

Communism is an ideology that bases itself on the belief that the means of production in a society should belong to the state. Through central ownership, it aims for a classless society with economic equality between individuals. The history of communism began in the second half of the nineteenth century in Europe.

Communism is a political and economic doctrine that aims to replace private property and a profit-based economy with public ownership and communal control of at least the major means of production (e.g., mines, mills, and factories) and the natural resources of a society. Communism is thus a form of socialism—a higher and more advanced form, according to its advocates. Exactly how communism differs from socialism has long been a matter of debate, but the distinction rests largely on the communists' adherence to the revolutionary socialism of Karl Marx..

Origin of communism

Marx, the German political critic and philosopher classified people into social groups according to the production process. He considered this classification crucial rather than segregating people into groups of religion, language, nationality, or other similar elements. He believed that people in similar social positions in the production process would eventually form a class because they shared similar interests and objectives due to the prevailing conditions. When production technology and social relations change, it has an impact on the mode of production. This results in tension and conflicts between the classes.

Characteristics

The idea of communism as a philosophy of government or society is predominantly based on the ideas of Karl Marx. It shares its ideals with **Marxism** or socialism. Given below are a few characteristics of the ideology:-

Classless society

A classless society is where there are no differences between the rich and the poor. Society is otherwise divided into the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, who are the owner class and the worker class, respectively.

¹ *Associate Professor of Economics, Faculty of Shariah, IIUC, Executive Member of research panel at Islamic Economics Research Bureau (IERB), President of Poverty Reduction Economic Movement (PREM)*

Common ownership of all resources

For society to be classless, people need to abolish the existing system of control and division. Common ownership is the best way to achieve this goal. Therefore, the community as a whole produces, and the community as a whole enjoys its benefits.

Private property

When private people enter production, they tend to focus more on profit. As their earning capacity increases, their quality of life changes, resulting in dramatic lifestyle changes. Obviously, this will be different for those who do not have money. Therefore, abolishing private property is an essential characteristic of communist ideology.

Social equality

The basis of the communist ideology is the achievement of social equality. In other words, an egalitarian society in which there are no differences or discrimination between the rich and the poor.

Against democracy

Democracy involves the liberty to enter private organizations or players into the market, among other things. Communist ideology does not accept privatization as it is a deterrent in the path of a classless society. Communism in China is an example where they oppose the idea of democracy.

List of Communist Countries

Only five examples of Communist countries exist at present. Nevertheless, they have adopted communism as their standard form of government: communism in China is one of the most popular examples. Other examples include North Korea, Laos, Cuba, and Vietnam. None of these, however, satisfies the true definition of communism. Instead, they are more in being a transition between the end of capitalism and the beginning of communism.