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Understanding Political Ideologies: Liberalism, Socialism, and Hitler's Doctrine

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Abstract

This article explores the historical and theoretical dimensions of liberalism, socialism, and Hitler's ideology, examining their impact on governance, economics, and societal structures. Liberalism, rooted in the Enlightenment, promotes free markets and individual rights, opposing excessive government intervention while supporting property rights and democracy. Socialism, driven by economic disparities, advocates collective ownership to ensure equitable resource distribution, as seen in Marxist theory and modern examples like China's socialist democracy. In contrast, Hitler's National Socialist ideology manipulated economic resources for militaristic and nationalist goals, combining capitalism with racist and fascist elements, leading to destructive outcomes. The interplay between economics and politics has a significant influence on electoral behavior, with economic conditions shaping voter preferences. By comparing these ideologies, the study highlights their divergent approaches to equality, rights, and state power. Understanding these frameworks aids in addressing contemporary governance challenges, promoting policies that balance individual freedoms with social equity, and preventing the rise of authoritarian ideologies.

Keywords: Liberalism; Socialism; Nazism; Political Ideologies; Economics; Equality

1. Introduction

This manuscript examines the historical and theoretical foundations of liberalism, socialism, and Hitler's National Socialist ideology, analyzing their roles in shaping governance, economic policies, and societal structures. It explores how these ideologies address equality, rights, and state power, influenced by economic conditions that impact electoral behavior. By comparing their principles and outcomes, the study offers insights into their societal implications and relevance to contemporary governance challenges.

1.1. Main Body

Political ideologies have long shaped the course of history, defining governance systems, economic policies, and societal structures. Among the most influential are liberalism, socialism, and Hitler's ideology. The nation's economy affects how people vote in presidential elections, and their political viewpoints often skew the way they view the economy. Politics is derived from and determined by economics, but it also reacts to economics. In other words, it commands and serves economics. This shows that politics and economics are united. The state of the economy always has an impact on elections. There is a reason James Carville said, "It's the economy, stupid." However, what a "strong" or "weak" economy means is highly variable.

Economic liberalism opposes government intervention in the economy when it leads to inefficient outcomes. It supports a strong state that protects the right to property and enforces contracts. It may also support government interventions to resolve market failures. Liberalism emerged in Europe during the Age of Enlightenment (the period between the late 17th century and 18th century when new ideas about government, personal freedom, and religious beliefs began to

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appear in Europe) as an idea that spread quickly among Western philosophers, economists, and political scientists. Liberalism challenged the existing practices of monarchy, hereditary succession of power, divine rights of kings, and so on. In short, it rejected what is termed “classical conservatism” and orthodoxy and replaced it with new ideas of representative democracy and the rule of law. Liberalism, in the economic sense, meant ending royal monopolies, mercantilist policies, and other trade barriers. It advocated free trade, globalism, and a market economy.

It describes the economic, political, and social theories and movements associated with the implementation of such systems. People want equality and rights. They are born free and have some natural rights. They form governments to maintain these three things: Life, Liberty, and Property. But when this government fails to provide the citizens’ needs and rights, people prioritize other options that are better for them. People turn to socialism when they see that liberalism has failed to provide a fair share of resources or opportunities for all, especially during times of economic crises. They see some people getting richer and others getting poorer; classes are being formed among people. “Socialism is the political movement of the working classes which aims to abolish exploitation by means of the collective ownership and democratic management of the basic instruments of production and distribution.” It is an ideology that supports public ownership of property and natural resources. Marxian economics describes the capitalist system of production as inherently unfair to the workers, who represent most of the population. The goal of socialism is to create a society in which everyone has an equal share of resources and wealth. A socialist economy is based on the principle of collective ownership. This means that the resources of society—such as land, factories, and businesses—are owned by the community, not by private individuals. Under Xi Jinping, the Chinese Communist Party styles itself as a socialist democracy.

Everyone is equal and free and has the right to elect a government to protect their rights. The job of that government is to provide proper services and rights to the people. But in no way can that government come to power through violence, and it must have limits. After World War I, when Germany faced severe economic problems, including hyperinflation and the Great Depression, Adolf Hitler began publicly speaking and engaging in political activities in the early 1920s. He is famous for his powerful speeches, which could easily convince people to support his views. The Nazi Party, officially the National Socialist German Workers' Party (German: Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei or NSDAP), had its own ideology. In February 1920, Hitler presented the 25-point program (the Nazi Party Platform) at a party meeting. Point No. 1 was: “We demand the unification of all Germans in Greater Germany on the basis of the right of self-determination of peoples.”

Hitler said he wanted to build a better nation for all people of German blood. In Manifesto Point No. 9, they wrote, “All citizens must have equal rights and obligations.” This sounds similar to liberalism and socialism. People supported Hitler to regain their rights and equality—because what the general public of a country wants is its fundamental rights. But the Nazis supported private property, big businesses, and capitalism as long as they served the state's nationalist and militaristic goals. Adolf Hitler used economic wealth to gain more power and prepare for war, not to improve the country. The Nazis combined fascist ideas with virulent anti-Semitism and racism, making their ideology uniquely destructive.

Peace allows individuals and communities to thrive without the fear of war, violence, or oppression. Stable, peaceful societies create opportunities for trade, innovation, and development. We are born free. We all have the same right to make decisions and lead our lives. The general public of the world wants a peaceful life. But there is a saying in economics: “Everything does not always go as it should; something bad will happen.” Some people in society, captivated by greed and power, create their own ideology of self-interest, which creates inequality among people. When people elect a government to maintain their natural rights of Life, Liberty, and Property, but that government creates a capitalist state system, people come up with a different ideology.

The common people want a better life system where there is equality and fair rights. They do not want any power to form an exaggerated empire. There is no need for that power which creates class divisions among the people of the country. People do not say capitalists and classists, so they understand sociality and decide to follow the ideology of equality of social values.

2. Conclusion

This article compares liberalism, socialism, and Hitler’s ideology, highlighting their distinct approaches to economic and political systems. Liberalism emphasizes individual rights and free markets, socialism prioritizes collective ownership for equality, while Nazism exploited economic resources for destructive nationalist aims. Understanding these ideologies informs equitable governance and prevents authoritarianism, benefiting society by fostering inclusive policies and sustainable development.

Compliance with ethical standards

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Disclosure of conflict of interest

I, MD Nurul Islam, confirm that I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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