



CHAPTER 5

Traditional Western Ideologies

In this chapter we make the case that no ideology can be understood outside the economic, social, and political environment in which it emerged. The focus of this chapter is primarily Europe, since all the ideologies will examine in this chapter were shaped by the European Enlightenment were created by Europeans. Liberalism, socialism, nationalism, and anarchism, as we will see, reflected key Enlightenment principles, while conservatism and Fascism resisted them. Almost all the ideologies reviewed in this chapter have had an extraordinary impact on the development of world politics of the last two centuries, and it is fair to say that the world would have been a very different place had they not existed.

Chapter Outline

- **What is an Ideology?**
- **Liberalism**
 - The Historical Development of Liberalism
 - Liberal Thought
- **Socialism**
 - Historical Development
 - Key Socialist Principles
 - Utopianism and Authoritarianism
- **Conservatism**
 - Conservative Thought
 - Social and Cultural Conservatism
 - Neoconservatism

- **Nationalism**
 - The Academic Study of Nationalism
 - History and Further Distinctions
- **Fascism**
- **Anarchism**
- **Conclusion**

Key Terms

Authoritarian
Civic nationalism
Classical liberalism
Conservatism

Emancipation
Enlightenment
Ethnic nationalism
Nationalism

New liberalism
Neoconservatism
Self-determination
Social Darwinism

Discussion Questions

1. What does liberalism presume about the individual? How does this differ from the way socialism, fascism, or anarchism understands the individual?
2. What is the difference between the liberalist concept of equality and the socialist concept of equality?
3. According to Marx, the state exists solely for the benefit of the ruling class. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? What does your answer say about the prospects for emancipation?
4. Irving Kristol has described the neoconservatives as “liberals who got mugged by reality.” What does he mean by this?
5. Is classical conservatism an ideology in the same way liberalism or socialism are ideologies? If so, what is its argument? If not, what makes it different?
6. Explain why Anarchism has not had a strong level of influence on modern politics?
7. Explain why the Neoconservative movement has grown in the US and Canada?

Further Resources

- <http://www.politicalresearch.org/#>
Left oriented research into the resurgence of the right

- <http://www.anarchism.net/>
Collection of resources on and about anarchism
- <http://www.conservapedia.com/>
Conservapedia, Conservative version of Wikipedia
- <http://mises.org/>
Homepage of the libertarian Ludwig von Mises Institute
- <http://www.libertarianism.org/>
Articles and resources on libertarianism
- <http://www.newsocialist.org/>
Home page for the New Socialist Group
- <http://mltoday.com/>
Home page for Marxism-Leninism today—Includes a range of contemporary Marxist-Leninist thought
- <http://www.multiculturalcanada.ca/>
Resources and links on multiculturalism
- Nussbaum, M. (2012). *The New Religious Intolerance: Overcoming the Politics of Fear in an Anxious Age*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.