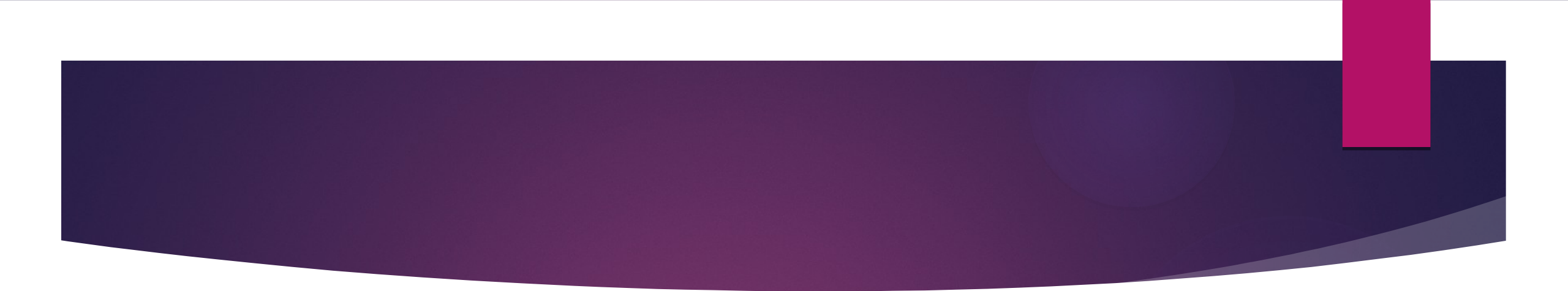




POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES



“To be clear: ideology is a belief system with an inadequate basis in reality; religion is a belief system with no basis, in reality, whatever.”

--Martin Amis, *The Second Plane*: 14
Responses to September



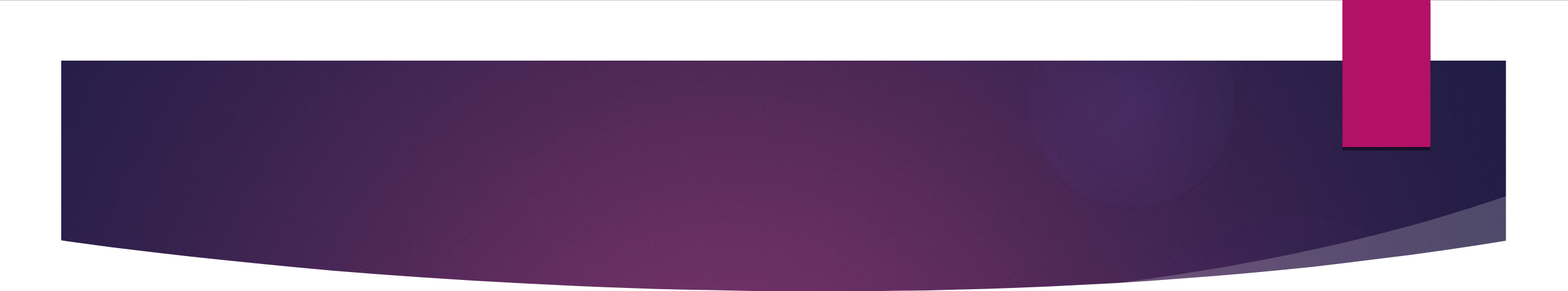
“Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporation because it is a merger of state and corporate power.”

--Benito Mussolini



At the end of this lesson, the students are able to:

1. Identify the basic tenets of the large political ideologies.
2. Analyze the political beliefs
3. Examine the relationship between political ideologies and configurations of political communities.
4. Critique ideas that have a direct impact on how we try to manage ourselves as a political community
5. Analyze the impact of political ideologies on the social and political aspect.

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- Antoine Destutt de Tracy coin the term ideology during the French revolution and subsequently used in public 1796. According Idéologie is a new science of ideas from a literal term idea-logy.
 - Ideology becomes a political weapon to condemn or criticize proposing arrays of ideas or belief system.
 - **Beliefs** are peoples assessment of reality and what they hold to be true.
 - **Values** are peoples ideas about right and wrong.



Meaning of ideology by Heywood are:

- A political system
- An action-oriented set of political ideas
- The ideas of ruling class
- The world view of a particular social class or social group
- Political ideas that embody or articulate class or social interest
- Ideas that propagate consciousness amongst the exploited or oppressed
- Ideas that state the individual within a social context and generate a sense of collective belongings
- An officially sanctioned set of ideas used to legitimate a political system or regime
- An all-embracing political doctrine that claims a monopoly of truth
- An abstract and highly systematic set of political ideas

Distinguished ideologies from ideas (Macridis in Ranney, 1995)

▶ Comprehensiveness

- ▶ An ideology covers ideas pertaining many great matters, such as human beings place in the universal domain, mans relationship to the Divine being, the highest goals of society and government, the essential nature of people, and the best means of achieving the highest social and political objectives.

▶ Pervasiveness

- ▶ The set of ideas has not only been known for a long time but has shapes the political beliefs and actions of many people. Before Christ, democracy, oligarchy, and autocracy are wildly talked about and that great movement has fought those ideologies for over 2,000 years.



▶ **Extensiveness**

- ▶ The set of ideas is held by a large number of people and place a vital role in nation and state political affairs

▶ **Intensiveness**

- ▶ The set of ideas commands a strong commitment from many of its adherents and significantly influences political beliefs and actions.

Characteristics of Ideology

- ▶ Ideologies have their levels end in-ism
- ▶ Ideologies provide an explanation for problems that confronts modern societies by providing futuristic vision
- ▶ Ideologies is action-oriented
- ▶ Ideologies mobilized a large number of people

Features of Ideology (Heywood, 2012)

- ▶ It offers an account of the existing order, usually in the form of a 'world view'
- ▶ It advance a model of the desired future, a vision of a good society
- ▶ It explains how political change can and should be brought about-how to get from the 2 other features.

Intellectual Components of an Ideology

- ▶ **Values**
- ▶ **The vision of the ideal polity**
- ▶ **The conception of the human nature**
- ▶ **The strategy of action**
- ▶ **Political tactics**

Function of Ideologies

1. Ideology addresses basic human psychological needs such as safety, freedom and community
2. Ideology provide its believers with a sense of understanding history and with clues about what kinds of things they should pay attention to or ignore
3. Ideology is essential
4. Ideology is powerful

Societal Role of Ideologies

1. Ideologies answer eternal questions and cut off competing beliefs and values
2. Ideologies explain how the universe works and why it works that way
3. Ideologies tells us how to behave; they help us predict the future

IDEOLOGIES

1. Liberalism (The Left)

- ▶ Derived from the Latin word 'liber' which means “free men” in short, men who were neither serfs nor slaves
- ▶ A view that sees more needs for change and improvement in social relations requiring a governmental involvement
- ▶ It supports promoting the individual welfare and supporting civil rights and accept peaceful political, social change within the existing political system
- ▶ It is a belief that man is generally good in that this ability to reason allows him to attain economic, political and social progress (Dooley, 2013)
- ▶ The central theme of liberal ideology is a commitment to the individual and the desire to construct a society in which man can satisfy their interest and achieve fulfillment (Heywood, 2012)

Set of Values and Beliefs of Liberalism

- ▶ **Individualism**

- ▶ It is the belief in the supreme importance of the individual over any social group or collective body

- ▶ **Freedom**

- ▶ The ability to think or act as one wishes, a capacity that can be associated with the individual, social group or a nation.
- ▶ Individual liberty is the supreme political value and the unifying principle of liberal ideology



▶ **Reason**

- ▶ The power of reason gives human beings the capacity to take charge their own lives and passion their own destinies. Human kind was a emancipation from the grip of the past and the weight of costume and tradition.

▶ **Justice**

- ▶ It is a moral standard of fairness and impartiality. It is as well the denotes giving what is due to each person

▶ **Toleration**

- ▶ It is forbearance. Willingness to accept views or action with which or is in disagreement

CHEMICAL LIBERALISM

- ▶ Subscribe to egotistical individualism have a belief in negative freedom; the state is regarded at best as a necessary evil; or have a broadly positive view of civil society.

NEO-LIBERALISM

- ▶ Posits the states are constantly interacting with each other and that the value cooperation as part of their own interest. It further refers to the revival of economic liberalism.

2. Conservatism (The Right)

“conservatism”

- ▶ Term derived from the term conservation, It is a political philosophy that tends to support the status quo and advocates change only in moderation upholding the value of tradition and seeks to preserve all that is good about the part (Dooley, 2013). A point of view that emphasizes tradition and established institution and give greater attention to social entities than to individuals having the inclination to oppose any change in political environment.

3. Socialism

“socialism”

- ▶ Term derived from the word ‘socialist’ in Latin *social* meaning to combine or to share.

Schrems (2011) puts it as;

“Socialism is an economic and political doctrine advocating governmental ownership and direction of production and services by which would retain existing institutions as the means of regulating them. It is also viewed as an ideology which opposed capitalism and tries to provide a more humane and socially valuable substitute. Moreover, cooperation is preferred over the company or institution. Furthermore, socialism adheres to social equality which is the main way to attain social stability and cohesion (Hoywood, 2011)

Distinctive ways of understanding socialism:

- ▶ Socialism is seen as an economic model.
- ▶ Socialism as an instrument of the labor movement.
- ▶ Socialism as a political creed encompasses community, cooperation, equality, class politics and collective ownership.

4. Social Democracy

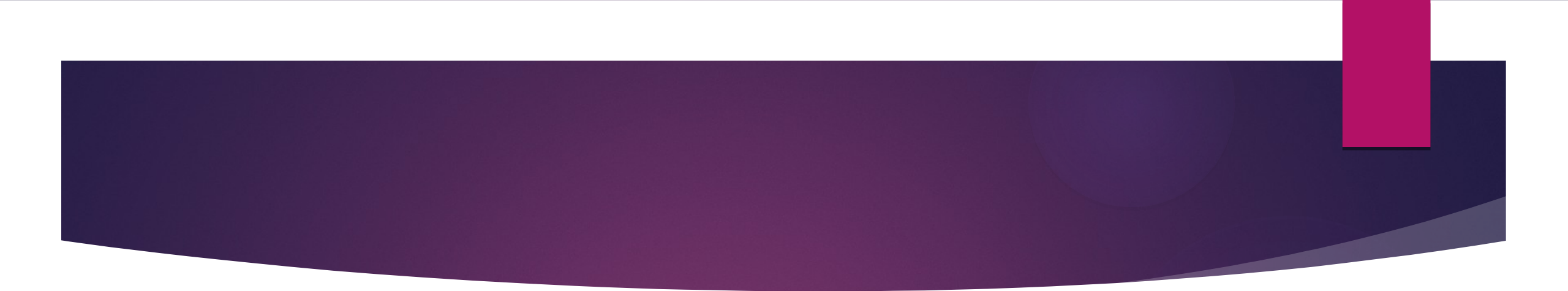
It is a moderate or reformist brand of socialism that favor a balance between the market and the state rather than the abolition of capitalism. It is an ideological stance that supports a full balance between market capitalism, on the one hand, and state intervention, on the other side. Social democracy lacks a systematic underlying theory and is inherently vague (Heywood, 2011).

5. Cummununism

- ▶ Its is an economic, social, and political system seeking government ownership of the means of production and services directed by a process of scientific administration and universal assent (Schrems).

6. Fascism

- derived from *fasces*, an Italian word, which means a bundle of rods with an axe-blade protruding that signified the authority of magistrates in Imperial Rome (Heywood, 2011).

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- An Italian word fascia was used which refers to a political group or band not until Benito Mussolini employed the term fascism to describe the armed paramilitary squads he formed during and after World War 1.
 - Fascism is a movement that stands for outmoded, repressive social and political conditions, rejecting democracy, repudiates constitutionalism and stresses that all values arise from the state against which the individual has no rights.
 - Fascism has a strong anti-rational, anti-liberal, anti-conservative, anti-capitalism, anti-bourgeois, anti-communist.

Salient Features of Fascism

- ▶ Totalitarianism
- ▶ Nationalism
- ▶ Anti-liberalism
- ▶ Militarism and violence
- ▶ Leadership

7. **Religious Fundamentalism**

- Is an usual political ideology. The word fundamentalism is taken from the Latin word fundamental, meaning base.
- It is associated with inflexibility, dogmatism, authoritarianism or worst violence.
- It is characterized by a rejection of the distinction between politics and religion (Heywood, 2011).

Themes of religious fundamentalism

- ❖ Religion as politics
- ❖ The fundamentalist impulse
- ❖ Anti-modernism
- ❖ Militancy

8. Feminism

- ▶ Derive from a Latin word *Femina* meaning women or female , concerned with the attainment of gender equality in the political, economic and social spheres of life.
- ▶ Its primary focus in the position of women in the society.
- ▶ The basic idea of feminism is: that women experience a poor state in society as a consequence of the patriarchy, male domination of women, which has historically characterized all social relationships and that this disadvantage can and should be overthrown (Heywood 2012).

9. Environmentalism

- ▶ Is an ideology focusing on the idea that environment is endangered and must be preserved through regulation and lifestyle changes (Roskin et.al.,2012). Its concern is about the natural environment and particularly about reducing environmental degradation that is more of a policy orientation rather than an ideological stance (Heywood, 2012). The regulation was only part of the environmental credo.