

Answer the following question:-

- ① Explain Rousseau's views on Social Contract Theory.

Ans: Social Contract Theory, as we have already discussed earlier is the contract between individual and Society. We have already studied Hobbes' and Locke's views of social contract theory. Now let us see what is Rousseau's concept regarding social contract.

Rousseau discussed about this theory in his 'Social Contract' which was published in 1762. He tried to unite Hobbes' and Locke's theory to bridge the gap between the authority of the state and the liberty of the individual. He developed this theory by the method of Hobbes and the conclusion of Locke. It is Locke whom he followed to the end beyond. According to Rousseau, the individuals after forming a society placed all the powers not in the hands of the authority but it remain in the hands of the individuals. Thus, he shifts the power from the monarch to the people.

Rousseau holds that men are born free and are in chains and

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there can be no authority to have the highest power. But there is agreement between the individuals which retains the liberty. Through this agreement, the individuals enter into a Social pact. In this pact a multitude of individuals become a collective unity and form a society. Thus, he is influenced by both Hobbes and Locke. According to him, there is equality among the individuals as each and every individual rest all their rights and power to the society. Thus, no individual can claim anything. Rousseau states that men enter into the civil Society for their mutual preservation. The authority of the society is chosen by the people by entering into the Society for the sake of their own protection. According to Rousseau, the group of individuals entering into a Society with an agreement between them is called Sovereign which helps people to unite and take into account the different opinion of the individuals. There are different forms of government mentioned by Rousseau, namely, monarchy, aristocracy and democracy. All these forms of government contain different benefits and drawbacks. Rousseau's focus is to ensure that the government must consider the 'general will' of the society which we will discuss later. He is in favor of the democratic form of government which would

address the needs of all the individuals. According to Rousseau, the original freedom, happiness and liberty of individuals are in the state before the emergence of the society. He favors people's sovereignty. According to him, state, law, sovereignty, etc; are interchangeable terms.

28/11/22

②

Explain Individualism.

Ans: The individualistic theory of society: According to this theory society is an artificial aggregate of isolated individuals, working for common ends out of expediential considerations, but not mutually dependent on each another. This theory views society as an artificial device, and not as a natural association. Individuals according to this view, lead independent lives in a state of nature. They were self contained units and the relation that existed between one man and another was an ~~ext~~ external relation. They had no necessary connection with one another. In course of time, they out of sheer expediential considerations entered into a contract and set up a society for realisation of certain ends. This theory is known as Social Contract Theory, and the notable exponents of this theory as Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.

According to Hobbes, an individual's life in this pre-social

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State was nasty and brutish. Each individual was a law unto himself and consequently 'might is right' was the principle in vogue. To escape from such chaos he decided to make a contract with his fellow man to form a society in which he could live in peace. They selected a King among themselves and left him the task of establishing peace among the subjects and giving them protection from dangers. According to Locke, the state of nature was not a state of constant strife and measuring. In this state man were naturally 'sociable, altruistic and peaceable'. In such a state of nature man were governed by the law of nature, but each man interpreted the law according to his own discretion and himself executed it. This created troubles. So, the need of a common judge to interpret the law of nature and a superior authority to enforce it was felt. Hence, people entered into a contract and form Society.

According to Rousseau, the state of nature was one of equality, freedom and happiness. But the growth of population and the growing complexities of life disturbed this state of peace and happiness. This led people to enter into a contract as a result of which the civil society came into existence. Out of this contract a 'general will' emerged which was sovereign and included the

individual will of all.
The individualistic theory rest on a false assumption that individuals can exist as self sufficient units apart from society. Individuals infact, cannot maintain their individuality apart from society as individuals and society are inseparable. The theory is without a history behind it, so it is false. The pre social state of nature is a myth. The theory is illogical. The formation of a civil society through a social contract pre-supposes a high sense of social consciousness among the primitive man; but such social consciousness can only arise in individuals, living in a civil society and not in a state of nature.

Answer

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Answer the following questions :-

3. What do you mean by correctivism and Socialism? Is it a satisfactory theory. Explain.

Ans: According to this theory, the individuals after losing their independence, unite together and form a society. In this theory, a society can exist without an individual but an individual cannot exist without a society. The development of an individual is based on the society. Thus, the society has a full control over individual. This theory opposes individualism. Plato and Aristotle are the supporters of this theory. But this theory is criticised in certain grounds. The correctivist is not acceptable. This theory neglects the existence of individualistic independence of the individual without a society. But it is not possible. Society is formed by the group of individual with some common likeness. Thus, individual has full control over the society which is rejected in Correctivism.

4. Explain Thomas Hobbes and John Locke views on Social Contract Theory.

Ans: One of the most important theories of the relation between individual and society is the Social Contract Theory. This theory holds that the society is

an artificial phenomenon. People lived independently of one another without any reciprocal relation. At that time they thought that they are self sufficient to run their life. But in course of time they come into contract with one another to form a society for their personal advantage. So, the emergence of society is a mechanical process of individuals coming together. The advocates of the social contract theory are: Thomas Hobbes, and John Locke. We will now discuss the respective view points one by one.

- (*) Thomas Hobbes (1588 - 1679): Hobbes in his book Leviathan writes that man is selfish, quarrelsome, and aggressive. He is egoistic in nature. As a result, he thinks to be perfect in whatever he does. So, his selfish nature is the root cause of the conflict among men. Hobbes writes that the life of man is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short. It indicates that nature is a state of war. Because people want to run their life independently without coming into contract with other fellows. That is why, in order to safeguard their life, they come into a contract with one another. As a result the concept

of society comes into light.

- (*) John Locke (1632 - 1704) : John Locke holds that the state of nature is against the state of nature where which is upheld by Hobbes. Rather, it is a state of peace and Good will. It is not held that man is independent of nature. The state of nature is governed by the law of nature, which is not challenged by man. So, People are subordinate of the law of nature. That is why it is not the like Hobbes's view of contract. Like Locke, Hobbes (1588 - 1679) also states that every one is free and born equal in society. So people came into contract to form a society which removes the Crude state of nature, and formed a Civil Society. After the formation of the civil society people entered into another contract and formed a government to make and enforce laws for the welfare of all.