NAME: CHIEZE CHIDINMA FAVOUR

MATRIC NUMBER: 18/sms09/023

COURSE: POL 201

LEVEL: 200l

Conservatism is a political and social philosophy promoting traditional social institutions in the context of culture and civilization. The central tenets of conservatism include tradition, organic society, hierarchy, authority, and property rights. Conservatives seek to preserve a range of institutions such as religion, parliamentary government, and property rights, with the aim of emphasizing social stability and continuity. The more traditional elements—reactionaries—oppose modernism and seek a return to "the way things were. Conservatism is opposition to rapid changes, and supports keeping traditions in society. Gradualism is one form. The first known use of the term in a political context was by François-René de Chateaubriand in 1818. ... The term is associated with right-wing politics. It has been used to describe a wide range of views.

A common way of distinguishing conservatism from both liberalism and radicalism is to say that conservatives reject the optimistic view that human beings can be morally improved through political and social change. Conservatives who are Christians sometimes express this point by saying that human beings are guilty of original sin. Skeptical conservatives merely observe that human history, under almost all imaginable political and social circumstances, has been filled with a great deal of evil. Far from believing that human nature is essentially good or that human beings are fundamentally rational, conservatives tend to assume that human beings are driven by their passions and desires—and are therefore naturally prone to selfishness, anarchy, irrationality, and violence. Accordingly, conservatives look to traditional political and cultural institutions to curb humans’ base and destructive instincts. In Burke’s words, people need “a sufficient restraint upon their passions,” which it is the office of government “to bridle and subdue.” Families, churches, and schools must teach the value of self-discipline, and those who fail to learn this lesson must have discipline imposed upon them by government and law. Without the restraining power of such institutions, conservatives believe, there can be no ethical behaviour and no responsible use of liberty.

There are certain ideas of conservatism; traditional conservatism or traditionalism, is a political and social philosophy emphasizing the need for the principles of a transcendent moral order, manifested through certain natural laws to which society ought to conform in a prudent manner. Overlapping with Toryism, traditionalist conservatism is a variant of conservatism based on the political philosophies of Aristotle and Edmund Burke.Traditionalists emphasize the bonds of social order and the defense of ancestral institutions over what it considers excessive individualism. Traditionalist conservatism places a strong emphasis on the notions of custom, convention and tradition.Theoretical reason is derided over and is considered against practical reason. The state is also seen as a communal enterprise with spiritual and organic qualities. Traditionalists believe that any change is not the result of intentional reasoned thought but flows naturally out of the traditions of the community. Leadership, authority and hierarchy are seen as natural products.

Secondly, Political authority is the ability to rule. This could be by way of a democratic voting system, right of ancestry or by using force - as in a dictatorship. For conservatives, authority is the idea that people in higher positions (or tiers) of society's hierarchy are best able to make decisions in the interests of society as a whole. As a consequence, authority comes from above.

Thirdly, Paternalistic conservatism is a strand in conservatism which reflects the belief that societies exist and develop organically and that members within them have obligations towards each other. What is an organic society? - DefinitionAn organic society is the idea that society operates like an organism or a living entity. In this sense, the whole of an organism is seen as more important than a its individual partsIn this sense, an organism is made up of a set of fragile relationships, to which any damage would see the death of the whole organism.This is important to understand when examining conservatism as it has a particular implication on the conservative view of the state.

Fourthly, Hierarchy and organic unity. Traditionalist conservatives believe that human society is essentially hierarchical (i.e. it always involves various interdependent inequalities, degrees and classes and that political structures that recognize this fact prove the most just, thriving and generally beneficial). Hierarchy is the defence of a social order that exists or should exist by political or economic means. It stands in opposition to equality and liberty.

Finally, Conservatives for Property Rights is a coalition of conservative organizations that stand for private property rights. A unified voice of Movement Conservatives, CPR places renewed emphasis on private property in all its forms — physical, personal, and intellectual. Government is instituted to protect property of every sort; as well that which lies in the various rights of individuals as that which the term particularly expresses. This being the end of government, that alone is a just government, which impartially secures to every man, whatever is his own.

In conclusion, Conservatives seek to preserve a range of institutions such as religion, parliamentary government, and property rights, with the aim of emphasizing social stability and continuity.