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QUESTION:

In not more than Five (5) pages discuss and evaluate the idea of conservatism.

INTRODUCTION

Under political ideology which is a certain set of ethical ideals ,principles, doctrines, myths or symbols of a social movement, institution, class or large group that explains how society should work and offers some political and cultural blueprint for a certain social order .we have five (5) political ideologies which are ,communism ,anarchism, environmentalism, fascism ,feminism and identity politics ,conservatism .I want to talk on Conservatism.

CONSERVATISM

**Definitions**

Conservatism is a preference for the historically inherited rather than the historically inherited rather than the abstract and ideal. Conservatism is a political and social philosophy promoting traditional social institutional social in the context of culture and civilization. Conservatism mean commitment to traditional value and ideals with opposition to change or innovation. Conservatism can also mean the holding of political views that favors free enterprise ,private ownership ,and socially conservative idea .

The central tenets of conservatism include tradition, organic social , hierarchy ,authority ,and property rights. Conservatism include tradition, organic society ,hierarchy, authority ,organic society ,hierarchy, authority ,and property rights, conservatism seeks to preserve a range of institutions such as religious ,parliamentary government ,and property rights , with the aim of emphasizing social stability and continuity .The more traditional elements –oppose modernism and seeks a return to “the way things were”. Conservatism and its modernizing, anti-traditionalist rivals ,liberalism and socialism ,are the most influential political philosophies and ideologies of the post-Enlightenment era. Conservatives criticize their rivals for making a utopian exaggeration of the power of theoretical reasons ,and of human perfectibility .Conservatism prescriptions are based on what they regard as experience rather than reasons ; for them ,the ideal and the practical are inseparable .Most commentators regard conservatism as modern political philosophy ,even though it exhibits the standpoint of paternalism or authority, rather than freedom. Government’s responsibility is to be the servants ,not the master, of existing ways of life ,and politicians must therefore resist the temptation to transform society and politics. This suspicion of government activism distinguishes conservatism not only from radical forms of political thought but also from Liberalism ,which is a modernizing , anti-traditionalist movement dedicated to correcting the evils and abuses resulting from the misuse of social and political power. In The Devil’s Dictionary (1906), the American writer Ambrose Bierce cynically (but not inappropriately ) defined Conservative as a “a statesman who is enamored of existing evils, as distinguished from the Liberal, who wishes to replace them with others.” Conservatism must also be distinguish from the reactionary outlook, which favours the restoration of a previous ,and usually outmoded ,political or social or social order.

It was not until the last 18th century, in reaction to the upheavals of the French Revolution(1789), that conservatism began to develop as a distinct political attitude and movement .The term conservative was introduced after 1815 by supportive was introduced after 1815 by supporters of the newly restored Bourbon monarchy in France , including the author and diplomat Francôis –Auguste –René, vicomte de Chateaubriand . In 1830 the British politician and writer John Wilson Croker used the term to describe the British Tory Party (see Whig and Tory) ,and john C. Calhoun ,an ardent defender of states’ rights in the United States, adopted it soon afterward . The originator of modern, articulated conservatism(though he never use the term himself ) is generally acknowledged to the British parliamentarian and political writer Edmund Burke, whose Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790) was a forceful expression of conservatives’ rejection of the French Revolution and a major inspiration for counterrevolutionary theorists in the 19th century . For Burke and other pro-parliamentarian conservatives ,the violent ,untraditional, and uprooting methods of the revolution outweighed and corrupted its liberating ideals .The general revulsion against the violent course of the revolution provided conservatives with an opportunity traditions ,and several brands of conservative philosophy soon developed .

**An Example**

Imagine a country called Joemic , which is a state that closely adheres to conservative ideology ,Joemic is a small country run by a hereditary aristocracy consisting of a small group of families that founded the country several hundred years ago . Only members of the aristocracy may hold political office . Each family holds a seat in the country’s Senate, which is the legislature .The Senator’s vote in one of their members as Doge . Joemic has only one recognized moral authority over citizens. While citizens are eligible to become clergy, only members of the aristocracy hold high clerical offices.

The citizens of Joemic accepts their position in the community and understand their responsibility and understand their responsibilities ,including a patriotic duty to the state and the obligation to be productive members of the community. They also recognize the importance of their traditional values and institutions ,including the Senate, the church and the family .Citizens understand that they are part of a larger community ,which may mean placing the need of their community above their individual goals or aspirations.

Everybody knows their place in Joemic and does not seek to change it. When change is needed ,the leadership takes its time and carefully considers what actions need to be taken. If change occurs ,it does so incrementally and within the values and institutions of Joemic so as not to shock the tranquility so society.

**Traits that a conservative is likely to have**

* Conservative tend to want less control over the individual, doesn’t like fixed political doctrines .
* Like the status quo to be maintained rather than any radical change.
* Although the nature of conservative thinking may change dependent on the time they usually want to maintain tradition, the present and they look to the past as a guide rather than fixed principles for the future.
* Want the individuals also want good social order and security even if that is at the expense of freedom, rights and equality.

As Conservatism is reactionary a lot depends upon what is happening at the time in a certain place. For example in the second half of the 20th century conservatism looked at society as a whole in contrast to Liberalism and then took conservatism to mean the individual.

The core values of conservatism include :

* Individualism –where people take personal responsibility for their actions.
* Organic society-where people have positions in society and that everyone integrates and has obligations to the community.
* Human nature –They believe that humans are imperfect and cannot be changed .
* Inequality –There is an acceptance that while this has negative connotations its it a necessity for society to progress
* Private property-They stress the importance of property as a way for people to be part of society and as a way to contradict socialism
* Pragmatism-Goes against the idea that conservatism is fully opposed to change .Realizations that there needs to be a working relationship between governed and government .

Conservatism can be used to describe somebody’s personality traits as being conservative, but you can have conservative elements of political ideologies or parties .For example Stalin has been called a conservative communist ,Tony Blair was seen as conservative in the Labour Party.

REFERENCES

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