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PARTENARIAT ÉDUCATIF GRUNDTVIG 2009-2011

History of political movements in Europe

Nationalism



Storming of Bastille

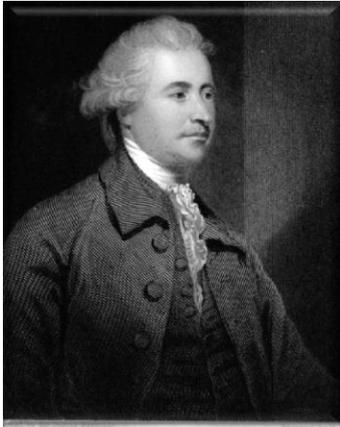
The term “nationalism” denotes a political movement that comes from a set of linguistic, cultural, historical and moral factors, shared by a community of people (people, nation), the peoples’ right to self-determination (concept of national state) and has its origins in the French Revolution.

Nationalist thinking is characterized by the principle that the state is formed by the people (ethnicity) and not the people by the state. This dogma creates a conflict between the peoples’ claim on the right to self-determination and the states’ claim to link their inhabitants as « state people » in a loyal and lasting way, what results in serious tensions within multinational states.

The goals of nationalism are, from the external point of view, a demarcation from the others and, from the internal point of view, weakening the concept of individual.

Today the national sovereignty right of nations is rooted in the international law (Article 1 and 55 of the Charter of the United Nations).

Conservatism



Edmund Burke

Conservatism is a political ideology that emphasizes the importance of tradition, preserves and affirms the dominant political order and protects the given distribution of power and influence. Thus the three major principles of conservatism are the identity, security and continuity.

As a political movement, conservatism is the opposite of progressivism. It was born as a movement opposing the ideas of the Renaissance and the principles of reason and criticism.

Conservatism is based on the affirmation and the priority of the faith and of the corresponding order (divine or mundane), which reaffirms the hierarchical element (in contradiction to the call for equality expressed by the French Revolution).

Christian democracy



Pope Leo XIII
Founder of social support
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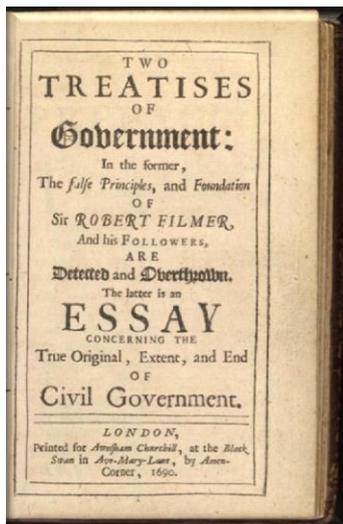
The concept of Christian democracy is a political concept, which encompasses variety of meanings. Christian democracy itself is defined as a political philosophy rooted in Catholic and Evangelical social teaching. Originally, the concept of Christian democracy was born in France. Initially, it was only a program of ecclesiastical reform. That's why the idea of democratization of the organisational structures was spread.

This variation of the Christian democracy found application only at the level of social support, stipulated by Pope Leo XIII.

In the context of bourgeois revolutions and social upheavals during the industrialization process, the Christian democracy gave birth to a model of political Catholicism, as the opposite of nationalism, liberalism and socialism at the same time.

The model is based on the subsidiary principle, fundamental to the democratic and Christian philosophy, and on the principle of "private life before public life" as a priority given to the responsibility of the individual before state intervention. Christian democracy created many organizations in the late 19th century and throughout the 20th century. Apart from the creation of democratic and Christian political parties, the movement has generated trade unions, charities and other organizations.

Liberalism



John Locke's Treatises of Government 1690

Liberalism (Latin *liber*: free, *liberalis*: relating to freedom, liberal) is a philosophical, economic and political ideology, which aims at establishing individual freedom as a basic principle of economic and social order. According to the liberal thinking, the individual freedom is the essential standard and the surface of a human community, which serves as a source to the constitution of the state and its political and economic order. In the Western world liberalism is considered as the source, if not as a synonym of the perception of a modern, pluralistic democracy.

Liberalism was fundamentally inspired by the philosophy of the Renaissance from the second half of the seventeenth century. It often goes together with the economic liberalism. The latter approves of capitalism, free market economy and free trade as a basis on which goods and services are produced and traded over.

Socialism

The concept of socialism was never defined in a non-ambiguous way. It includes multiple



Das Kapital von Karl Marx
Titelseite der Erstausgabe 1867

variations, reformist and social democratic movements, some in agreement with the parliamentary system and democracy, other adopting the communist and totalitarian regimes or authoritarian ones of a revolutionary origin ("real socialism"). The common feature is the perception of society, which regards the private property as a source of unhappiness and for this reason tries to nationalize it. Unlike the liberalism, the socialist theory does not rely only on the equality of human beings before the law, but also on the actual material equality (equitable distribution of the common wealth), with the aim, in the ideal case, of the abolition of social classes. According to the strategy, there are two

different movements: The reformist approach leads to the social democracy while the revolutionary approach leads to the real socialism.

Real socialism



Josef Stalin ca. 1942
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"Socialism of actual existence" was proclaimed from 1917, by the states under the Communist Party regime, regularly in a one-party system: the Soviet Union, particularly with the CUSP and the Member States of the « Eastern European bloc » adopting the Soviet regime from 1945. Real socialism in Europe is strongly inspired by the "Stalinism" by Josef Stalin, characterized by a strict regime of terror in favour of accelerated industrialization, collectivization of agriculture, an ethnic homogenization and an abolition of any kind of opposition. Although some of these

systems still exist, the real socialism is considered obsolete since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

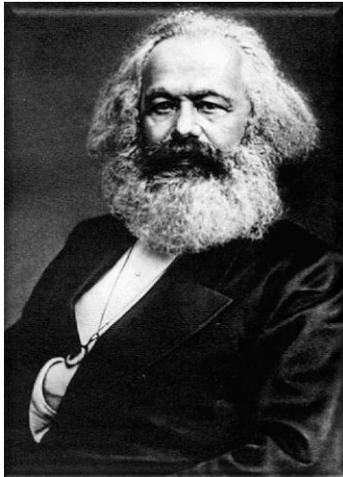
Social-democracy



Willy Brandt 1980
© Bundesarchiv B 145 Bild-F057884-0009

Social democracy denotes an international political movement, present in most countries of the world, which is committed to a society characterized by freedom and social peace with democratic means. Until the early 60s of the 20th century, the nationalization of the means of production was one of the goals of social democratic movement. Over the time, originally revolutionary and socialist social democracy, adopted democratic solutions to social problems, contrary to the call for revolution of the working class, proclaimed by the communist movement. In some countries the social democracy is close to the left-wing liberalism, which - unlike the social democracy - does not give the major role to the State when solutions to political problems have to be made. At first, social democracy was more strongly oriented after the structures of a class society, especially after the working class at the time. The social democracy never thought of itself as linked to only one nation, but as an international movement. The Socialist International is a worldwide confederation of all the socialist and social democratic political parties.

Communism and Marxism



Karl Marx 1875

Communism (in Latin *communis*: common) is an ideology, which refers to the political ideal of a classless society in which private property is abolished and the means of production are shared and accessible to everyone. Communism can be regarded as succeeding stage of socialism, which is still characterized by the attributes of bourgeois society to be overcome.

The most common variation of communism is Marxism. The notion of Marxism refers to the global abolition of private ownership of means of production and its transformation into common ownership (nationalization) through the rise to power of the working class (proletarian dictatorship), a condition necessary for the realization of the classless society. This revolutionary change is seen as the predictable outcome of social conflicts caused by capitalism, a theory distinct from the « utopian socialism ».

The Communist Manifesto written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and Volume III of the Marx's book "Das Kapital" remain the basic works. The authors propagate the international labour fight of working class against the bourgeoisie and describe the position and mission of the communists as the deciding elite within the ruling political parties aware of the historical stakes of the labour movement.

« Das Kapital » is the core of sociological theory called « scientific socialism » written by Marx and now known as « Marxism ». Unlike all idealistic and utopian perceptions, it is characterized by an empirical dogmatism making it easy to be manipulated by actual events.

Fascism



Benito Mussolini 1929
© Bundesarchiv Bild 102-08300

Fascism (in Italian *fascio*: bundle, group, in Latin *fascis*, *Fasces*) is the political movement created by Benito Mussolini in 1919, first made up of the fighting troops (*fasci di combattimento*), which was later established as a political party (*Partito Nazionale Fascista*) and dominated Italy from 1922 to 1945.

In a broader sense, fascism can be defined as a political system characterized by unparliamentarily, totalitarian and very often anti-Semitic tendencies, using a socio-revolutionary communication. When fascism is in power, the existing order generally remains intact. Unlike ordinary military dictatorships and other authoritarian regimes, fascism is characterized by a broad power base, controlled by the mass organizations under

strict central control. A typical attribute of fascism is the conflict between democracy, liberalism and socialism. Unification between the party and the state is considered.

National-socialism



Reichsparteitag der NSDAP 1935
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The concept of national-socialism refers to the ideology of the movement founded and organized in a decisive manner by Adolf Hitler (NSDAP: Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei), which gained influence from 1920 to 1932, grew into a powerful party from 1930, which determined the policy of Germany from 1933 to 1945 and which collapsed in 1945 with the collapse of the German Reich.

National-socialism is a radically anti-Semitic, anti-communist and anti-democratic ideology, based on the « Fuehrerprinzip » (leader principle). It differs from fascism by a radical transformation of the state's organization and by strong control of the society. National-socialist theory of « racial hygiene » and « the theory Jewish world conspiracy » were part of it. National-socialism put the « national socialism » in opposition to « international socialism » and to social democracy and combined racist nationalism with certain anti-capitalist claims of socialist origin while rejecting the nationalization of the means of production, main goal of original socialism.

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