

# Political Ideologies

## Theory & History

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# Liberalism

- Difficult & easy
- **The Core**
  
- The optimistic view of human nature
- The individual is a rational actor
- Free will
- Freedom
- Individual
- Market

# Liberalism

- View of the human nature

- Highly optimistic
- Optimistic
- Pessimistic
- Highly pessimistic

- Ideology

- Anarchism
- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Fascism

# Liberalism

- **John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) – *On Liberty***
- Harm principle: “Freedom as wide as possible. The only limitation is if we harm the liberty of others.”
- “Liberals strive to enable individuals to pursue their own conception of happiness provided their actions do not impinge upon the liberty of others.”

# Liberalism

- **John Locke (1632-1704)** – *Two Treatises of Government*
- John Locke opposed the view that the divine right of kings should facilitate an absolutist government.
- “Where laws do not exist, man has no freedom”
- Institutions (liberal)

# Liberalism

- **Three dimensions of liberalism**
  - 1- Political Liberalism (institutions, political rights)
  - 2- Individual Liberalism (individual, individual liberties)
  - 3- Economic Liberalism (market, right to private property)

# Individual Liberalism

- Freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and conscience
- Fostering individualism and individual creativity
- Individual difference, respect for the other
- **Rosa Luxemburg:** “Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently”
- **J.S. Mill:** “Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign”

# Political Liberalism

- Liberal-democratic state (minimal state, state as a “servant” serving its citizens)
- Individual rights & liberties
- Human rights
- Individual **X** State



# Political Liberalism

- Protection of human rights
- Freedom of thought
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of religion & conscience
- Freedom of press (media)
- Freedom to form political parties

# Political Liberalism

- Plurality of pressure groups, NGOs and political parties
- Free & fair elections
- Competitive multi-party elections
- Peaceful transition of power

# Political Liberalism

- Checks & Balances
- Separation of Powers (executive, legislative & judiciary)
- Rule of law
- Constitution

# Political Liberalism

- Power should be limited and checked, restrictions placed upon the agents of the state
- **Lord Acton:** “All power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely”

# Liberalism

- Accountability (two-fold)
- Meritocracy (attaining a position because of your skill or performance)

# Liberalism

- **Equality for liberalism**
- a- Equal opportunity
- b- Equal citizenship (equal voting rights, access to rights & liberties etc.)
- c- Equality before the law
- *Not social or economic equality*

# Economic Liberalism

- Right to private property
- **J. S. Mill:** “Private property is a right, criticizing it should be free”
- **Mercantilism** (commercial capitalism) – an economic system and perception where countries conduct trade to maximize gold intake by certain state-wide economic restrictions
- Bans, customs, quotas, high-level of state regulation
- Collaboration between the merchants and the states (kingdoms)
- Winners & losers in this system
- Merchant capitalism (pre-industrial era)

# Economic Liberalism

- Liberal market economy
- **Adam Smith (1723-1790)** – *The Wealth of Nations*
- Free & fair competition
- Division of labor
- Individual consumer and entrepreneur as the actor rather than the kingdom
- Enlargement of the market, globalization
- Only winners



# Economic Liberalism

- Liberal market economy
- **Adam Smith (1723-1790)** – *The Wealth of Nations*
- The “invisible hand”
- Market regulating itself
- Prices are determined by demand & supply in the market *without* any external intervention
- No economic role for the state but to provide order, security & the conditions for free & fair competition

# Economic Liberalism

- **Thomas Malthus (1776-1834)** – population research, statistics, responsibility for poverty, from the community to the individual
- **David Ricardo (1772-1823)** – the theory of wages

# Economic Liberalism

- What about the workers?
- How about waged labor?
  
- Industrial capitalism, state & democracy

# Economic Liberalism / Neo-Liberalism

- The marketplace is based firmly upon the democratic will of the people
- *Regulation* whatsoever is destructive and counter-productive
- J. S. Mill: “All errors which a man is likely to commit against advice and warning are far outweighed by the evil of allowing others to constrain him for what they deem to be his own good”.

# Economic Liberalism / Neo-Liberalism

- Globalized economy, free trade, peaceful co-operation between different countries
- **T. Friedman** – “no two countries with *McDonalds* franchises have ever gone to war”
- Privatization, time-period (1980s onwards as a reaction to Keynesian economics)

# Libertarianism

- **Libertarianism** – extreme individualism, no taxation (“taxation is theft”)
- Close to individual anarchism
- Makes sense in the US context where there is, at times, an antagonism between the federal government AND the regional, local governments
- James Madison (the right to bear arms) against the (federal) tyrant
- Second amendment of the US constitution

# Social liberalism

- Liberalism with welfare economics and care for the other, respect differences
- Elements of social democracy
- Welfare state (poor, homeless, free health, retirement pension, unemployment benefits)
  
- **Positive rights**
- Minority rights
- LGBT rights
- Cultural (collective) rights
- Positive discrimination

# Liberalism

- **Relativism**
- Moral
- Cultural diversity
- On what is “good”



# Liberalism (advance issues)

- Abortion
- Capital punishment
- Prostitution
- Social welfare issues

# Liberalism

- **Andrew Heywood**, *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, 5th edition or above.
- **Kevin Bloor**, *The Definitive Guide to Political Ideologies*. Milton Keynes: Author House, 2010.
- **BBC Documentary**, *People's Century: "Skin Deep" (On the civil rights movement in the 1960s US and the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa in 1992)*

# Links

- [www.keremblog.info](http://www.keremblog.info)
- *avesis account:* <https://avesis.yildiz.edu.tr/keremkar>
- *departmental website:* [www.itb.yildiz.edu.tr](http://www.itb.yildiz.edu.tr)

# Next Week

- next week, **socialism**
- please don't forget to check out the relevant chapters from both our books!
- thank you...