




Contemporary Political Ideologies

2nd Grade

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- ❖ The Concept of Political Ideology
 - ❖ Features of P. Ideology
 - ❖ Other meanings of P. Ideology
 - ❖ Functions of P. Ideology

- ➔ It was **Destutt de Tracy** (1754-1836), a French scholar, who first used the term of **ideology**, to describe **a new science of ideas**.

IDEOLOGY

Ideology is one of the most contested (disputed) of political terms.

It is now most widely used in a socialscientific sense to refer to a more or less coherent (interrelated) set of ideas that provide the basis for some kind of organised political action.

In this sense, all ideologies therefore have the following features:

- 1- offer an **explanation or critique of the existing order**, usually in the form of a 'world view'.
- 2- offer the model of **a desired future**, a vision of the 'good society'.
- 3- offer outline (framework, plan) how **political change** can and should be brought about.



What is Ideology?

“Ideology is the most **elusive (difficult to understand) concept** in the whole of the social sciences”

David McLellan

Among the meanings that have been attached to ideology are the following:

1. a political belief system.
2. an **action-orientated** set of political ideas.
3. the ideas of the **ruling class**.

Among the meanings that have been attached to ideology are the following:

4. the **world-view** of a particular social class or social group.
5. political ideas that embody or articulate (express) **class interests**.

Among the meanings that have been attached to ideology are the following:

6. ideas that **propagate (spread) false consciousness** among the exploited or oppressed.
7. an all-embracing (comprehensive) political doctrine that **claims a monopoly of truth.**

Among the meanings that have been attached to ideology are the following:

8. ideas that situate the individual within a context that generate a sense of collective belonging an officially sanctioned set of ideas used to **legitimize a political system.**
9. highly systematic set of political ideas.

The functions of ideology:

1. to provide a perspective (viewpoint) in understanding the world.
2. to shape political systems.
3. to act as a social link between groups.

Translate the Following Words into Kurdish or Arabic Language:

1. Describe
2. Contested=
3. Disputed
4. Coherent=
5. Interrelated
6. Base
7. Features
8. Vision
9. Elusive = difficult to understand
- 10.action-orientated
- 11.particular
- 12.Articulate = express
- 13.Propagate=
- 14.Spread
- 15.Perspective=
- 16.viewpoint
- 17.collective
- 18.doctrine
- 19.context
- 20.outline
- 21.all-embracing
- 22.consciousness
- 23.False
- 24.provide



- **Marxists**

- **Liberals**

- **Conservative thinkers**

- Marxists used **ideology** to refer to ideas that **serve the interests of the ruling class** by *concealing* (hide) the contradictions of class society, promoting false consciousness and *political obedience* amongst subordinate classes.
- In this view a clear distinction can be drawn between ideology and science, representing **falsehood** and **truth**.

- **Liberals**, particularly during the Cold War period, have viewed **ideology as an officially sanctioned (accepted) belief system** that claims a monopoly of truth, often through a false and illegitimate claim to be scientific.
- **Conservative thinkers** have sometimes treating **ideologies** as elaborate (detailed) systems of thought that orientate (direct, lead) politics towards principles and goals and away from **practical and historical circumstances**.

Significance


The **concept of ideology** has a controversial career.

For much of its history, **ideology** has carried pejorative (disrespectful) implications (concept, indication), being used as a political weapon to criticise or condemn rival political stances (status, position).


The beginning of the Cold War in the 1950s encouraged liberal theorists to identify similarities between fascism and communism, **both being naturally repressive (oppressive) 'official' ideologies** which > suppressed opposition and > demanded organized obedience.

Since the 1960s, ideology has been accorded a **more important place in political analysis** for a number of reasons:

First, the wider use of the social-scientific definition of ideology means that the term no longer carries political cases and **can be applied** to all 'isms' or action-orientated.



Second, a range of new ideological traditions have emerged, including ecologism in the 1960s, the New Right in the 1970s and religious fundamentalism in the 1980s.



Third, the decline of simplistically behavioural approaches to politics has led to growing interest in ideology **as** a means of recognising how far political action is structured by the beliefs and values of political actors.



Thanks