

various interest play a major role in affecting the decision making process of state. Pluralists believe that a rough equality exists amongst organized groups and interests in that each enjoys some measure of access to government and government is prepared to listen impartially to all. They claim that competition for office between political parties provides the electorate with an opportunity to select its leaders and a means of influencing government policy.

- Pluralist theory explains the origin of liberal democratic state. For pluralists, state represents institutionalized power, an authority and it is in the supreme guardian of representative democracy in the modern society. The primary task of state is to balance interests of a multitude of competing groups, represents interests of society as a whole and coordinating other major institutions. They view the state itself as a set of competing and conflicting institutions rather than a monolithic entity which exerts its power over the rest of the society (Smith 1995). They argue that power exists only in situations of observable conflict and that people's interests are simply what these overt preferences reveal.

THE ELITE THEORY OF POWER:

- The elite theory of power argues that all societies are divided into two main groups the ruling and the ruled. The classical elite theorists such as Vilfredo Pareto (Italian thinker) Gaetano Mosca argued that the political power always lies in the hands of small elite and the egalitarian ideas such as socialism (Marxist theory).
- Pareto is highly impressed by Italian social system. On this basis Pareto has presented the following outline of social system. Social system is made up of 2 kinds of people:

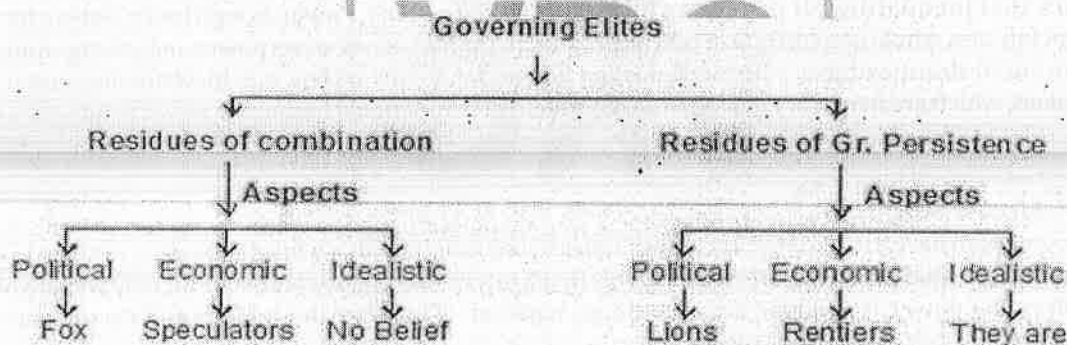
- Elite class (Governing class or Ruling class)
- Non-elites (Mass or Ruled Class)

Elites are further divided into two types based on their Personal-Psychological qualities:

(i) Residues of combination - Fox

(ii) Residues of Group Persistence - Lion

- People of first group work on the principle of maximum gains and so are very selfish.
- They want to bring substantial change in the system, for which they easily mix up with the people.
- The second group puts lot of thrust on stability in the system. They are idealistic, therefore neither they are selfish nor believe in the immediate gain. Unlike first group, they are more contained and so do not easily mix up with people. They could be better understood under political, economic and idealistic aspects.



- The political aspect of first group is Fox because they are equally clever and manipulative and diplomatic.
- Whereas Political Aspect of the second group is Lion, a symbol of stability and idealism.
- The power rotates between the two, which Pareto called 'circulation of Elites'.
- According to Pareto, all societies are divided into two main groups which are a Elites-Ruling minority and the Non Elites-The Ruled. This situation is inevitable. If the proletarian revolution occurs, it will merely result in the replacement of one ruling elite by the other. Italian sociologist Vilfredo Pareto claimed in his *Mind and Society*, 1935 that personal qualities separate the rulers and the ruled and they are the same at all times. According to Pareto, there is a ruling minority and the ruled majority. According to him, this situation is inevitable as even in communism, such polarisation takes place where a section of the *have nots* occupy a dominant position.
- According to Pareto, there are two types of governing elite which are lions and foxes (he borrowed this concept from Niccolo Machiavelli). Lions rule by force e.g. dictators and foxes rule by cunningness e.g. Chanakya and Chandragupta, 19th Century European Democracies etc. They replace each other in a process which Pareto calls as *Circulation of Elites*.