

FOUNDATIONS OF DIPLOMACY

Politics & Ideology: The Birth of the Modern World

Course Content

This course looks at Political Ideology and the key role it has played in shaping the very nature of the modern world. For since the days of the Enlightenment, and the birth of the modern state, the political landscape all around us has been fundamentally marked by the power of ideology, from the role and nature of the State to the rights and duties of the Citizen. This has had powerful implications for Society too, from the position of women, to the idea of class.

This course will explore those core ideologies whose impact has been particularly marked on the political nation, inspiring political parties and popular movements: Liberalism and Conservatism, Socialism and Fascism, Feminism and

Anarchism. We will first begin with a study of Absolutism, asking what this term meant in historical and political terms, and how its very existence inspired the birth of modern ideology. We will also examine the complex concept of Nationalism itself, in all its myriad forms, asking why it can be found across almost the entire political spectrum.

In the process we shall see not only how modern democratic society came to be constructed, but also modern dictatorship and modern totalitarianism. The course will end with a reflection on the lessons for today - and for tomorrow. Students will be encouraged to participate throughout in weekly discussion sessions and a final optional class presentation.





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Week 1 Introduction
The Idea of Ideology
Key Issues and terms – an Overview

Week 2 Absolutism
Divine Right to Rule & the Idea of Providence
The Role of the 'Sun King'

Week 3 Liberalism
The Enlightenment & Revolution.
Classical Liberalism - Political & Economic
New Liberalism & the State
The Challenges of Toleration

Week 4 Conservatism
Tradition & Order
Rights & Duties
Paternalism & One Nation Toryism
The New Right & Neo-Conservatism

Week 5 Socialism
The Rights of Individual vs the Rights of Society
Marxism or Reformism?
The Problem of Division
The New Labour Project & Socialism

Week 6 Nationalism
The Idea of the Nation
Identity & Belonging. Sovereignty, Citizenship and Representation
The Process of 'Othering'

Week 7 Fascism
The Idea of the Leader
The Idea of the State
The Concept of Totalitarianism
Ethnicity & Race
Nazism & Fascism

Week 8 Feminism
Gender & Conditioning; Equality & Opportunity; Patriarchy
First Wave; Second Wave; Third Wave
Feminism Today

Week 9 Anarchism
The Problem of the State
Self-governing Communities Liberty & Libertarianism

Week 10 Ideology Today & Tomorrow
Multiculturalism & Fundamentalism
Opportunities... and Challenges

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- understand the key role ideology has played in the development of modern politics
- differentiate between major ideologies
- explain the ideological issues affecting Europe today