

DEFINITIONS

ANARCHISM: Belief in the abolition of all government and the organization of society on a voluntary, cooperative basis without recourse to force or compulsion. The use of violence to undermine government.

ARISTOCRACY: A form of government in which power is held by the nobility; a group regarded as privileged or superior – through education, ability, wealth, social prestige, family or military ties.

AUTHORITARIANISM: The enforcement or advocacy of strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom - subjection to authority as opposed to individual freedom. A governmental or political system, principle, or practice in which individual freedom is held as completely subordinate to the power or authority of the state, centered either in one person or a small group that is not constitutionally accountable to the people.

AUTOCRACY: Where supreme social and political power is concentrated in the hands of one person or polity, whose decisions are subject to neither external legal restraints nor regularized mechanisms of popular control. Autocracies are ruled by a single entity with absolute power.

CAPITALISM: An economic system based on the freedom of private ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit. Characteristics central to capitalism include private property, capital accumulation, wage labor, voluntary exchange, a price system, and competitive markets. In a capitalist market economy, decision-making and investment are determined by every owner of wealth, property or production ability in financial and capital markets.

COLLECTIVISM/COMMUNITARIANISM: A cultural value that is characterized by emphasis on cohesiveness among individuals and prioritization of the group over self. Communitarianism emphasizes the connection between the individual and the community, believing that a person's social identity and personality are largely molded by community relationships.

CONSERVATISM: Predisposed to conserve existing conditions, custom, institutions, etc., or to restore traditional ones, and to limit change. Belief in an enduring moral order, favoring restraints on power. View property and freedom as closely linked.

DEMAGOGUE: A person, especially an orator or political leader, who gains power and popularity by arousing the emotions, passions, and prejudices of the people.

DEMAGOGUERY: Political activity or practices that seek support by appealing to the desires and prejudices of ordinary people rather than by using rational argument. To treat or manipulate a political issue in the manner of a demagogue; obscure or distort with emotionalism, prejudice, etc.

DEMOCRACY: Government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system. A state of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges: the common people of a community as distinguished from any privileged class.

DEMONIZE: Portray as wicked and threatening.

INDIVIDUALISM: The social theory advocating the liberty, rights, or independent action of the individual. Classical Liberalism emphasizes the moral worth of the human individual in the struggle for liberation. Individualists promote the exercise of one's goals and desires and so value independence and self-reliance.

LIBERAL DEMOCRACY: A form of government in which representative democracy operates under the principles of liberalism. It is characterized by fair, free, and competitive elections between multiple distinct political parties, a separation of powers into different branches of government, the rule of law in everyday life as part of an open society, and the protection of human rights and civil liberties for all persons; drawing upon a constitution to delineate the powers of government and enshrine the social contract.

LIBERALISM: A political or social philosophy advocating the equality and freedom of the individual, parliamentary systems of government, nonviolent modification of political, social, or economic institutions to assure unrestricted development in all spheres of human endeavor, and governmental guarantees of individual rights and civil liberties. Favorable to progress or reform.

LIBERTARIANISM: Advocation of liberty, especially with regard to thought or conduct. Libertarians seek to maximize political freedom and autonomy.

MULTIPLIER EFFECT: An effect in economics in which an increase in spending produces an increase in national income and consumption greater than the initial amount spent. For example, if a corporation builds a factory, it will employ construction workers and their suppliers as well as those who work in the factory. Indirectly, the new factory will stimulate employment in laundries, restaurants, and service industries in the factory's vicinity.

OBJECTIVE: Not influenced by personal feelings, opinions, interpretations, or prejudice in considering or representing facts. External reality, based on facts, unbiased. (Objectivity: the quality of being objective.)

PLUTOCRACY: Government by the wealthy: a country or society governed by the wealthy. An elite or ruling class of people whose power derives from their wealth.

PRIVILEGE: A right or benefit enjoyed by a person beyond the advantages of most – the condition of enjoying special rights or immunities.

RULE OF LAW: The Principle that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to law - that is fairly applied and enforced.

SOCIALISM: A type of economic system involving the public, cooperative (workers), or social ownership of the means of production and distribution. The economic framework may be decentralized and self-managed in autonomous economic units, as in libertarian systems, or centrally planned, as in authoritarian systems. Public services such as healthcare and education would be commonly, collectively, and/or state owned. In a market economy the form "Market Socialism" utilizes the market mechanism for the allocation of capital goods and the means of production.

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY: A social and economic ideology that supports economic and social interventions to promote social justice within the framework of a liberal democratic polity and capitalist economy,

aiming to create the conditions for capitalism to lead to greater democratic, egalitarian and unified outcomes. Modern social democracy is characterized by a commitment to policies aimed at curbing inequality, and oppression of underprivileged groups and poverty, including support for universally accessible public services like healthcare, education, and elderly and childcare. Viewed as a distinctive combination of democracy, welfare, and capitalism.

SUBJECTIVE: Based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions. Existing in the mind, personal. Belonging to the thinking subject rather than to the object of thought. (Subjectivity: the quality of existing in someone's mind rather than the external world.)

THEOCRACY: A form of government in which God or a deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler and ecclesiastical leaders interpret God's law.

TYRANNY: Cruel and oppressive government or rule; arbitrary or unrestrained exercise of power; despotic abuse of authority by a tyrant or absolute ruler.