

# Lecture-01 - Ideology of Pakistan

## Ideology

Ideology is the basis of nationalism which is the fundamental belief of the nation-state system. It can be defined in some of the following ways. “*Science of ideas, visionary speculations, the manner of thinking, characteristics of a class or individual ideas based on some economic, social or political theory or system.*” Or “*Body of ideas concerning economic, social and political values with positive action program for attaining these goals.*”

“A political ideology is a system of beliefs that explain and justifies a preferred political order, either existing or proposed and offers a strategy (institutions, processes programmes) for its attainment. (Ref. Ideologies & Modern Politics, Reo M. Christenson)

Ideology constitutes a system of human life which includes a certain set of theories, objectives and assertions of life. The importance of Ideology in human life cannot be defied on the grounds that individuals should ideally share a common ideology in society look homogenous.

It is also important to have an ideology because it offers an interpretation of the past, an explanation of the present and a vision of the future. It tells you that where you come from, where you are and where you suppose to reach afterwards. Some people detach themselves from the past and does not connect themselves with the ideology or past.

## How does an ideology emerge?

“An ideology emerges when people feel strongly that are being mistreated under an existing order, when their status is threatened by fundamental changes occurring in the society, and when the prevailing ideology no longer satisfies them”

## Why ideology is important?

Ideology is a motivating force for a Nation which is striving hard to bring stability to its Nationhood. It provides the cement binding base to the scattered groups in a society and bring them closer to each other on a common platform.

## Ideology of Pakistan

Ideologies take firm roots in society only when people feel that they are being mistreated under an existing order or when their status is threatened by fundamental changes occurring in the society. There were some fundamental political changes which occurred in the subcontinent. The Muslims came as invaders (conquerors). The Muslims were being checked thoroughly and Hindus were given leverage over the Muslims and that was the fundamental change occurring in the society. In the war of 1957 the whole blame was put on Muslims in that war. The British government tried to suppress Muslims and to crush that rebellion. Then Sir Syed Ahmad Khan played a role to impress the British and to impress the Muslims. He told that Muslims were not sole responsible for their reward. Moreover, new ideology in any given society emerges when the prevailing ideology no longer satisfies the people living in a society. That is why, they didn't prefer to live in India rather they prefer to ask for an independent state for themselves.

Pakistan is one of the few countries which have been formed based on ideology. Therefore, when the Muslims in the subcontinent felt that the prevailing ideology in the Indian subcontinent is not catering for their spiritual and material needs, then the ideology of a separate nation began to evolve. The ideals for which the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent started to strive for many decades were drawn from the Islamic system of beliefs. Moreover, the idea of a separate homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent was conceived and matured as a reaction to the Hindu and British exploitation of the

Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. It was a revolt against the prevailing system in order to save it from annihilation. The foundation of that ideology was built and later sustained by Muslim nationalism.

### **Ideology of Pakistan Based on Muslim Nationalism**

What is Nationalism? Nationalism is quite a broad term, and it is a toilsome effort to define this term without going into detail. However, it suffices to say that nationalism is essentially a European Concept. During the medieval times, a group of students from one country studying in a European university was called “nation”. If someone threatens their unity or oneness, then they fight them with power, but they try to go living as one they would try to protect their way of life. They will try to live together that aspect is being threatened and nationalism created havoc. We have seen nationalism in the earlier twentieth century in the shape of World War 1 and in World War 2. That is purely the outcome of narrow nationalism. Nationalism is paving its way towards good society to live in harmony and consider themselves as a part of one society. Nationalism can be called consciousness, a sentiment or sympathy which binds a group of people together. We may call it the desire of a group of individuals, who are already united by certain ties, to live together and, if necessary, to die together. It is the wish of people who feel that they are one, to go on living as one.

### **Economic Ideology**

The nation whose ideology is based on economies or their ideology has gotten roots in economies. Soviet Union had the ideology of economic equality. Every ideology has the commonality that if people follow it then they will remain happy and there will be harmony and prosperity in the whole world. Moreover, the Islamic ideology creates the sense of oneness in Islamic ideology.