

State system (Pluralist and Elitist)

Introduction:

The state is most universal and most powerful of all social institutions. As Aristotle said, 'man is a social animal, according to him being a man and to live in a state is identical. Word state derived from word, STATUS. the state is necessary because it comes out of existence out of the basic needs of life. The aims, desires and ambitions of human beings are translated into action by state. In precise words, 'state is people organized for law within a territory'.

There are three positions through which a state can be examined. The Pluralist concept of the state mentions that the state is neutral relatively, and number of power centers exist in a state.

According to Marxist theory, it's a political and economic theory where a society has no classes and class struggle is theoretically (supposedly) gone. Every person within the society works for a common good.

On the other hand, belief of the Elitist theory is that the state contains two different aspects, violence and territoriality (usually an area that is under the jurisdiction of a sovereign state).

What is State

State is a combination or association of persons in form of government and governed united together into a politically organized people for of a defined territory.

In words of prof. Laski 'state as a territorial society divides into government and subjects whose relationships are determined by exercise of supreme coercive power'. basically, an organized portion of mankind is called state.

According to oxford dictionary, 'state is a country considered as an organized political community controlled by one government.

According to black's law dictionary,' the political the political system of a body of people who are politically organized is state. In literal meanings state is organized community.

To further discuss state, we look on Salmon's definition 'State is a society of men established for her maintenance of order and justice within a determined territory, by way of force'

State System:

The nation-state system in international relations began taking shape around the year 1648 when the Thirty-year War in Europe was brought to an end by the **Treaty of Westphalia**. This Treaty paved the way for this development because it recognized that the Rome could no longer command the allegiance of the states and that Pope had no right to interfere in the affairs of the states in the name of his highest spiritual authority.

Relations among nations came to be conducted by sovereign states for securing their respective interests in relation with other states.

Marxism

Marxism is a theory of capitalism. These are some capitalist countries and regions. (North America, Central America, most of south America, Africa, Nigeria, Russia, Georgia, Japan etc.,)

Marxism is a social, political, and economic theory originated by Karl Marx, which focuses on the struggle between capitalists and the working class. He believed that this conflict would ultimately lead to a revolution in which the working class would overthrow the capitalist class and seize control of the economy.

The modern state is also extremely reliant (dependent) on credits and taxes. Most of the taxes and credits are borne (allowed) by the bourgeois (financial capital) class. The media such as newspapers or television is also controlled by the bourgeois.

One of the famous quotes from the Communist Manifesto, Marx & Engels states "The executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the bourgeoisie."

Pluralism

This theory was developed by German jurist Otto Von Gierke. It originated in the last quarter of the 19th century. It has been developed by the English legal historian F.W. Maitland. The advocates of pluralism are Harold J. Laski, Ernst Barker, G.D.H. Cole, R.M. MacIver, Sidney and Leon Duguit. The beginning of pluralism can be traced from the time of guild system of the Middle Ages.

The pluralist view of the state is completely different from the Marxist view. The Pluralist does not believe that the state is essentially conflicting in nature, as the Marxist and the Elitist schools of thought believe.

The pluralist view of the state is that it is neutral in nature. It is also believed that the state is susceptible (capable) to a number of influences from various groups in the society. (Means state should be run from certain people not everyone). The modern state is therefore only dominated by one class, that is the capitalist or the bourgeoisie class.

The concept of the state according to the Pluralist view is also that there can be various sources of political power. Therefore, not a single group can have monopoly of political power, according to the Pluralists.

The Pluralist model can easily explain employee organizations and trade unions.

Elitist

[Elitism Analyzed There are many sources of elite power (wealth, traditional or religious authority etc.) 'Democratic elitism' – modern democratic elections – opportunities for the normally passive masses to 'vote' in different/same elites to rule over them Competition between different elites for election, participation by pressure group elites in between elections, interaction with bureaucratic elites, are regarded as the ways in which democracy operates in a modern liberal democratic capitalist state.]

The Elitist theory was put forward by Max Weber. In his view, the state is used as an instrument through which some groups of a state control the other groups. Elitist believes that people can make decisions for themselves better than elites can. Hence, the elite view of the state is quite similar to the Marxist view of the state.

However, the central difference between the theory of Weber and the Marxist view is that Elitist believes in the idea of legitimacy (anything happening is right). For example, people follow the rules of government because they believe that the government or the state is legitimate. However, Marxism believes that the state itself should be abolished (end) since it is not legitimate.

The Elite concept of the state also lays emphasis on bureaucracy. Bureaucracy is one of the Most Effective methods of organizing the modern state. Weber also believes that the bureaucrats form a group of elites. This group of bureaucrats is extremely political in nature and has the specialist knowledge which the politicians do not possess.

Another contrasting point between the Elitists and the Marxists and Pluralists is that the Pluralists and Marxists believe the state to have specific function. For the Marxists, the working classes are suppressed (put down) while for the Pluralists; different groups of society are reconciled (resigned). Politics is all about power struggle, according to Weber. Power is tool to make someone perform a task which he otherwise wouldn't have performed.

Conclusion