Political theories-2

Hasan Muhammad Baniamin

Enlightenment theorist

Thomas Hobbes

- Thomas Hobbes- an **English thinker,** wrote a book '**Leviathan**'

- Man in the state of nature was in perpetual conflict with his neighbors on account of his essentially **selfish nature. Every man was an enemy to every other man.**

- All being almost equally **" selfish, self-seeking, cunning, egoistic, brutal and aggressive".**

- Thus, men in the state of nature were **hungry wolves** each **ready to pounce on the other** with all its ferocity.

- Since the conditions in the state of nature were **intolerable and men longed** for peace, the people entered into a kind of **social contract to ensure for themselves security and certainty** of life and property.

- By mutual agreement they decided to **surrender their natural rights** into the hands a few or one with authority to command.

John Locke

- John Locke, another English political philosopher.

- He believed that man in the state of nature was **enjoying an ideal liberty,** free from all sorts of rules and regulations. The state of nature was a state of "**peace , goodwill, mutual assistance and preservation**".

- But there was no **recognized system of law and justice.** Hence his peaceful life was **often upset by the 'corruption and viciousness of degenerate men'.**

- In order to escape from this and to gain certainty and security men made a contract to enter into civil society or the state. This contract Locke called **'social contract'.**

Jean Jacques Rousseau

- J. J. Rousseau- the **Freanch** writer of the 18th century who wrote the famous book " The Social Contract' .

- He wrote that man in the state of nature was a 'noble savage' who led a life of ' **primitive simplicity and idyllic happiness**'.

- He was **independent, contented, self-sufficient, healthy, fearless and good.**

- But **these conditions did not last long. Population increased** and reason was dawned. Simplicity and idyllic happiness disappeared. Families were established, **institution of property emerged and human equity** was **ended.** Man began to think in terms of **'mine' and 'thine'.**

- When equality and happiness of the state was lost, **war, murder, conflicts, wretchedness, etc. became the order of the day.**

- The escape from this was found in the formation of a **civil society.** Natural freedom gave place to civil freedom by **social contract.**

Contemporary theoriest

John Rawls-*A Theory of Justice*

- John Rawls **belongs to the social contract tradition**, although he takes a **different view** from that of previous thinkers.

- Specifically, Rawls develops what he claims are principles of justice through the use of an artificial device he calls the **Original position**;

- Here, everyone decides **principles of justice** from behind a **veil of ignorance**.

John Rawls-*A Theory of Justice*

- This **"veil" is one that essentially blinds people** to all facts about themselves so they **cannot tailor principles to their own advantage.**

- According to Rawls, **ignorance** of these details about oneself will **lead to principles that are fair to all.**

- If an **individual does not know how he will end up** in his own conceived society, he is likely not going to privilege any one class of people, but **rather develop a scheme of justice that treats all fairly.**

E-Governance Model

□ E-governance can be defined as **the use of ICTs for effective and efficient delivery** of government services to citizens and businesses (UN, 2019).

□ Three main components of E-governance:

- Government-to-Government(G2G)

- Government-to-Citizens (G2C)

- Government-to-Business (G2B)

E-governance

- E-governance = E-government (G2G)+ E-democracy (G2C & G2B)

- E-government refers to getting **internal government operations on the Internet** with **interactive forms and payment** processes to **simplify** and **improve government** and the **business** aspects of governance.

- **E-democracy** allows and **encourage interaction** between actors, such as **government** and **citizens** or **government** and **businesses.**
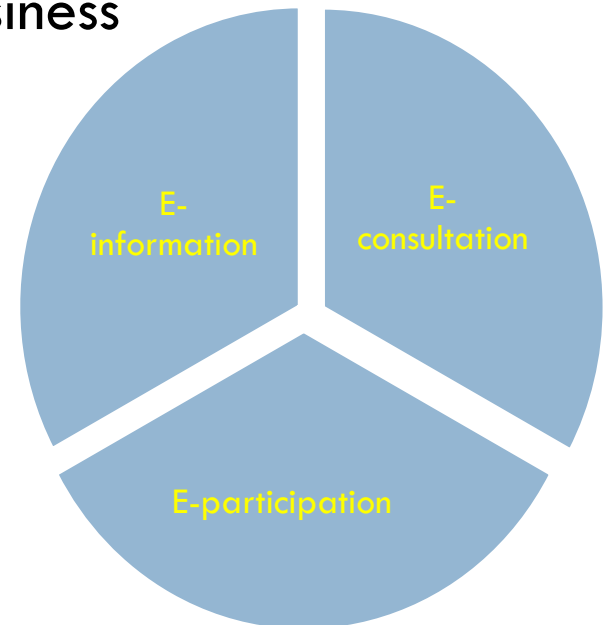
Some benefits

- *Increases Government Efficiency*
- *Cuts Down Costs to Society*
- *Save Time*
- *Increase Transparency and reduce corruption*
- *Power to the People*
- *Better Relation with Private Sector*

E-democracy mechanisms

- **One way** communication- communication from government to citizens

- **Two way** communication- interaction between government and citizens

- **Active participation-** direct contribution by different stakeholders like citizens, NGOs and business

☐**E-democracy =**

E-information

E-consultation

E-participation

E-participation and open data

- Two types of open data:
  - Government generated: Open government data (OGD)
  - Citizen generated: Open citizen data (OCD)

Government generated: Open government data (OGD)

□ OGD may be related to diverse sectors such as tourism, business, education, science and technology, agriculture, health and others.

Citizen generated: Open citizen data (OCD)

- Examples:
  - ImproveTheNeighborhood in **Netherlands**: Applications in the Netherlands through which citizens can report **problems in public space** (Meijer & Potjer, 2018).
  - Wheelmap in **Germany**: **Crowdsourced online map** that provides information on **wheelchair-accessibility** of places and routes (Meijer & Potjer, 2018).
  - MafiaMaps in **Italy**: Crowdsourced online map that collects information on past and present **mafia activity** in Italy (Meijer & Potjer, 2018).

New challenges

- Fake news, bot, privacy and surveillance, cyber crime and hacking, malware and virus
- Text mining and big data analysis, network based analysis.

Digital Cage

- Digitalised civil registries can turn into a 'digital cage' if their **design does not allow** for street-level **discretion and correction of errors** (Peeters & Widlak, 2018).
  - Case study: Esther' freelancing as motivational speaker and residency registration

Suggested readings

- Political Science - An Introduction [Michael G. Roskin, Robert L. Cord, James A. Medeiros, Walter S. Jones] [2016] ;pp 23-24.

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy; link: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rawls/

- Agarwal, R. C. (2014). Political Theory: Principles of Political Science (New Delhi: S. Chand and Company Limited). (Chapter 22).