

Political Philosophy



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Click on the image above for a game of “Fling the Teacher”. Try playing the game with your students at the start and the end of the unit. Make sure you have started the slide show and are connected to the internet.

- **Political philosophy** is the study of questions about the city, government, politics, liberty, justice, property, rights, law and the enforcement of a legal code by authority.

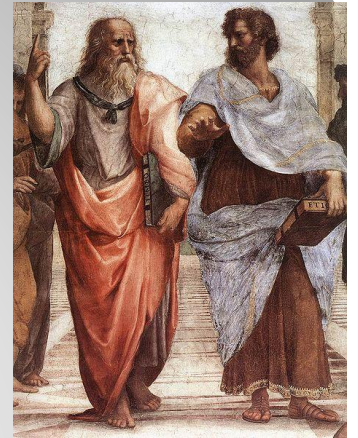
Political Philosophy

- Political philosophy can also be understood by analysing it through the perspectives of metaphysics, epistemology and axiology.

Political Philosophy

Antiquity

As an academic discipline, Western political philosophy has its origins in Ancient Greece.



YOUTUBE Video Plato's Republic



- Click on the image to the right. You will need to be connected to the internet to view this presentation.
- Enlarge to full screen

Political Philosophy

Independently,
Confucius, Mencius, Mozi and
the Legalist school in China,
and the *Laws of Manu* and
Chanakya in India were
working to the same ends.



Political Philosophy

Christianity

- Christianity would be characterized as a movement which sought to critique the political movements in which Christians lived.



Political Philosophy

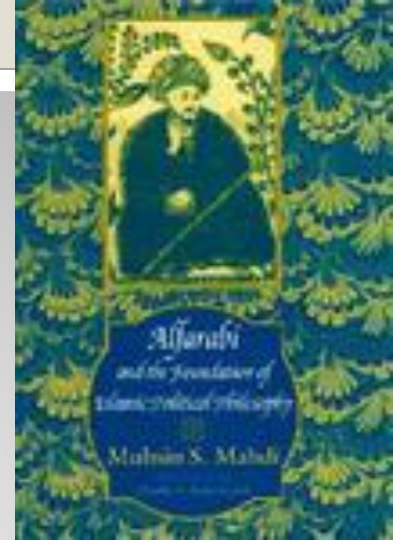
Medieval Islam

- The rise of Islam, based on both the Qur'an and Muhammad strongly altered the power balances in Europe.



Political Philosophy

- Islamic political philosophy did not cease in the classical period.



Political Philosophy



Medieval Europe

- Medieval political philosophy in Europe was heavily influenced by Christian thinking.

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European Renaissance

- During the Renaissance secular political philosophy began to emerge after about a century of theological political thought in Europe

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- John Locke in particular exemplified this new age of political theory with his work *Two Treatises of Government*.



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European Age of Enlightenment

- During the Enlightenment period, new theories about what the human was and is and about the definition of reality and the way it was perceived, along with the discovery of other societies in the Americas.

Political Philosophy



- These theorists were driven by two basic questions: one, by what right or need do people form states; and two, what the best form for a state could be.

Political Philosophy



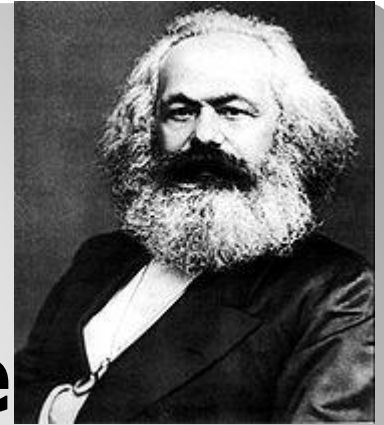
- Political and economic relations were drastically influenced by these theories.

Political Philosophy

- In the Ottoman Empire, these ideological reforms did not take place and these views did not integrate into common thought until much later.



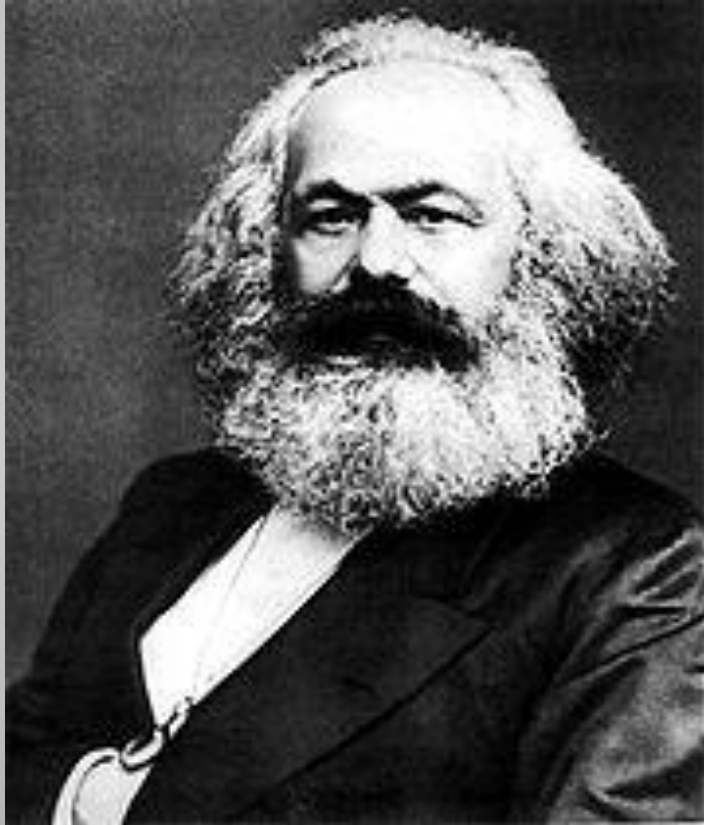
Political Philosophy



Industrialization and the Modern Era

- Karl Marx and his theory of Communism developed along with Friedrich Engels proved to be one of the most influential political ideologies of the 20th century.

YOUTUBE Video on Marxism



- Click on the image to the right. You will need to be connected to the internet to view this presentation.
- Enlarge to full screen

Political Philosophy

- World War I was a watershed event in human history. The Russian Revolution of 1917 brought communism - on the world stage.



Political Philosophy

Contemporary political philosophy

- After World War II political philosophy moved into a temporary eclipse in the Anglo-American academic world.

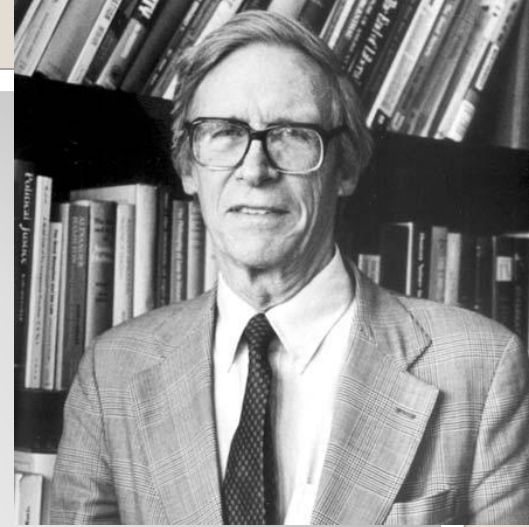
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- Communism remained an important focus especially during the 1950s and 60s.



Political Philosophy

- In Anglo-American academic political philosophy the publication of John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice* in 1971 is considered a milestone.



Political Philosophy



Contemporaneously with the rise of analytic ethics in Anglo-American thought, in Europe several new lines of philosophy directed at critique of existing societies arose between the 1950s and 1980s

Political Philosophy

- In the late 20th century, communitarianism, opposed exalted forms of individualism.



Political Philosophy



- Today some debates regarding punishment and law centre on the question of natural law and the degree to which human constraints on action are determined by nature, as revealed by science in particular.



- CLICK ON THIS LINK FOR THE STIMULUS MATERIAL FOR A DISCUSSION ON RAWLS THEORY OF JUSTICE. (You might like to print this material out and distribute it to the class.)

COMMUNITY OF INQUIRY

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