

DR SAGAR DEVA

How did it Come To
This? The Roots of
Inequality and
Injustice in the UK
And US in The Age of
Trump and Brexit.

Course Outline.

- ▶ UK Politics/Brexit
 - ▶ The US, Civil Rights, and Trump
 - ▶ Feminism
 - ▶ Socialism/Capitalism
-
- ▶ Assessment: Response Paper (30%) Attendance (20%) Essay (50%)

WHY SHOULD WE OBEY? Pre-Revolution: Religion and Divine Right of Kings

- ▶ Religion main source of Authority
- ▶ Kings power based on 'Divine' Right as 'Vicar of God on Earth'
- ▶ No assumption of general human equality; Inequalities based on rank, sex, race, etc assumed to be natural and the will of God.

ENLIGHTENMENT 1715-1786

- ▶ Challenge to Religion as Key Source of Authority.

▶ Reason rather than religion as main source of authority.

▶ Scholarship remains influential today in the way we think about the World.

▶ Nonetheless, most scholars remained deeply racist, sexist, etc.

Why Should we Obey? The Three 'Revolutions'

- English Civil War and 'Glorious Revolution(1642-1689)

- Fought Between King and Parliament over The Right to Rule.

Ended with 'Bill of Rights' providing basic rights (such as right to a fair trial) into UK Law and Gave power to Parliament).

French Revolution (1789)

- Overthrow of 'Ancien Regime' of Monarchy and Feudal system which gave power to nobility and clergy.
- Rise of the 'Third Estate', comprising of the citizenry against the first two estates-Nobility and Clergy.
- Establishment of the Declaration of the Rights of Man- Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite

American War of Independence (1775-1783)

- Response to 'Intolerable Acts' which took away right of Massachusetts to Self Government.
- Overthrow of Colonial rule by the UK in the US.
- Creation of US Constitution 'Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness'.
- Federal System- Many areas in which the Federal Government has limited power and authority goes to the states

Liberty/Liberalism

➤ PROTECTING THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL FROM THE STATE

- J.S. Mill "The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it. Each is the proper guardian of his own health, whether bodily, or mental or spiritual. Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seems good to themselves, than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest."

US Constitution Fourteenth Amendment: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws"

- ▶ Free Speech
- ▶ Freedom of Assembly
- ▶ Right to a Fair Trial
- ▶ Right to Property
- ▶ Equality under Law

EQUALITY

- ▶ “All Men are Created Equal; They are endowed with certain UNALIENABLE rights, that amongst these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”-US Declaration of Independence.
- ▶ “ All men are equal by nature and before the Law”-Declaration of Rights of Man, France.
- ▶ Legal Equality key in UK and US. France, Legal AND economic equality key in Revolution.

SOCIAL CONTRACT

- ▶ Contract between individuals in society to form a government to administer the affairs of state. Individuals agree to follow the laws in return for protection and public services from the state.
- ▶ We obey the rules of society based on 'mutual obligations' between the State and the People. 'Sovereign' and 'Subject' are equal, and Right to rule predicated in both people and Government following obligations.
- ▶ "To live free in a civilised society requires trade-offs to ensure the mutual happiness of each person."
- ▶ Lots of different versions- Rousseau, Locke, Rawls.

New Political Principles

- ▶ Democracy

- ▶ Parliaments/Congress

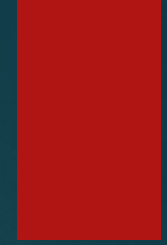
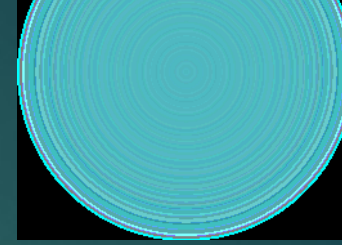
- ▶ Constitutions

- ▶ Separation of Powers

- ▶ Executive

- ▶ Judiciary

- ▶ Legislative



DISCUSSION QUESTION

- WITH THE IDEAS OF LIBERTY AND EQUALITY IN MIND, IMAGINE THE CHARACTERISTICS, LAWS, AND RULES OF YOUR 'PERFECT SOCIETY'. ARE THERE ARE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE TWO IDEAS OF LIBERTY AND EQUALITY?