



5. Contemporary developments like post-Modernism pose new challenges to the foundational ideas of Marxian theory of Development.

In spite of all these reasons, the Marxian Theory of development remains a compass to trace human evolution. Indeed, there are abiding elements in Marxism which are strong enough to pass through the porous bodies of specific cultures and particular historical situations, and continue to remain effective.

(b) Discuss how early radical liberalism was modified by J.S. Mill

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Approach:

- ❖ Discuss How J.S. Mill modifies liberalism in Modern Perspective.
- ❖ Analyse these modifications through the prism of the four dimensions discussed below.

Answer: Classical liberalism saw eminent challenges from the developments of the 19th century where capitalism was emerging as a new world order and it was spreading its sphere of influence in the western world. Industrialization had gathered pace.

In addition to **James Stuart Mill**, Thinkers like **T.H Green**, **John Maynard Keynes** and **L.T. Hobhouse** made significant contributions to modifying classical liberalism.

The conceptual alterations made by Mill can be summed up in four major blocks.

1. From Atomistic Individualism to Socially responsible individualism.
 2. From the notion of Negative liberty to positive liberty
 3. From Minimal State to Interventionist State
 4. From Police State to welfare state
1. **Atomistic Individualism to Socially responsible Individualism:** Modern liberalism asserted that the individual was not an island, completely isolated from society but was a socially responsible individual. L.T Hobhouse argued that society contributed significantly to the creation of private property and hence an individual owner of property was morally obliged to pay back to society, in the form of taxes.
 2. **From the notion of Negative liberty to positive liberty:** T. H Green propounded the concept of Positive liberty and argued that liberty is not just the absence of restraint but it was the freedom to do something worth doing. Freedom of choice could not be exercised in the absence of appropriate socio-economic conditions. Hence positive liberty sought the provisions of essential conditions by the state, so that everyone could exercise liberty, particularly the downtrodden sections of society.
 3. **From Minimal State to Interventionist State:** According to T. H Green State should play active role in hindering the hindrances in realization of individual freedom. Keynes, however, sees state intervention to the economy. His experience indicates towards the great depression of 1929. The state should act as an invisible hand and lend support to the forces of human development.
 4. **From Police State to Welfare State:** Modern liberalism is of the view of replacing the police state with the welfare state for the greater good of the citizens. Welfare as the core tenet would make the state a true utilitarian state. Special care should be taken care of, in the case of those from the deprived sections of society.

Mill made the following modifications to the classical liberal principles.

1. He laid down the foundation of positive liberty thus making human beings think intellectually and develop themselves holistically. For him liberty was the foundation of human existence.
2. He conceptualized the individual as a socially and morally responsible being. This paved the way for holistic development of individuals. A wealthy person should pay tax to the state and contribute to its development, shows his notion of being socially responsible.
3. He made it a tenet to have **state intervention** in the matters of **social welfare** because the state acts as the guardian and is better concerned and equipped to take care of the interest of the downtrodden and deprived sections of society. His motion could be seen in Today's India where the minorities are constitutionally protected.
4. He rejected the principle of Greatest good of the greatest numbers for being majoritarian and thereby neglecting the minority opinion.

Hence Mill can be said to have made significant contributions to classical liberalism to make it accommodative of class interest and conceptualize the state in the welfare perspective.



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