

Books and Literature Review Society (BLRS) presents:

Critical Review of the Article:	Hegemony, Democracy, and Passive Revolution in Gramsci's Prison Notebooks
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Date:	November 25, 2015
Review Publisher:	Books and Literature Review Society (BLRS) under Rehmat and Maryam Researches (Islamabad & Lodhran)

**Abstract**

What is the relationship between democracy and hegemony in Gramsci's Prison Notebooks? Salvadori and Galli della Loggia argue that hegemony is best understood as a theory of dictatorship and is therefore incompatible with democracy. Vacca argues that hegemony is inconceivable in the absence of democracy. I bridge these divergent readings by making two arguments. First, hegemony is a form of rationalized intellectual and moral leadership, and therefore depends on liberal democratic institutions. Second, hegemony is established through revolution. Gramsci thus paradoxically combines a deep appreciation for liberal democracy with a basically Leninist conception of politics.

Summary

This article is basically related to the theory of hegemony, presented by Antonio Gramsci who was an Italian Marxist theoretician and politician. In fact, he was a founding member and one-time leader of the Communist Party of Italy. Therefore, he was imprisoned by the Benito Mussolini's fascist regime. During his prison, he presented the theory of cultural hegemony which describes how states use cultural institutions to maintain power in capitalist societies.

In this article, writer relates his concept of hegemony with democracy. Writer says that Gramsci is in fact inspired by Lenin therefore he is relating the culture with capitalist mindset. Otherwise, cultural hegemony is a neo-liberalism and related to the democracy which evolves with the passage of time, not imposed through bloody or sudden revolution by one group or one school of thought. Cultural is evolved in any society with the collaboration of different norms and values, practiced by different inhabitants in one territory or region. Similarly, religion is spreading as people feel conform to any type of spiritual training; it cannot be imposed by one sect or any religious practitioner. State cannot force any person to adopt any specific religion. Therefore, we can say that cultural hegemony is not related with the rich or elite class but this is a phenomenon without any discrimination of any social group.

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Research Methodology

Writer used theoretically and historically descriptive, comparative, analytical and qualitative research methods. Firstly, he defines actual theory of Antonio Gramsci and then describe other critical theories against Gramsci's addressed philosophy. At that time, he compared and scrutinized all the described theories that assisted him in presenting his ideas about the theory of "cultural hegemony"; claimed as a purely democratic term, and belongs to Neo-Liberal school of thought. In justification of his hypothesis, he also used qualitative research method in this research paper.

Personal Idea

By evaluating actual theory of Anolio Gramsci and by examining arguments in respective research paper, I learn that although, cultural of elite and rich class is considered as ideal, and every person tries to copy it. This is the reason; Western culture is promoting in third world day by day. However, it does not mean that it is being imposed by force. This is a gradual process which is taking time. And, during this time, there is no hurdle for any society to promote its culture. Every society is free in cultural practices, and it can promote its culture as well. Now, this can be a fault of any society if it has been failed to promote or protect its culture, and if it could not stop its inhabitants regarding not to adopt other/foreign culture(s). Thus, no one has academic or social right to criticize Gramsci's philosophy. His approach is rightful and we (as the scholars of political science and western philosophy) can call respective phenomenon as purely related to the Neo-Liberal school of thought.