

Books and Literature Review Society (BLRS) presents:

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| Critical Review of the Book: | Western Political Thought |
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**Content Analysis**

- First chapter of this chapter is providing understanding of political thought, nature of political thought, its significance, its textual approach, contextual approach and strategy of interpretation of different political thoughts.
- In second chapter, writer defines that what is classics and what is the significance or utility of classics. This chapter is in fact, divided into further three parts. First part is related to the Plato. General introduction of Plato, his theory of justice, his communism regarding property and wives is discussed in this part. In the context of nature of Greek political thought, a critical appraisal according to modern times is also presented in the last. Second part is about Aristotle. His general introduction, its presented nature of politics, his concepts regarding family, private property and slavery and his concept of citizenship presented in this party. Similarly, in the last part of this chapter, concept of justice, requirements for stable constitution, causes and remedies of revolution, comparative study of Aristotle and Karl Marx on revolution and the concept of mixed constitution is discussed by the author.

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- In the third chapter, nature of renaissance is discussed. In the same context, Machiavelli is also discussed with presenting his introduction, his concept about separation between politics and ethics, and his concept of statecraft.
- Chapter four is related to liberal tradition which has further six parts. In first part, concept of liberalism is presented with its types. Significance of social contract is also discussed here. Furthermore, writer states philosophies of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jaque Rousseau, John Rawls and Robert Nozick.
- Fifth chapter is related to conservative tradition, in which, firstly, discuss what is conservatism and neo-conservatism, and then presents the philosophy of Edmund Burke regarding justification of conservatism.

- Sixth chapter is related to utilitarian tradition. Firstly, writer discusses basic tenets of utilitarianism and then discusses the philosophies of Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill regarding utilitarianism.
- Seventh chapter is related to enlightenment tradition. Firstly, writer explains nature of enlightenment and then presents Immanuel Kant's moral and political thought regarding enlightenment.
- Eighth chapter is related to idealist tradition. Firstly, writer presents basic tenets of idealism and then discusses philosophies of G.W.F. Hegel and T.H. Green regarding idealism.
- Ninth chapter is related to Marxist tradition. Firstly, basic tenets of Marxism are discussed. Contemporary debate on the nature of the state is also stated in this chapter. Then, philosophies of Karl Marx and Engels are discussed. Furthermore, philosophies of Lenin, Rosa, Luxemburg, Mao Tze, Dong and Antonio Gramsci are discussed regarding practical implementation of Marxism.
- Tenth chapter of this book is related to feminist tradition. Firstly, writer presents basic principles of feminism and spheres of discrimination against women, then writer presents liberal, socialist, radical and recent strands of feminism.
- Chapter eleven is related to communitarian tradition. Writer presents difference among liberalism and communitarianism and then exponents of communitarianism.
- Chapter twelve is related to environmental tradition in which writer gives the answer of the question that what is environmentalism and what is the concept of sustainable development.

Critical Review:

- In fact, Western Political Thought is a well-spoken and a comprehensive account of the thread of political thought that stretches from ancient Greece till modern times. Analyzing political philosophy chronologically, this book offers valuable insights into the political structures of societies across the ages. It presents a wide perspective to various social and political ideologies. The chapters are thought-provoking with questions that tinker the readers thought process. Beautifully written with vivid illustrations, this book takes readers through the history of political thought.
- The chapters are detailed, beginning with the origin of political thought. The book talks about the origins of western thinking of the polis, a Greek city-state and Plato's work on the Republic that states the structure, the aspects of governance, social order, citizenship and personal virtue in forming an organized state. The just and the unjust, the ideal city, the Socratic Method, the ideal citizen and the antagonism between personal and public virtue are also discussed. Justice as a virtue, man as a political animal, importance of public service, the primacy of the law, are all lucidly accounted in the chapters. The chapters draw the formation of the modern state from history and describe the influence of the western thought in the formation of today's politics. The chapters deal with the nature of the political thought and the various interpretations by the various leaders of each period.
- It is a useful book for political science students, scholars and professors. The book Western Political Thought was published by Macmillan India Limited in 2011.
- In fact, the book details the influence of western political thought on modern times.