

Socialism

Socialism is like a hat that has lost its shape because everyone wears it. - CEM Joad

There are endless varieties of socialism. There are country specific models, person specific models,

This is the reason that it is considered as a hat which has lost its shape. Like

like liberalism, it is also a meta ideology & there are many schools of thoughts within it

Though it is a hat which has lost its shape, yet we can recognise that it is a hat. It means despite existence of multiple varieties of socialism, we can find out the basic principles of socialism.

Basic assumptions of Socialism

Human Nature :

- o No man is an island. Each man is a part of continent.

They reject the atomistic conception of man or possessive individualism. Man is essentially social by nature.

Man is unable to realize his true nature because of social system (Capitalism).

Hence system requires to be changed rather than man.

Society :

Society is prior to man. There is no conflict between man & society. Since there is no

conflict between man & society, they do not feel the necessity of rights against society. Whereas liberals suggest man should have rights to protect his freedom from external interference.

State :

State is an institution where Socialists have disagreement. Some socialists believe state is an instrument to achieve socialism whereas others believe withering away of state is required to achieve socialism.

Means of achieving Socialism

- Evolutionary Socialism

Peaceful, Constitutional means.

- Revolutionary Socialism

Violent means

Socialist conception of freedom

For all socialists, freedom means freedom from necessities. Hence they suggest that man needs economic rights like Right to work, education, food, etc. They do not give primacy to civil & political rights.

Concept of Equality

They call their conception of equality as substantive.

They believe in social & economic equalities.

Legal & Political equalities emphasised by liberals is formal & procedural. For them, social & economic democracy has a priority over political democracy. For them, development is prior to democracy (Chinese model).

Socialism always had appeal in third world countries.

Reasons

- Poverty
- In third world countries, individualism was never considered right. Culture has been communitarian.
- The colonial past is also responsible for appeal of socialism as USSR had supported freedom struggles against colonial masters.

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o Discuss forms of socialism which came into existence after Marxist socialism.

Utopian Socialist $\xleftarrow{\text{Before. Marx}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{after.}}$

St. Simon

Charles Fourier

Robert Owen $\rightarrow$ Cooperative Movement.

• How to bring socialism?

• appealing to conscience of capitalist class.

After. Marx

1) Evolutionary Socialism / Revisionism

Edward Bernstein

Parliamentary road to Socialism

2) Syndicalism

French model of Socialism

Supports violent methods

Emm. Emile Pouget

3) Guild Socialism

British model

peaceful

G.D.H. Cole

4) Fabianism

Peaceful

Socialism by middle classes

British

Laski, George Bernard Shaw, Annie Besant, Nehru

property less
proletariat

Evolutionary Socialism / Revisionism

Bernstein was contemporary of Lenin.

Bernstein & Lenin had difference of approach w.r.t. method to be adopted for bringing socialism. Bernstein believed in Marxian principle of class conflict, exploitative nature of capitalism, but he was convinced that socialism in 20th century will not come by revolutionary methods. There are very limited possibilities of working class revolutions at least in countries where capitalism is in advanced stage.

Reasons :

- Situation of working classes have improved because of Drain of wealth from colonies, working classes were no more proletariat class. Hence it was not possible to develop revolutionary consciousness which Marx wanted.
- Revolution is not a necessity also Reason: Working classes were getting right to vote. Revolution was necessity because earlier they had no option but to take direct action. Now they can politically organise themselves. Since they are in majority they will be able to dominate the legislative bodies. Thus through legal constitutional means, the interest of the working classes can be taken care of.

Bernstein presented his program of action of bringing socialism through constitutional methods in his famous "Erfurt Program"

Bernstein has influenced communist movement in continental Europe later on giving rise to "Eurocommunism"

Communist Party in India; C.P.L, C.P.I (M) at present also adhered to parliamentary road to socialism.

Syndicalism

French term for workers union

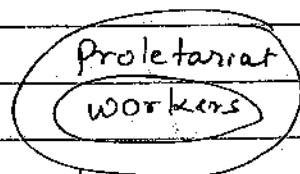
Syndicalism is a French variety of Socialism.

Syndicalist goal is to end the political state & establish economic state. The term Syndicate implies workers Union. Syndicalism believes in historical materialism, dialectical materialism, concept of class & class conflict.

Syndicalist vision of society differs from Marxist vision. In Syndicalist society, workers will be controlling all aspects of Social & Political life.

Methods of suggested by Syndicalists are strikes, slowdown of work, lockout, etc. They suggest use of violent methods. Besides Karl Marx who supported violence, Syndicalist are also influenced by Sorel who also justified violence. Syndicalist society will be federation of workers.

Difference betⁿ Syndicalism & Marxism



- Syndicalism is supremacy of working classes.

- Marx did talk abt Dictatorship of Proletariat where workers are proletariat, but in Marx it is a transitional stage. In syndicalism workers will not be proletariat, rather they will be owning the entire wealth.
- Marx ends in a classless society where there is no hierarchy, whereas Syndicalism establishes supremacy of workers.
- Marx believed in spontaneous revolution, that will come because of workers developing class consciousness. In syndicalism, methods to be adopted are strikes, lockouts, etc aiming to frustrate Capitalist so that they leave the control of industry.
- Syndicalism is organising workers into Workers Union whereas Marx is for Spontaneous Revolution.

Guild Socialism

Difference betⁿ Guild & Syndicate

- Syndicate denotes workers unions only.
- Guild also denotes unions, but not simply workers union but union of all economic interest.
- They c There can be worker's union, consumer union, capitalist association, teachers, engineers, medical, etc.

Guild Socialism have similarities with Marxism as well as Syndicalism but differences also.

- Like Marxist & Syndicalist, Guild Socialist also believe in the primacy of economic interest.

- Guild socialists also believe in historical materialism, surplus value, class interest. They are also concerned with the interest of working classes. However they do not view that only economic interest of workers is to be fulfilled but variety of economic interest to be taken care of. So Guild Socialism is more democratic & moderate.
- Since economic interest is prime interest, they highlight limitation of territorial representation alone & propose functional representation.
- Along with political parliament, there should also be an economic parliament.
- They also recommend democracy in industry & participation of various stakeholders in the management.

Fabianism

- It is most democratic of all socialisms. It is nearest to liberalism. At times it is difficult to identify differences between welfare state ^{theories} & Fabianism.

Term Fabianism comes from Fabius. Fabius was Roman General whose policy was 'strike when iron is hot'. It implies that we should consistently work towards the goal. We should work in a manner that conducive environment which facilitates the transformation towards socialism comes into existence.

- Fabianism is socialism not by coercion but by consent. Intellectual class & the middle classes have significant role to play. They have to educate people about the principles of socialism. They have to create awareness of socialistic values & way of life. This can be done by setting up of societies committed for popularisation of such ideas. Fabian society was formed in Britain. The prominent members were Sydney Webb, Beatrice Webb, George Bernard Shaw, Annie Besant.

o Guild Socialism is a midway house between syndicalism & Fabianism. Explain.

- They share assumptions about human nature, class interest, etc. with syndicalists & they share methods with Fabians.