of them and seek approval for some decisions
- Local govts. in Canada do not have the authority to raise revenues from income or sale taxes, they depend largely on property taxes and prov. gov. grants
- In local elections there is always less number of votes that in national or prov.

## Chapter 3 - Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Fascism

### Political ideology:

- A package of **interrelated ideas and beliefs about government, society, the economy and human nature that inspire and affect political action.**
- Each ideology provides a different perspective that is used to understand and evaluate how the world actually works.
- Most ideologies also provide a vision of what the world should be like and propose a means of political action to achieve problems
- **Ideologies** are associated with **social movements, political parties and enlightenment.**
- **Enlightenment:** an intellectual movement, developed in the mid 18th century, **emphasizing the power of human reason to understand and improve the world**  
→ Progress could be achieved by shaping the world and its institutions
- Ideological perspectives are conveyed to the public by govts, various political and social groups, the educational system and the mass media

### The negative side of Ideology

- The term “**ideology**” is often used to describe certain sets of **ideas and ways of thinking in a negative way**
- Some treat the leading texts of their ideology so if they were the absolute **truth and refuse to consider any criticism of their perspective**
- They may provide distorted depictions of reality to fit their mental model of world
- Ideologies have been used to justify the unjustifiable (Jewish extermination-Nazis)
- Nevertheless, it can provide some coherence, consistency and direction to a person’s political thinking and actions

LIBERALISM	CONSERVATISM	SOCIALISM	FASCISM
<b>Human nature</b> Individuals able to think and act according to reason	Humans imperfect with capacity for evil	Humans co-operative and social	People motivated by emotion rather than reason
<b>Key value</b> Individual freedom	Order, stability, social harmony	Equality	Loyalty to the nation-state
<b>Political system</b> Liberal, representative democracy	Traditional institutions	Egalitarian democracy	Totalitarian leader
<b>Rights</b> Protect individual rights	Rights balanced by duties	Provide universal social and economic rights	Subordinate individual to the state
<b>Morality</b> State should not impose morality	Maintain traditional moral values	Promote egalitarianism	Duty to obey the state and its heroic leader
<b>Economy</b> Free market with equality of opportunity	Free market with social harmony	Planned economy	Corporate state
<b>Political analysis</b> Struggle for freedom	Radical changes unfeasible	Struggle for equality	Racial or national conflict inevitable

### Left and Right

**Left:** Is associated with advocacy of **greater social and economic quality,**

laws based on universal human rights rather than traditional morality, and opposition to state support for religious institutions

**Right:** Is associated with oppositions to imposing greater social and economic quality and with maintaining traditional (usually religious - based) moral values and institutions

## Liberalism

- It emphasizes the desirability of a high level of individual freedom, based on belief in the inherent dignity and worth of each individual
- Liberals see the need for government, but are concerned that those governing positions will abuse their power to pursue their own interests
- **Goal:** to ensure that the rights of individuals are firmly protected so they cannot be taken by the government
- They advocate to the **Rule of Law:** the idea that people should be subject to known, predictable and impartial rules of conduct, rather than to the arbitrary orders of particular individuals. Both rules and the ruled should be equally subject of law
- Believe that govts. activity should be limited
- **Liberal democracy:** Political system that combines the liberal ideas of limited govts., individual freedom and the rule of law with a democratic system of governing based on the election of representatives

**1.CLASSICAL Liberalism:** A form of liberalism that views gov. as having the limited purposes of protecting life, liberty and property

→ Classical liberals favour laissez-faire

- **Laissez-faire:** System in which privately owned businesses, workers and consumers freely interact in the marketplace without government interference

**2.REFORM/MODERN Liberalism:** A version of liberalism that combines support for individual freedom with a belief that government action may be needed to help remove obstacles to individual development

→ old-age pensions, health care, education

**3.NEO-Liberalism:** A perspective based on the strong belief in the free marketplace and opposition to government intervention in the economy

## Conservatism

→ Ideology that emphasizes the values of order, stability, respect for authority and tradition, based on a view that humans are inherently imperfect, with limited capacity to reason

- It developed thanks to the French Revolution → caused Reactionaries: a conservative who favours a return to the values and institutions from the past
- Some argue that the traditional, **religion-based moral value** should maintain to prevent the collapse of civilized society
- They look to the upper classes to help, protect and provide moral guidance to poors
- **Welfare states:** A state in which government ensure that all people have a decent standards of living and are provided protection from hardships resulting from circumstances as unemployment, sickness, disability, old age

**The New Right** (also called neo-conservative)

→ It combines in various ways the promotion of **free-market capitalism and limited gov, and traditional cultural and moral values**

**Social conservatism:**(also referred to **christian right**): A version of conservatism that advocates **public policies based on traditional moral and religious values** including opposition to abortion, same-sex marriage, pre-marital sex and euthanasia

- It opposed ato programs that give preferential treatments for minorities and women

### **Traditional Conservatism and the New Right**

- Traditional conservatism emphasizes the need to **respect the authority** and thus tends to **favour limited forms of democracy**
- In contrast, the New Right has a substantial element of populism that is critical of gov. and believes that common people should be in more direct control of decision making through devices as referendums, initiatives and recall

### **Socialism**

**Socialism:** Ideological perspective based on the view that human beings are basically **social in nature** and that the capitalist system undermines the cooperative and **community-oriented nature of humanity**

→ Socialism advocates the establishment of an **egalitarian society**

- **Inequality** is viewed as largely the result of the power relations in society and the capitalist economic system
- **More equal society** in terms of the distribution of wealth, income and power will lead to greater sense of community and solidarity facilitating cooperation. No conflict

### **Marxism and Communism**

- The ideas of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Their analysis termed:
- **Historical materialism:** The view that **historical development and the dynamics of society and politics can be understood** in terms of the way society is organized to **produce material goods**
- Production involves the exploitation of a **subordinate class** (the proletariat) by **smaller dominant class** (the bourgeoisie)
- Each major systems of production (slave owning, feudal and capitalist) has international tensions that eventually become irresolvable
- This eventually leads to an overthrow of that system and its **replacement by a new system of production**
- The large working class would eventually organize itself into a revolutionary force
- Capitalism, they say, was prone to **ever-increasing crises** of severe unemployment and depression
- The working class would have to capture control of the state and then use the state apparatus to **transform the capitalist system into a social system** (necessitating a revolution as capitalist will be unlikely to give up their control voluntarily)
- The increase production of an economy devoted to **human needs rather than private profit** would lead to material abundance that could fulfill basic needs of everyone
- **Communism:** **were private property has been replaced by collective ownership** and everyone is free to take form society what they need

- **Leninism:** The version of Marxism that includes the belief that the capitalist system can be overthrown only by force, by means of a tightly disciplined party controlled by a revolutionary vanguard

### Democratic Socialism

→ The perspective that **socialism should be achieved by democratic rather than revolutionary means** and that socialist society should be democratic in nature with political rights and freedoms respect

- They reject the notion of dictatorship of the proletariat arguing instead that political rights and freedom should be respected
- Although they believe that an active gov. is needed to provide for the well-being of the citizenry, they argue that gov's should abide by the rule of law, protect civil liberties and not act in an arbitrary manner
- To achieve equality, gov's should **provision and subsidize various services, along with redistribution of income from the rich to the poor** (tax system)

### Social Democracy

- They believe that the capitalist economy can be reformed to ensure that it worked for the common good
- Also advocate greater social and economic equality to achieve meaningful democracy
- Believe that the excess of the free-market capitalist system can be curtailed by government action to provide a welfare state, greater equality, reg. of market econ.

**Anarchism:** Ideology that **views the state as the key source of oppression and seeks to replace the state with a system based on voluntary cooperation** (without rule)

### Fascism

- Combines an aggressive form of nationalism with a strong belief in the **naturalness of inequality** and opposition to both liberal democracy and communism

→ Foreigners and minority cultures are viewed as a threat to the creation of a **homogeneous society based on the dominant nationality**

**Nazism:** Ideas of racial superiority and racial conflict

- Fascism favours strong, authoritarian, leadership arguing that **natural leaders should be allowed free retain to rule in the interests of the nation-state**, enhancing its unity
- Fascist see war and conflict as a natural process that allows humanity to evolve through the "survival of the fittests"

**Neo Fascism:** A revival of some of the characteristics of fascism in contemporary times including, ethnic nationalism, oppositions to immigrants who have different racial or religious characteristics and support for a populist leaders



## Chapter 4 - Other Perspectives

### FEMINISM

- **Feminism:** A perspective that views society as patriarchal and seeks to achieve full independence and equality for women
- **Patriarchy:** System in which power is in the hands of men and many aspects of women's lives are controlled by men
- Some argued that women should be protected from the harsh realities of politics, while others viewed women as more prone to emotion than reason
- Women were expected to be homemakers, carrying out domestic duties, raising children and arranging functional controls
- **Liberal feminism:** Advocates equal opportunities for women in such areas as education and employment as well as equal legal and political opportunities
- **Socialist Feminism:** Views women as oppressed by both the male-dominated character of society and the capitalist system. The liberation of women is connected to the transformation of capitalism into more cooperative and egalitarian socialist system
- **Radical feminism:** Views society as based on oppression of women and seeks to liberate women through the fundamental transformation of social institutions, values and personal relationships

## ENVIRONMENTALISM

- **Environmentalism:** The idea that humanity needs to change its relationship to nature so as to protect the natural environment and ensure that can sustain all forms of life
- It provides a distinctive perspective on the fundamental causes of environmental problems and a vision of an environmentally sustainable world
- We need to think of ourselves as part of nature and limit our impact on the Earth
- **Ecocentrism:** The view that nature has intrinsic value and should not be valued only in terms of its use for human beings
- It emphasizes that there are limits to growth as the earth has a limited carrying capacity and the goal is **SUSTAINABILITY**
- **Sustainability:** Maintaining the integrity of ecosystems by ensuring that renewable resources are not being used at a rate that exceeds the ability of ecosystems to regenerate them

→ Developing renewable substitutes to replace the consumption of nonrenewable resources and ensuring that the emission of pollutants does not exceed the ability of the ecosystem to handle them without damage

- **Sustainable development:** The needs to present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

### Reform Environmentalism

→ Solution to environmental problems primarily in terms of science, technology

### Free-Market Environmentalism

→ Holds that guarantees of the rights of private property and free-market economy are crucial to environmental protection

### Deep ecology

→ Views anthropocentrism as the fundamental cause of environmental degradation and advocates the cultivation of an environmental consciousness and a sense of oneness with the world that recognizes the unity of humans, plants, animals, earth.

→ **Ecofeminism:** views male dominance as the cause of degradation of the earth

## FUNDAMENTALISM

**Fundamentalism:** The revival of strict religious beliefs seeking to promote the fundamental principles of the faith, including the belief that sacred scriptures are the word of God and should be strictly followed in all areas of life

→ They encourage modesty, have a patriarchal family, sex badly sex out of marriage

## Chapter 9 - Unconventional and Highly Conflictive Politics

### Political conflict: Protest to Revolution

- **Political conflict:** A state of opposition, usually involving groups and the state, over something government is doing or proposes to do
- **Political protest:** Opposition political action that takes place outside formal channels, generally seeking to have government make significant changes in its policies  
→ Petitions, legally approved demonstrations, boycotts
- **Revolution:** The use of violence to overthrow a government, especially when the overthrow is followed by rapid, throughgoing social, economic and political restructuring
- **Terrorism:** The deliberate use of violence designed to induce fear in a population in order to achieve a political objective

### Analyzing contentious politics

**Contentious politics:** The usually disruptive, direct and highly conflictive ways that people advance their claims on elites, authorities and opponents ranging from peaceful political protest to wars

- Unimportant Actors are the marginalized ones. They find the rules of the game do no work for them and therefore they protest
- Protest is about changing what government does, and people have taken action to seek political change

### Transnational political protests

- Social movements and political protests that cross borders. e.g. anti globalization movement

### Political violence

- Is the use of physical force with a political objective
- Regime violence: Political violence used by government against its citizens, generally as a way to repress dissent and keep orders
- Types: Guerrillas, Terrorism, Revolution