

Political ontology: What is it?

Ontology is defined as “any way of understanding the world must make assumptions (which may be implicit or explicit) about what kinds of things do or can exist, and what might be their conditions of existence, relations of dependency, and so on.” The writer explains that different ontologies, or worlds, exist and are different from another and from the European one which modernity.

In simple words, Ontologies are the different ways people (can be societies, tribes, and different civilizations) understand and interact with the world around them. Every ontology has its own set of assumptions about what exists, how things relate to each other, and how they depend on each other.

In European modernity or the Euro modernity, a clear division between nature and culture. Nature includes everything non human, plants, animals, and physical objects. Nature is often seen as passive and not having any agency. Culture, on the other hand, includes everything human, thoughts, creations, and activities. Humans are seen as active agents who can change and influence the world.

The writer presents other ontologies totally different from the European one. Animism sees all beings as interconnected. Everything has a spirit or life force. Totemism groups humans and non humans into categories based on common ancestors. This creates a shared identity among all living things. Analogism operates on the idea that there’s a dynamic pattern that repeats across the cosmos, connecting everything from the micro to the macro level.