



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: Political science-I

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Lecture-9



Nature:

The students of political science very often come across such terms as liberal democracy, socialist democracy, plebiscitary democracy, etc. There are also many other terms. Perhaps looking at these terms the well-known political scientist Bernard Crick once said that it was the most promiscuous term. It is because a military dictator sometimes claims that his country is democratic.

The leaders of the former Soviet Union very often boasted of a perfect democracy though the basic element of democracy—multiplicity of party—was absent there. The rulers of all bourgeois states demand that theirs is the real democracy.

If we bring them into our consideration we shall find that it will be a herculean task to arrive at an agreed view of democracy. Here we are thinking of liberal democracy which means that in such a democracy people are allowed to enjoy maximum amount of freedom and the state intervention in the affairs of individuals is at a minimum level.

The liberal democracy possesses few features:

- (1) It is indirect and representative.
- (2) It is based on competition.
- (3) Electoral choice enjoys great importance.
- (4) In liberal democracy state is distinguished from civil society.
- (5) If institutions and organisations do not jeopardise the normal functioning of state and its interests, they are allowed to enjoy autonomy.
- (6) In liberal democracy disagreement is allowed to persist and it is believed that disagreement is healthy.
- (7) In liberal democracy there is multiplicity of ideas and all of them exist side by side.
- (8) In true liberal democracy the intervention of state is minimum.
- (9) It is characterised by free market economy.

MCQ

1. Democracy involves:

- (a) Competition among various political parties
- (b) Religious inequalities
- (c) Cultural diversity
- (d) Conflict, violence and disintegration

2. Which three countries faced the problem of social division?

- (a) United Kingdom, USA and India
- (b) Belgium, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom
- (c) Sri Lanka, Canada and India
- (d) Belgium, Germany and USA

3. Overlapping differences signify:

- (a) Religious and linguistic differences
- (b) Cross-cut social differences
- (c) Some social difference overlaps with other differences
- (d) Cultural differences

4. What does the “Civil Rights Movement of USA” signify?

- (a) A movement against the discrimination
- (b) A reform movement for the Civil Rights of the citizens
- (c) A reform movement against the social discriminations of Afro-Americans
- (d) None of the above

5. Which of the following statements about social differences in the Netherlands and Northern Ireland are correct?

- A. Both Northern Ireland and the Netherlands are predominantly Christian but divided between Catholics and Protestants.
- B. In Northern Ireland class and religion overlap each other.
- C. Overlapping social differences do not create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.
- D. In the Netherlands, class and religion tend to cut across each other.

- (a) A, B, C and D
- (b) A, B and D
- (c) C and D
- (d) B, C and D