**Conservatism**

**Origin**

There have been many definitions for the term “conservatism”. However all of them have this one thing they must have, the common characteristic of preservation. However, what is preserved differs with each definition. Conservatism comes from the beginning of mankind where the need to survive compelled man to preserve what they thought was “good”. However it was only until 1789 that conservatism began to be recognised as distinct movement.

**Types of conservatism**

Cultural conservatism

Cultural conservation is an ideology. It emphasises on the importance of preserving “good” culture and “tradition”. For example, moral values of a kind of tradition. While this has its good points, it also has its bad points. This would cause a country to discriminate against other cultures as they would seem immoral to them

Religious conservatism

Religious conservation emphasizes on the preservation of religions and is up to the extent where law can help to enforce these religions. This kind of conservatism has major disadvantages as a multi-racial country with different religions would face tremendous problems as the religions would oppose each other and riots and fights may occur between the religions.

National/social conservatism

National conservatism emphasizes the need to preserve racial purity so as to continue the existence of the country’s national identity. This can be achieved by limiting immigration and emigration and to have people with the same race to marry each other. However the economical advantage of having a multiethnic society sees national conservatism making way for economical interests.

Aristocracy

Conservatism is also a form of aristocracy. This is because the people attempt to create a society with an order of classes and statures. The uppermost class will have power over the rest of society. This is achieved by instilling the impression that some people are superior to others. Yet this form of conservatism goes directly against democracy and therefore is rejected in many societies.

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