



Liberal Democracy and Justice

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Abstract: During the disintegration of Cold War in 1991 after fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, world saw the fate of communism and embraced capitalism in letter and spirit. As is true of strategic interests and wisdom, India too, managed to open its economy for world investors. However exploitative liberalism had been in the past resulting in philosophers like Karl Marx to suggest *Class Revolutions*, India, like on the eve of independence, cultivated a beautiful balanced relationship in the shaky waters of Cold War, also managed to strengthen liberalism in modified ways in the form of Libertarianism where private as well as public partnership (PPP) models would be followed in furthering the cause of competition but also ensuring the cherished ideal of *justice*.

Keywords: Capitalism, Communism, Democracy, Ideology, Theory, Socialism, Enlightenment, Renaissance

History: As human past has seen various strifes and struggles, it does need to be mentioned here of various opportunities too in order to strengthen or destabilize the social settings. The history has been replete with variations of different sizes of human character covering all the ages

of ancient, medieval or modern. Round the clock discussions regarding human society have been done for materializing the manifestations which have not been the case in the earlier past.

Some spectacular incidents in the world history have not only imbued the spirit of revolution but also have fastened the overall process of interaction. Often, it has led to glorious results but other results too have seen light of the day. American War of Independence (1776), French Revolution (1789), Russian Revolution (1917), World War I (1913-1919) and World War II (1939-1945); all have contributed, directly or indirectly, in furthering economic thought process and shaping social dimensions. Not only the structural past and present but humans too have been influenced by these incidents very profoundly.

One of these influences has been mercantilism coming out of the Age of Absolute Monarchy after *Dark Ages* in Europe. As the name suggests, it was a horrific period of slavery, destitution, abject levels of poverty, stinking cities and pathetic plight of humanity. Out of the challenge comes the opportunity - this was appropriately correct for this filthy age of pandemics and superstitions and came the Renaissance which led to change in the way humans used to treat concrete reality. It was time now to shape dreams into reality. It demanded a lot of work to be done and without doubt, it rapidly tried to manifest.

Origins and Focus: The world during the Age of Absolute Monarchy fitted well with *mercantilism* as it was bringing money and innovative entrepreneurial activity. New middle classes resurfaced on the canvas of society after a long time and they were now willing to sacrifice everything

at stake for newly found satisfaction and life. Amidst the same period of chaos and tussle, some peaceful and some violent revolutions occurred which changed the outlook of human thought.

Thinkers like John Locke, Jeremy Bentham, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Adam Smith, Montesque influenced human lives in positive manner and brought with it new methods of life. The concept of business and non-state interference was new currency in the market. Emerging human spirit for money and new areas not only sharpened the differences within society but paved the way for harsher struggles and often violent setbacks such as in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Russia.

Not every time these movements led to their ascribed motives of promoting justice and bringing happiness. These *essentially contested concepts* had own insecurities and people with custom and access were afraid of deploying these words in general academic and public. They knew deep down in their hearts, the validity and reliability of such concepts, however, the contemporary time of private property and profit maximization did not allow them to cross their limits.

As mentioned before, new opportunities had to come out of sudden instances, this was true of human acceptance regarding the concepts of *equality, justice, welfare state* and *fraternity*. Definitions, earlier which used to be arbitrarily deployed for furthering vested interests, now used to get re-written in the age of *enlightenment*.

In the 20th century amidst and after world wars, these notions of international peace and stability gained extra thrust with the establishment of United Nations (UN), an International body responsible for preventing world catastrophes. India, too, after independence in 1947 ratified conventions from United Nations respecting human rights and promoting justice. Our experiences during long and tired freedom struggle enabled us to strengthen socialism right from the beginning without experimenting with social dimensions unlike western democracies of the then times. Leaders of age were well versed with balanced troupe of ideological understanding that we maintained a neutral profile even in the shaky cold waters of cold war playing out both the awry camps, *Capitalism* and *Communism*.

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