

# IDEOLOGIES: MEANING & BASIC FEATURES

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Political ideology is a set of ideas, beliefs, values, and opinions, exhibiting a recurring pattern, that competes deliberately as well as unintentionally over providing plans of action for public policy making in an attempt to justify, explain, contest, or change the social and political arrangements and processes of a political community.

- *Political ideology* is a coherent set of views on politics and the role of the government and encompasses a wide range of issues.
- Eighteenth century, Antoine Destutt de Tracy is often credited with first employing the term ideology in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- By ideology Tracy meant a “science of the formation of ideas,” which, in line with prevailing enlightenment aspirations, he believed could promote social progress and the common good.



*The meanings have shifted over time and often make sense in context of the political struggles through which they emerged.*

**Ideology is excessively used in interpretation, formulation and functioning of many state's political systems.**

**A political ideology focuses on the political system wherein societies make decisions about their most important values or as Easton said “the authoritative allocation of values” for a society is made**

# WEB OF IDEOLOGIES

Progressive

Libertarian

Liberalism

Classical Liberalism

Anarcho-Capitalism

Social Liberalism

Social Democracy

Green Liberalism

Libertarian Conservatism

Democratic Socialism

Green Socialism

Conservative Liberalism

Libertarian Socialism

Green Conservatism

Syndicalism

Social Conservatism

Communism

National Socialism

National Conservatism

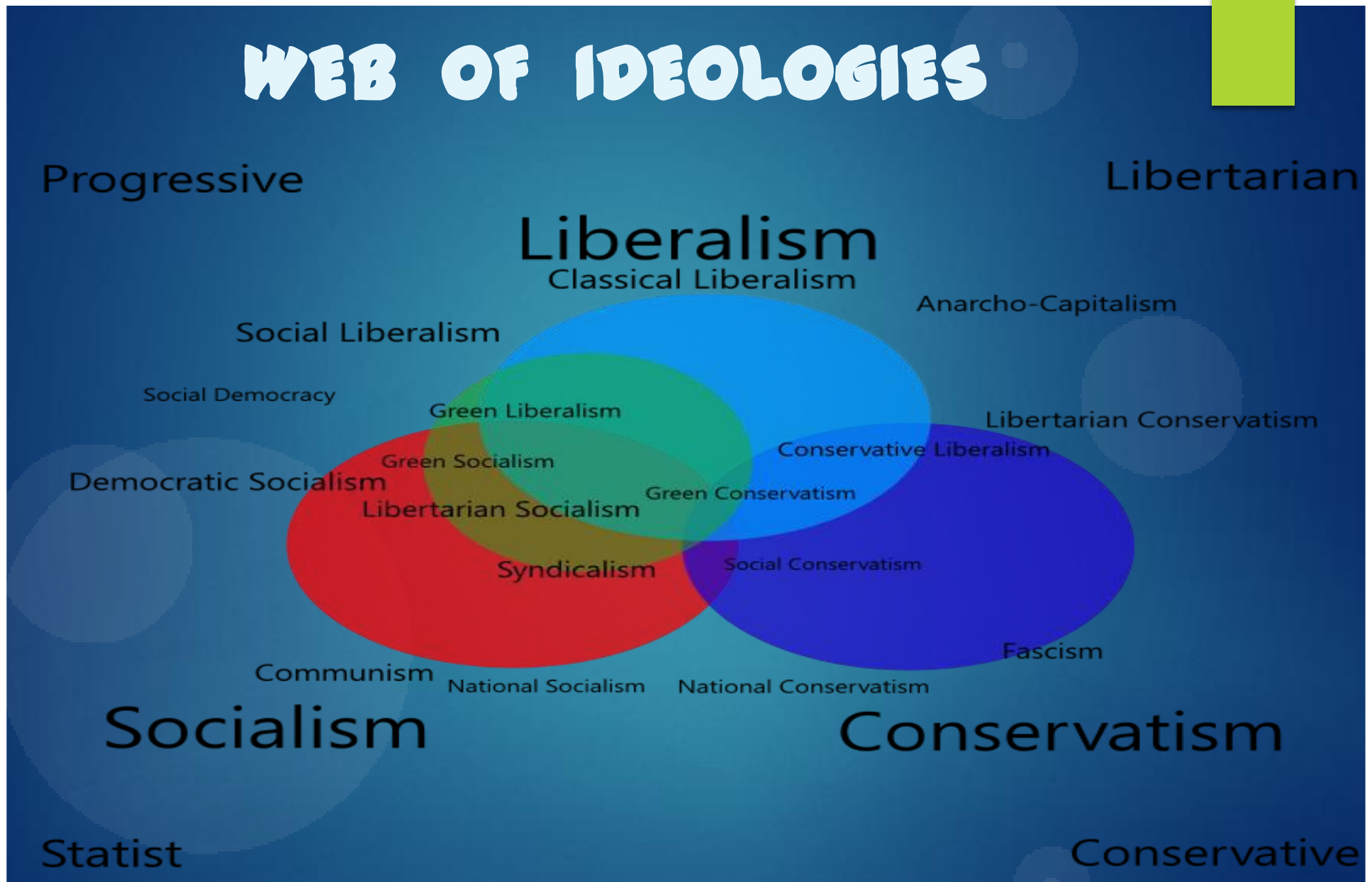
Fascism

Socialism

Conservatism

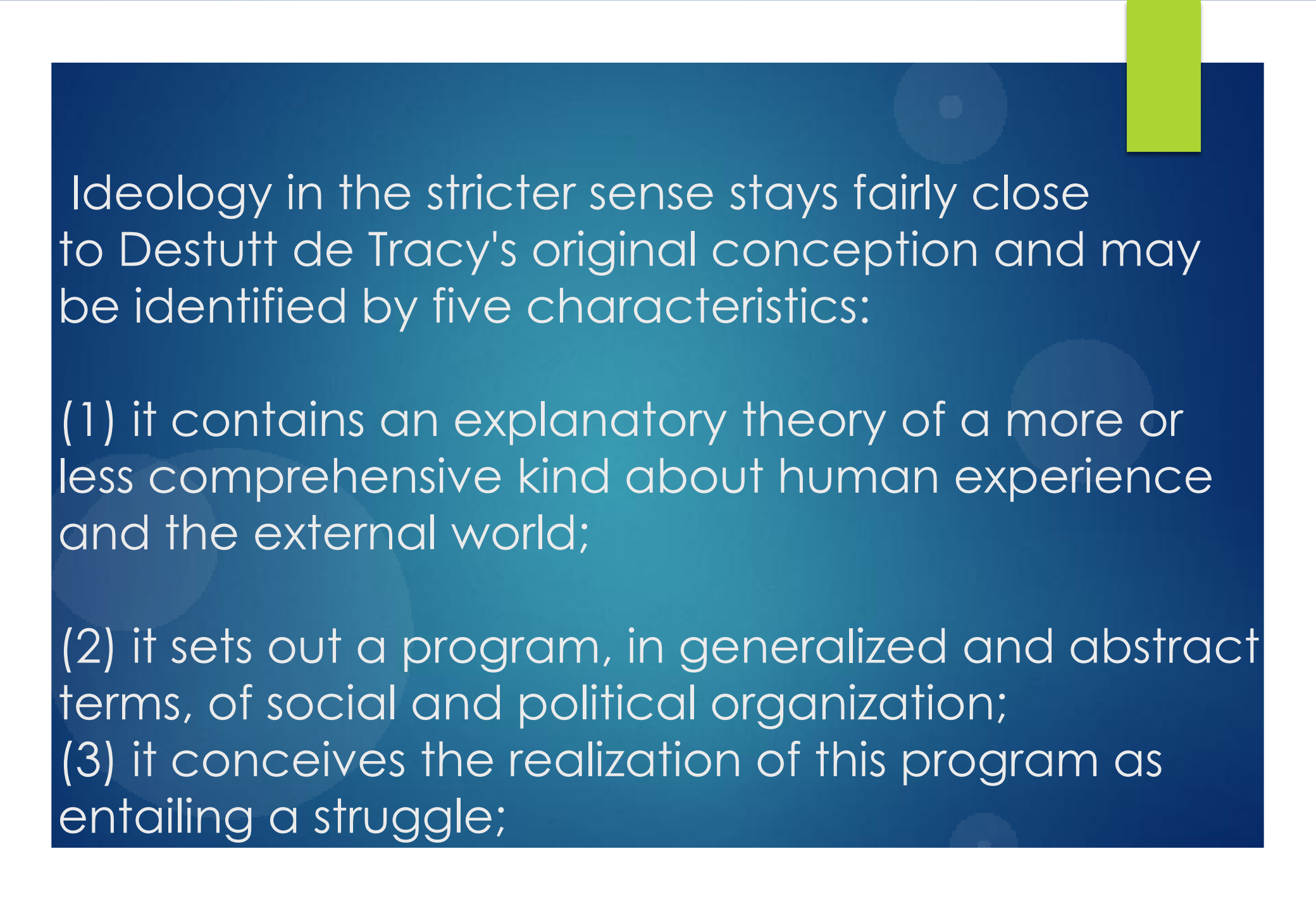
Statist

Conservative



# DEVELOPMENT OF IDEOLOGIES

- ▶ Most ideologies owe their origin and gradual developed to some social movements that took place in in a society.
- ▶ Be that modern democracy in the seventeenth century, Marxism and anarchism in the nineteenth century, and fascism and National Socialism, feminism, Liberation Theology in last century and environmentalism, Pan-Islamism or Globalism in recent decades.
- ▶ Ideologies provide the apparatus through which variety of issues are interpreted and explained to make meanings for its adherents.



Ideology in the stricter sense stays fairly close to Destutt de Tracy's original conception and may be identified by five characteristics:

(1) it contains an explanatory theory of a more or less comprehensive kind about human experience and the external world;

(2) it sets out a program, in generalized and abstract terms, of social and political organization;

(3) it conceives the realization of this program as entailing a struggle;



(4) it seeks not merely to persuade but to recruit loyal adherents, demanding what is sometimes called commitment;

(5) it addresses a wide public but may tend to confer some special role of leadership on intellectuals. .



**DAVID W. MINAR** describes *SIX* different ways the word "ideology" has been used:

- ▶ As a collection of certain ideas with certain kinds of *content*, usually normative
- ▶ As the *form or internal logical structure* that ideas have within a set
- ▶ By the role ideas play in *human-social interaction*
- ▶ By the role ideas play in the *structure of an organization*
- ▶ As meaning, whose purpose is *persuasion*
- ▶ As the *locus* of social interaction





TERRY EAGLETON outlines characteristics of ideologies as

- ▶ The process of production of meanings, signs and values in social life
- ▶ A body of ideas characteristic of a particular social group or class
- ▶ Helps legitimate a dominant political power
- ▶ Systematically distorts communication
- ▶ offer a position for a subject
- ▶ Is motivated by social interests Identity thinking
- ▶ conjuncture of discourse and power

## TERRY EAGLETON (continued)

- ▶ Provides means of a Socially necessary illusion
- ▶ provides a medium in which conscious social actors make sense of their world
- ▶ Action-oriented sets of beliefs
- ▶ The confusion of linguistic and phenomenal reality
- ▶ Semiotic closure
- ▶ The indispensable medium in which individuals live out
- ▶ their relations to a social structure
- ▶ The process that converts social life to a natural reality

# NATURE OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES


*The study of ideology is an indispensable part of social and political analysis.*

Political systems, social and political movements, and relations of power and domination are always interwoven with various kinds of ideas, beliefs, and symbolic forms.

# THE FEATURES OF IDEOLOGY

Some of the features of Ideology are:

- Provides Worldview: help to structure how the world is understood and explained
- A system of beliefs, normative values, attitudes and symbols that guide collective action
  - Advocates a particular pattern of social relationships and arrangements,
  - justifies a particular pattern of conduct (which its proponents seek to promote, realize, pursue or maintain) □

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- ❑ Source for ordering, defining and evaluating political reality
  - ❑ Establishes political identities
  - ❑ Gives meaning: in identifying friends and foes in the international system
  - ❑ Propels social machinery into action for change
  - ❑ Provides/motivates a course of action (sometimes even a revolution to overthrow and replace the existing social order)
  - ❑ Presents/Establishes a normative goal (ought to be) as antithesis of present scenario and orders preferences.

Source: Understanding "Ideology": It's Aspects, Features, Dimensions and Types) Areeba Ahsanat Moazzam

That is why we see that adherents of a particular ideology display considerably **CONSISTENT PATTERNS OF INTERPRETATIONS**.

The Marxist tradition views it pejoratively as *DISTORTED CONSCIOUSNESS*, reflecting an exploitative material reality, that can be overcome through unmasking.

Ideologies are viewed by Marxists as **FICTITIOUS NARRATIVES** necessary to maintaining the social order.

## **NON-MARKIST APPROACHES SPLIT INTO THREE PERSPECTIVES.**

**[1<sup>st</sup> ] Abstract, closed and doctrinaire, largely impervious to empirical evidence and superimposed on a society.**

**[2<sup>nd</sup> ] A series of empirically ascertainable attitudes towards political issues that can be explored by means of behavioral methods.**

**[3<sup>rd</sup> ] As indispensable mapping devices of cultural symbols and political concepts that constitute a crucial resource for understanding and shaping sociopolitical life.**

# MARXIST & NEO-MARXIST PERSPECTIVES

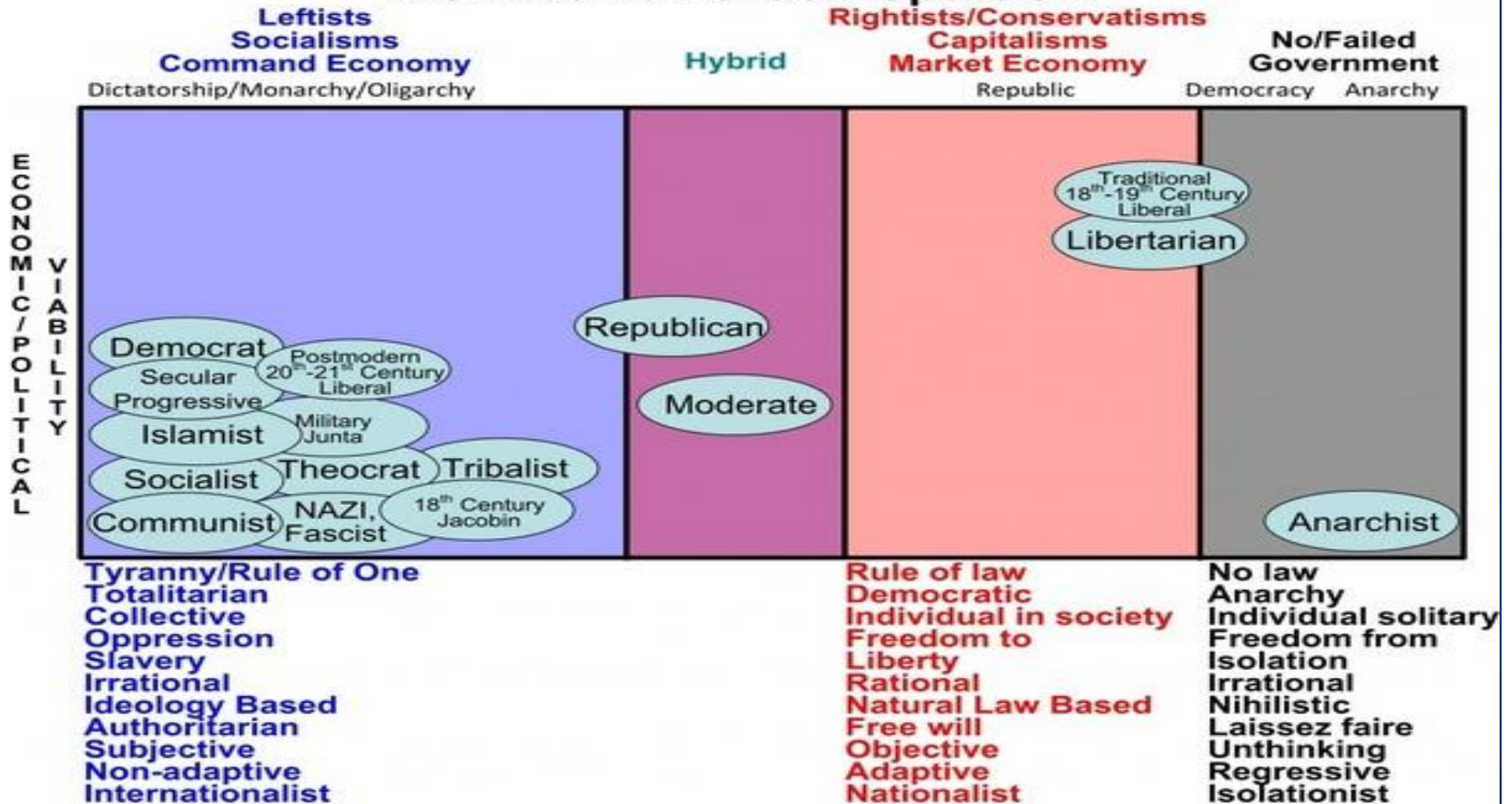
Within the Marxist tradition ANTONIO GRAMSCI (1971) strengthened the notion of *IDEOLOGY-CUM-POWER* through his theory of the hegemony of a consensual historical bloc, but he also detached ideology from its ephemeral and dogmatic nature.

Gramsci analyzed the role of mass political activity in shaping popular culture through secular faiths, and recognized ideology in its highest sense as a conception of the world consolidated by intellectuals, directing social and political practices, and present in all manifestations of collective life, including art, religion, literature and law.



# SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

## Dickinson's Political Spectrum



## DEBATES CONTINUE .....

European political scene saw an increasing struggle among competing political ideologies, in particular among conservatism, liberalism, and socialism.

While Marxists could dismiss most of these as bourgeois illusions, the power of ideas as a means to organize political action, through political parties and their programs, as well as in extra-parliamentary forms, became evident.

Karl Mannheim (1936) changed the conceptual interpretation of ideology, accepted the Marxists' historical and social genesis of thought, but expanded ideology to cover the multiple social understandings of diverse social groups.

## .....**END OF IDEOLOGIES**

Daniel Bell (1962) said on account of their emphasis on passions and emotions they could be called secular religions.

He concluded that extreme ideologies were apparently burning themselves out, leading to the end of ideologies. Such views underestimated the emotive power of political ideas.

They also incorporated a definitional constraint that ignored additional features of ideology that render the political 'center' just as ideological as the 'right' and the 'left,' or that cannot account for the rise of social movements such as feminism and environmentalism—political and ideational expressions of new social concern



Due to emergence of Post-structuralism , Micro-structuralism , Semantics And Hermeneutics ,Post Marxism etc.

The Analysis Of Ideologies Has Undergone Considerable Transformation.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, developments in the analysis of ideology display two tendencies.

Post-Marxist and poststructuralist theory regard ideology as a modernist construct through which narratives necessary to maintaining the social order are produced.



Thank  
You