

## Notes- 5. Modern Political Philosophy

Earlier we have seen that the Greeks had a vision of both man and politics as natural while the social contract thinkers saw man as natural but politics as artificial.

John Locke (1632-1704) believed that a government or political authority can by limited wither by its moral duty to uphold the moral law or by constitutional arrangement of checks and balances that serve to limit the functional of the branches of government. He was a founder of liberalism in political thought tradition.

Hobbes believed in absolute government which is essence of political stability and ranting of absolute sovereignty to one man or assemble of men, nothing else can end the war of all against all.

Rousseau had idea of popular sovereignty that resides in the people, and reclaimed liberty by following general will as common good.

Montesquieu's Spirit of the Laws (published in 1748) is a treatise in political thought though, Machiavelli can be considered as the founder of modern political science, Montesquieu's work was the first conscious attempt to establish empirical approach of politics as a social science.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century new kind of utilitarian school of political thought was developed by Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) who insisted the principle of "*the greatest good of the greatest number*". His doctrine of utility is analysis of human nature, which is based on pain and pleasure. He rejected the social contract theory and produced utilitarian theory of the state.

J. S. Mill following the same refined utilitarian theory while using empirical method. He emphasised on the freedom and representative government.

G. W. F. Hegel (1770-1831) was a German philosopher in late 18<sup>th</sup> century whose contribution was admirable for the whole world and became philosopher of the ae like Aristotle. His work *Philosophy of Rights* was a mater piece of political philosophy. He talks about ultimate reality in the universe is one. He was much influenced by Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant and Fichte. Kant's moral philosophy was popular in German academia. Hegel made distinction between understanding and reason. He produced history of philosophy by propagating dialectical method. Later he produced philosophy of the State which is divine and natural organism. His State is ideal and superior in society. Although he was a complex writer exploring phenomenology, consciousness, freedom and spirit, he becomes super rationalist...

----- to be continued by Dr Ranjay Reddy.....