

Notes- 6, Modern Political Philosophy

Hegel placed as official philosopher in Germany. As we have discussed that according to him the ultimate reality of the universe is one and all true science is merely application of logical principles. The fields of arts, ethics, economics, jurisprudence and politics are all subject of rational logical laws and can be studied by the rational logical approach. He attacked political organization of that time and also criticized Newtonian Physics because of its empirical and experimental, further-English models of treating political problems. He distinguished between creative and reflective reason and says that, “*the history of the world presents us with a rational process, throughout history the spirit is incessantly giving birth to itself suffering, dying, and rising to new glory*”. Thus, here there is doctrine of change, which is major characteristics of his teaching, that is history is the record of march of the spirit through the world which changes from one being to another. He claims ‘*dialectical movement*’ runs through everything and thesis- antithesis- synthesis- constitute the formula as secret of all development and all reality.

For example, all system contains a contradiction in its past and present which brings a synthesis to beget a higher life and system- organization, which again rise to higher stage with dialectical progression and movement of thought and being follows same laws. Hegel is complex in writings all his thoughts.

Later Hegelian thought inspired many thinkers in Germany; young Hegelian and left Hegelian group started in German Universities. Karl Marx (1818-1883) as student of Hegel wanted to be a professor but changed his orientation and became chief editor of a journal. Later Marx moved to Paris and with Fredrik Engles took active part in revolutionaries’ groups. He wrote *Poverty of Philosophy* and *Communist Manifesto* (1848) with Engles. Marx developed his materialist theory in series of his works, *Critique of Political Economy* and *The Capital* (1867).

Scientific Socialism and Rejection of Hegelian Idealism –

He was scientific propounder of political and economic theory. Accordingly, “*Motion is the mode of existence of matter*” to say- there is no matter without motion, nor can be....

The human consciousness is product of material condition rather than isolated as man himself is a product of nature, brain slowly developing though environmental conditions.

He criticized positivism, idealism as reactionary philosophy of that age and hard tried to shows how emancipation of the working classes is possible...

Materialist History –

Dialectical Materialism-

Class Struggle –

Capitalism and exploitation-

Communism as future-

-----to be continued by Dr Ranjay Reddy