

Political Ideologies

Theory & History

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Conservatism

- As a term controversial and vague
- Differences between Britain, the US and Turkey
- Political conservatism
- Cultural conservatism
- Religious conservatism

Conservatism

- **The Core**
- Pessimistic view of human nature
- Belief in pragmatism
- Tradition
- Organic view of society
- Importance of social order (rather than conflict)

Conservatism

- **Thomas Hobbes** (1588-1679)
- A social contract theorist
- Human imperfection
- Humans are security-seeking creatures

British Conservatism

- **Edmund Burke** (1729-1797)
- Criticizing the French Revolution
- Evolution rather than revolution
- “Partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead and those who are to be born”.

Conservatism

- Conserving *institutions* and *values*
- Continuity
- Common sense
- Accumulated wisdom
- “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”.

Conservatism

- Conservatism accepts the basic principles of economic liberalism
- British conservatism is pragmatic even in economic matters
- “Unlike classical liberals most conservatives claim that the state should be prepared for market failure and deal with it accordingly”.

British Conservatism

- Elitism
- **Winston Churchill (1874-1965)**
- “Democracy is the worst form of government, except all others that have been tried”.
- “The best argument against democracy is a 5 minute conversation with the average voter”.

Conservatism

- **Michael Oakeshott (1901-1990)**
- Experience & history lead to ***parliamentary government & institutions***
- Ideology & abstract notions lead to ***rationalist politics***
- These two do not belong to the same system

Conservatism

- **Michael Oakeshott** (1901-1990)
- In his essay "On Being Conservative" (1956) Oakeshott explained what he regarded as the conservative disposition: "To be conservative ... is to prefer the familiar to the unknown, to prefer the tried to the untried, fact to mystery, the actual to the possible, the limited to the unbounded, the near to the distant, the sufficient to the superabundant, the convenient to the perfect, present laughter to utopian bliss."
- "In political activity, then, men sail on a boundless and bottomless sea".

Conservatism

- New Right
- Neoconservatism
- Populism
- Conserving what? “Traditions”, “culture”, “economy”, “politics”, “institutions”?

Conservatism

- **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.

Links

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

Next Week

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