

Political Ideologies and Drama Art

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Abstract

In India political ideology has become topic of research since from more than two centuries. , it's dimensions in social, personal and psychological belief system and it's continually changing graph. Basic thought behind political ideology was divided in two main categories like left i.e.liberal and right i.e. conservative for more than 200 years. This belief system works on opposing or advocating and rejecting or accepting inequality... Set of beliefs are the inclinations of a person in many domains of life. In this sense the rigid thought of being at the right side of the stream experiences a kind of fear and thus deviates out from the group. Inclinations are either Implicit or explicit. They could be about traditional values, stability, and hierarchy for progress, rebelliousness, feminism, and equality. As per inclinations they are either conservative or liberal. While discussing about political ideology with ref to the performing arts i.e. drama one must understand that an artist is a human being before being an actor .Thus his belief system cordially reflects in his performance. As drama is a medium of writer i.e. playwright whatever script is written by him represents his process of thinking and hence his ideologies...either be political or in any field related to the human life. Naturally his set of beliefs makes him either conservative or liberal.

Also, lifestyle differences between liberals and conservatives and situational changes in political opinions can make a person either leftist or rightist. Our understandings on authority is very fundamental and problematic. The solution to this problem lies in qualitative research on social-educational ideology at school level. Research on social theories results in finding important analytical tools for logical examination of the constitutive elements of authority. This study helps in building educational ideologies which gives insights into the discussions, historical contexts, and policy. Which in turn reforms agendas that shape the politics of authority while neglecting empirical realities.

Michael Kirby in his "On Political Theatre" says –"Indeed a basic functional independence of theatre and politics can be illustrated by certain indigenous performances that have remained unchanged for many years undervarious political parties, systems and orders. Although government and politics may be useful to a man as a social animal, they are not inevitable or always necessary."

KEYWORDS: political ideology, set of beliefs, inclinations, reasons, drama and politics.

Introduction:

Definition of political ideology according to Erikson and Tendin(2003)"set of beliefs about the proper order of society and how it can be achieved." But sometimes a role of social groups is also important, where ideology is a term related to sheared

framework of mental models that groups of individual possess that provide both an interpretation of the environment and prescription as to how that environment should be structured .Structure of political ideology is defined as person's political attitude and this political attitude is decided by person's mental inclination towards preferences or judgment.

This political attitude is a kind of learned knowledge which is based on his beliefs, opinions, and values.Now the terms liberal and conservative came in picture, for this we will have to check history to exactly find out from where and how it all started .At the time of French revolution ideological opinions were termed as just left and right in dimensions and how these dimensions are derived is also interesting to know. In late 18th century supporters of status quo used to sat on the right side of the French assembly hall and its opponents sat on the left side of assembly hall .But in united states and all over the world now it has been termed often as liberal for left and conservative for right .Actually it is ideological difference or clash between preferences ,between change and stability .If we look keenly we will find these two interesting aspects to both of these ideologies such as advocating for changeand resisting for social change and another is rejecting versus accepting inequality .Thus attitudes concerning change versus stability and equality versus inequality. If we go on further searching for the meaning of being liberal or conservative and the meaning of being socialist or communist we find that all these terms are directly related to the belief regarding the way government should run a society .Political ideologies are the belief systems which helps people to have their perspective about elected officials, their public polices and their priorities of society according to that.

When we think about drama the first ever play which was staged was “SeetaSwayamvar” in 1843.If we look into this subject with ref to political ideological inclinations ,SeetaSwayamvar reflects , regarding to that particular era .One can see that Most of the time people actually don'trealize that they have any particular or political ideology but in fact they really do have .But most of ideologies don't accept categorization because political ideologies are complex since conservative can be traditional or moderate or right wing about certain things.

Political ideology have two dimensions one is goal about how society should be organized and second is method which clears the most appropriate way to achieve that goal. Terrorist attacks from all over the world from 9/11 to recent one in California all these are examples of power of ideas specifically of those systems of ideas that shape people's thinking and actions with regard to race, nationality, the role and the function of government, the relation between men and women, human responsibility for natural environment and many other matters.

Again shifting our focus on drama we have examples of Sanskrit plays like Urubhangam, Mrichhakattikam, Vikramorvashiy..and many more .All these plays shows that the thought followed in that time period was obviously related to the political ideologies of respective playwrights.

Sir Isaiah Berlin (1909-1997), a distinguished philosopher, historian says-'two factors, above all others, have shaped human history in (20) century. One is the

development of the natural sciences and technology.....The other, without doubt, consists in the great ideological storms that have altered the lives of virtually all mankind; the Russian Revolution and its aftermath -totalitarian tyrannies of both right and left and the explosions of nationalism, racism and in places of religious bigotry, which interestingly enough, not one among the most perceptive social thinkers of the 19th century had ever predicted."

Before and after Indian freedom struggle most of the play which were staged during that era, prominently marked the political ideologies behind the scripting of the plays.

An ancient Chinese curse says-"may you live in interesting times". We are enough fortunate for not living during world war or civil war or some other variety of violent internecine conflict.

If we think about western theatre right from Greek,Roman or Elizabethan theatre we can clearly see the influence of political thought over the presentation and subject presented on the stage. Even in Russia Stanislavski strongly states his political ideologies in his plays and in Japan also we can see Kabuki and Noh celebrating their traditional ideologies on the stage.

But we have global warming's, international terrorism and culture wars fought with competing ideas. Ideas and ideologies keeps on changing- as a pedestrian have different perspective about car owners and when this particular pedestrian buys his own car then he develops totally opposite perspective about another pedestrians the one he has when he himself was.

For example Dalittheatre in India is a very progressive and based on protest .which is a reflection of down trodden political ideology and wrath towards suppressive political environment.

For most of 20th century there was clash of three political ideologies such as-liberalization, communism and fascism. Which dominated world politics. Political ideologies and movements do not simply appear out of nowhere ,for no apparent reason, they arise out of particular backgrounds and circumstances and grow out of some sense of grievance or injustice-some conviction that things are not as they should be. So to understand the complicated nature of political ideologies and movements in the present we must understand the past and history in that context. All ideologies and all political movements then have their roots in the past.

Our thoughts ,beliefs and attitudes are directly related to the earlier ideological conflicts .So in order to live peacefully and act effectively we must understand political ideologies which has such a great influence on our own and other people's political attitudes and actions .For the formation of a particular kind of political ideology along with human beings set of beliefs is responsible there is one more thing which has direct relation to political ideology that is conception of freedom which essentially is contested concept.

Political ideologies are thus products of the modern world where democracy is also an essentially contested concept. The democratic ideal is itself deeply involved in the ideological conflict in the modern world. As in today's world democracy is a much cherished form of political ideology all over the world but hold on what Plato has to say about democracy-Democracy puts political power in the hands of ignorant and envious people .Being ignorant they will not know how to use political power for common good and being envious they will be concerned only with their own and hence will be swayed by demagogues literally leaders of the demos-who will flatter them ,appeal to their envy and turn citizen against citizen .In short it will result in civil war and anarchy and finally power will go in the hands of someone who is tyrant .Thus democracy a rule by people is a series of short steps to tyranny." And bad thing is that we cannot deny totally Plato's philosophy as we are experiencing it in some or other way in day today life .Just pick up a newspaper and every day you can read and see such things happening all around us in either smaller or bigger aspect. Sometimes it can be felt that we are returning to the era of tribal wars once again and the reason behind is political ideologies. Also for Aristotle democracy is a corrupt form of rule because the demos (common people) tends to be shortsighted and selfish. The common people are interested in pursuing their own interests by taking property ,wealth and power from the few with little or no regard for the peace and stability of nation which ultimately will turn out in chaos and hence tyranny.A distinct way of conceiving of and analyzing political thought, i.e. the political theory of ideologies proposes especially as it appears 'in the wild'. There is a form or pattern of thinking specific and proper to politics. According to the morphological analysis of Michael Freeden and the discourse analysis associated with Ernesto Laclau –“there are two leading contemporary approaches. In showing how each produces a distinct object for theoretical analysis (respectively, ‘the concept’ and ‘the signifier’) the case is made for constituting a third object – the political argument – the apprehension of which requires the integration of aspects of the rhetorical tradition into the political theory of ideologies”. Conclusively some of the possible implications, for political theory and analysis of the rhetorical conception of political thought and ideology.

The political extremes which are at both the sides of the spectrum more likely to show such responses than political moderates, reveal the socio-economic fear. Political right is more likely to deviate the specific category of immigrants both the extremes also experience stronger negative emotions about politics than politically moderate respondents. It is concluded that negative emotions and out group derogation flourish among the extremes.

Thus there will not be an end to ideology because we need them to join thoughts to action, to provide a vision to human possibilities, and drama is not an exception. We need them to answer confusion and conflicts; to evaluate conditions, to find meaning to democratic ideal, to the concept of freedom, to accept the world as it is and try to make it as it should be.

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