

POL408

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY



Course video is available on our app

- **Course code: POL 408**
- **Course title: Political Sociology**
- **Course credit load: 2**

SERIES 1: Politics and the Social Order

Main Parts (conforming to 2–4 guideline):

1.1 Foundations of Political and Social Order

- 1.1.1 Defining politics and social order
- 1.1.2 Historical perspectives on the nexus between politics and society

1.2 Theoretical Approaches to Political Sociology

- 1.2.1 Classical social theories
- 1.2.2 Contemporary perspectives on political order

1.3 Dynamics of Power and Social Structures

- 1.3.1 Institutions and authority
- 1.3.2 Social control and legitimacy

1.4 Interactions between Politics and Social Change

- 1.4.1 Political behaviour and social transformation
- 1.4.2 Case studies of political-social interplay

Introduction

Politics is deeply intertwined with the way societies are organised and governed. Every community, whether small or large, requires rules, institutions, and systems of authority to maintain order and stability. At the same time, social structures shape how political power is exercised and contested. This Series invites you to reflect on the relationship between politics and the social order, helping you to see how ideas, institutions, and behaviours interact to sustain or transform societies.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with the ability to critically examine the foundations of political and social order, evaluate the theoretical approaches that explain this relationship, and analyse how power and social structures influence political behaviour and social change.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the foundations of political and social order, where we will define key concepts and trace historical perspectives. Next, we will examine theoretical approaches to political sociology, considering both classical and contemporary viewpoints. Following that, we will move on to the dynamics of power and social structures, focusing on institutions, authority, and legitimacy. Finally, we will conclude by studying the interactions between politics and social change, using case studies to illustrate how political behaviour and social transformation are closely linked.



Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

SLO 1.1 define the concepts of politics and social order, and explain their historical development,

SLO 1.2 analyse classical and contemporary theoretical approaches to political sociology,

SLO 1.3 evaluate the role of institutions, authority, and legitimacy in shaping social structures, and

SLO 1.4 examine how political behaviour interacts with social transformation through selected case studies.

1.1 Foundations Of Political And Social Order

1.1.1 Defining politics and social order

Politics refers to the processes, institutions, and behaviours through which power is distributed and exercised within a society. It involves decision-making, governance, and the regulation of collective life. **Social order** is the structured arrangement of relationships, norms, and institutions that maintain stability and predictability in society. Together, politics and social order form the backbone of how communities organise themselves and resolve conflicts.

A society without political structures often struggles to maintain order, while a society without social order risks political instability. Fill in the blank: Politics involves the distribution and exercise of _____ within a society.



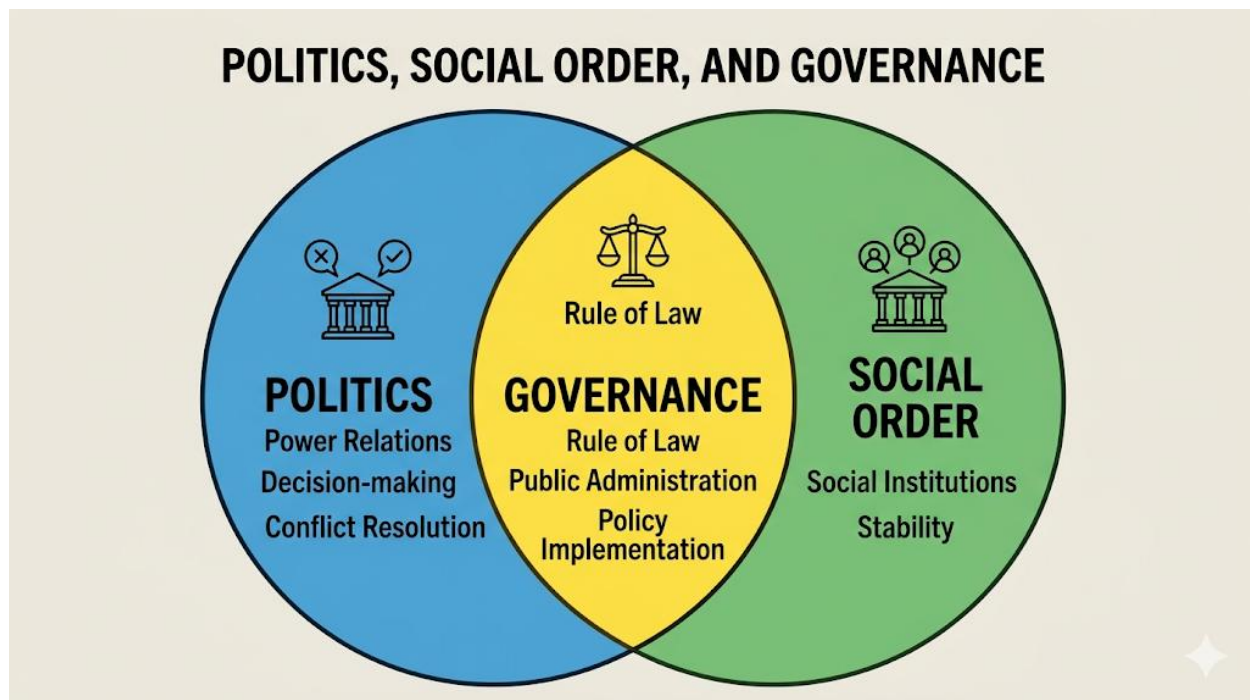


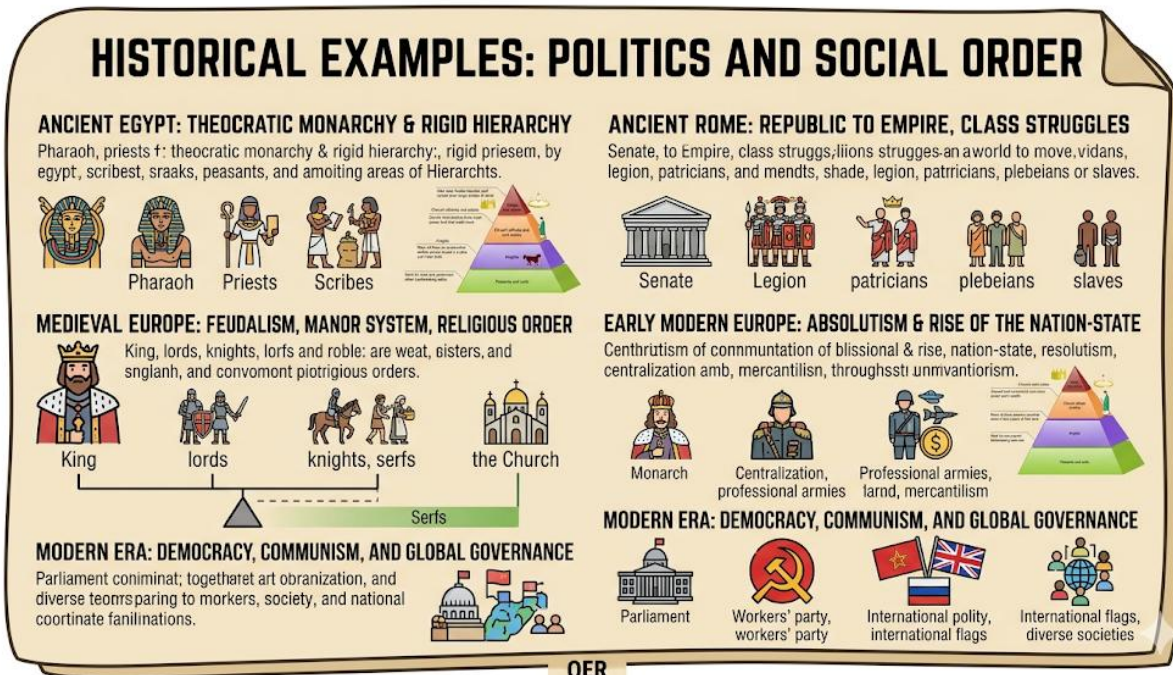
Diagram showing the relationship between politics and social order
Caption: Figure 1.1
Relationship between politics and social order

1.1.2 Historical perspectives on the nexus between politics and society

Throughout history, societies have developed different ways of linking politics with social order. Ancient civilisations relied on monarchies and religious authority, while modern societies often emphasise democratic institutions and legal frameworks. The **nexus** between politics and society refers to the interdependent relationship where political systems shape social structures, and social structures influence political behaviour.

For example, feudal Europe was characterised by hierarchical social orders that reinforced political authority, while the rise of industrialisation brought new social classes that demanded political representation. Fill in the blank: The interdependent relationship between politics and society is often described as the _____.





Box 1.1: Historical examples of politics and social order

Pilot questions 1.1

Which term refers to the structured arrangement of relationships and norms that maintain stability in society?

What is the main focus of politics in a community?

Which historical system relied heavily on divine authority to legitimise rule?

What does the term “nexus” between politics and society mean?

How did industrialisation affect the relationship between politics and social order?

1.2 Theoretical Approaches To Political Sociology

1.2.1 Classical social theories

Classical social theories provide the foundation for political sociology. Thinkers such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Émile Durkheim offered distinct perspectives on how politics and society interact. **Karl Marx** emphasised the role of economic structures and class conflict in shaping political power. **Max Weber** focused on authority, legitimacy, and bureaucracy as central to political order. **Émile Durkheim** highlighted the importance of social cohesion and collective norms in maintaining stability.

These theories remain relevant because they help us explain why societies organise themselves in particular ways and how political institutions emerge from social needs. Fill in the blank: According to Karl Marx, political power is shaped by _____ conflict.



CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF POLITICS AND SOCIAL ORDER

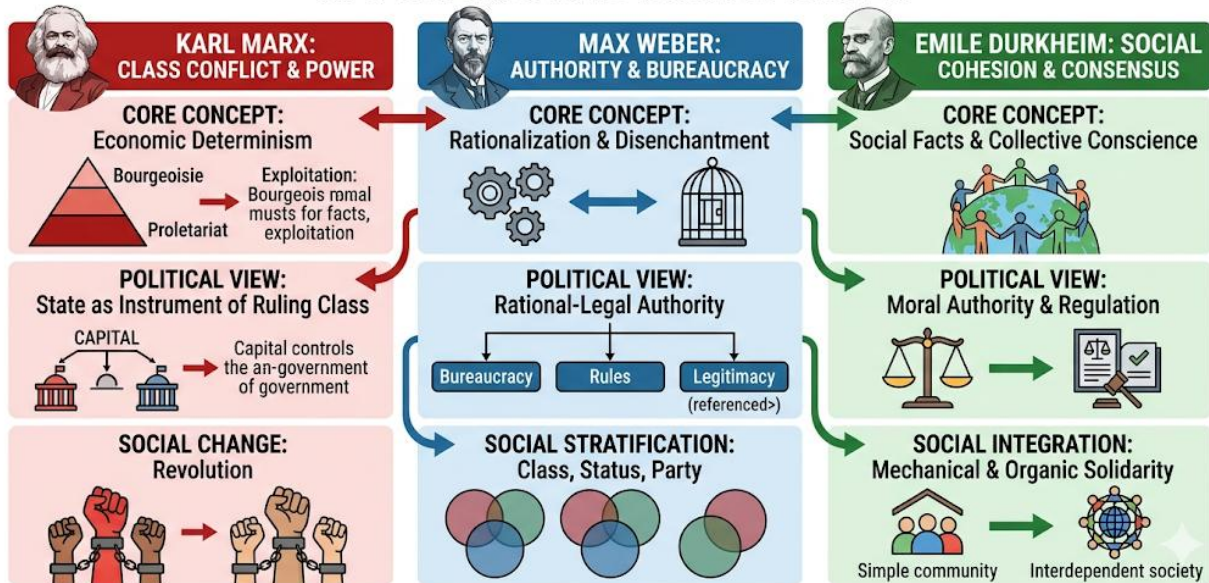
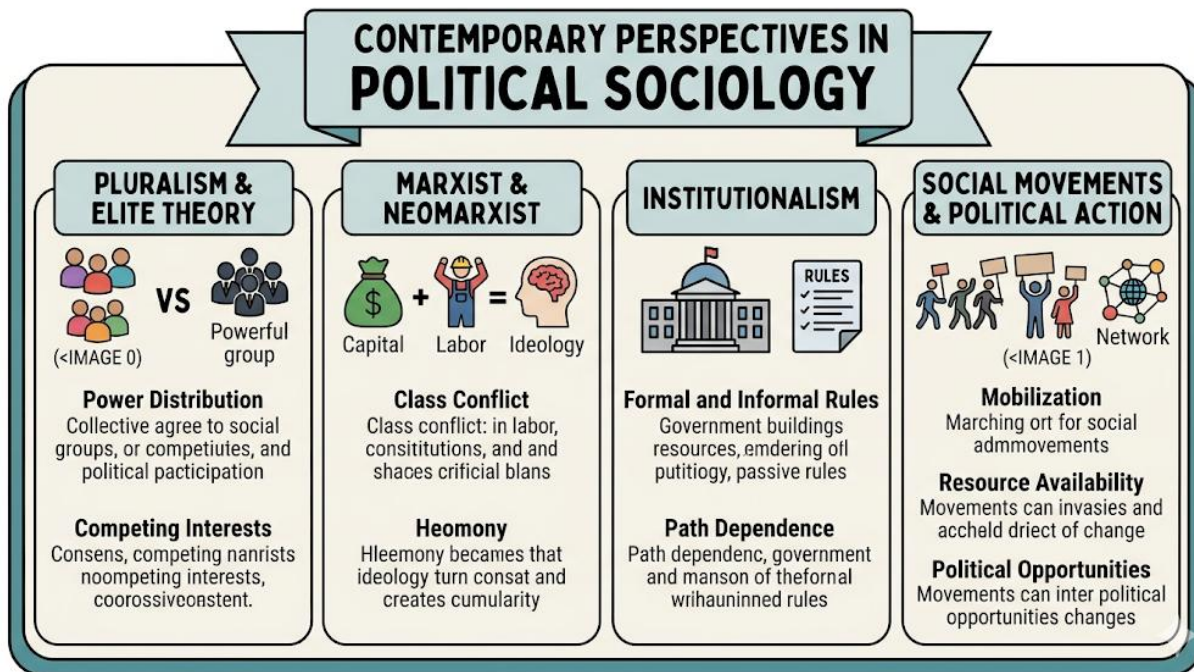


Diagram comparing Marx, Weber, and Durkheim's perspectives
Caption: Figure 1.2 Classical theories of political sociology

1.2.2 Contemporary perspectives on political order

Contemporary perspectives build on classical theories but respond to modern challenges such as globalisation, identity politics, and technological change. **Structural functionalism** views political institutions as parts of a system that work together to maintain stability. **Conflict theory** continues Marx's emphasis on inequality but extends it to issues of race, gender, and ethnicity. **Symbolic interactionism** examines how everyday interactions and meanings shape political behaviour.

These perspectives allow us to analyse how politics adapts to changing social realities. For instance, identity politics demonstrates how individuals mobilise around shared characteristics such as ethnicity or religion to influence political outcomes. Fill in the blank: Symbolic interactionism focuses on how everyday _____ shape political behaviour.



Box 1.2: Contemporary perspectives in political sociology

Pilot questions 1.2

Which classical theorist emphasised class conflict as the basis of political power?

What concept did Max Weber highlight as central to political order?

Which classical thinker focused on social cohesion and collective norms?

What does structural functionalism suggest about political institutions?

How does symbolic interactionism explain political behaviour?

1.3 Dynamics Of Power And Social Structures

1.3.1 Institutions and authority

Institutions are established systems and structures within society that organise behaviour and regulate interactions. Examples include governments, legal systems, and educational bodies. They provide frameworks that ensure predictability and stability. **Authority** refers to the recognised and legitimate right to exercise power. Max Weber identified three types of authority: traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational. Each type influences how institutions function and how individuals respond to political leadership.

Institutions and authority are closely linked, since authority gives institutions legitimacy, while institutions provide authority with structure. Fill in the blank: The recognised and legitimate right to exercise power is called _____.



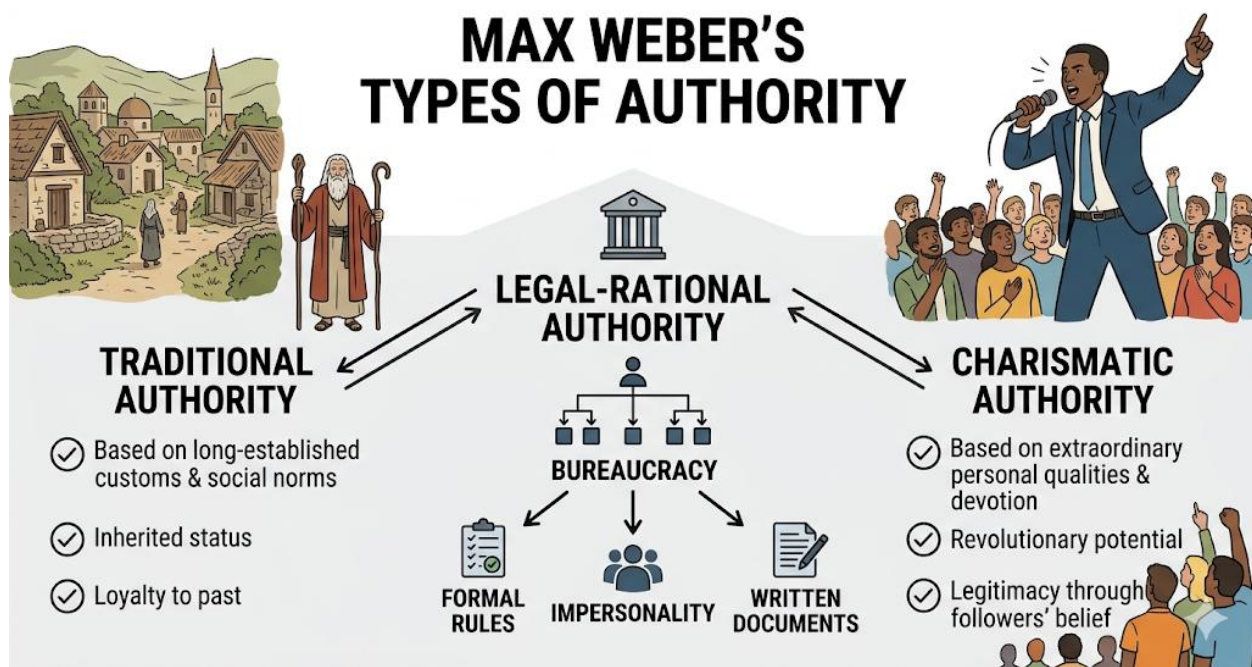
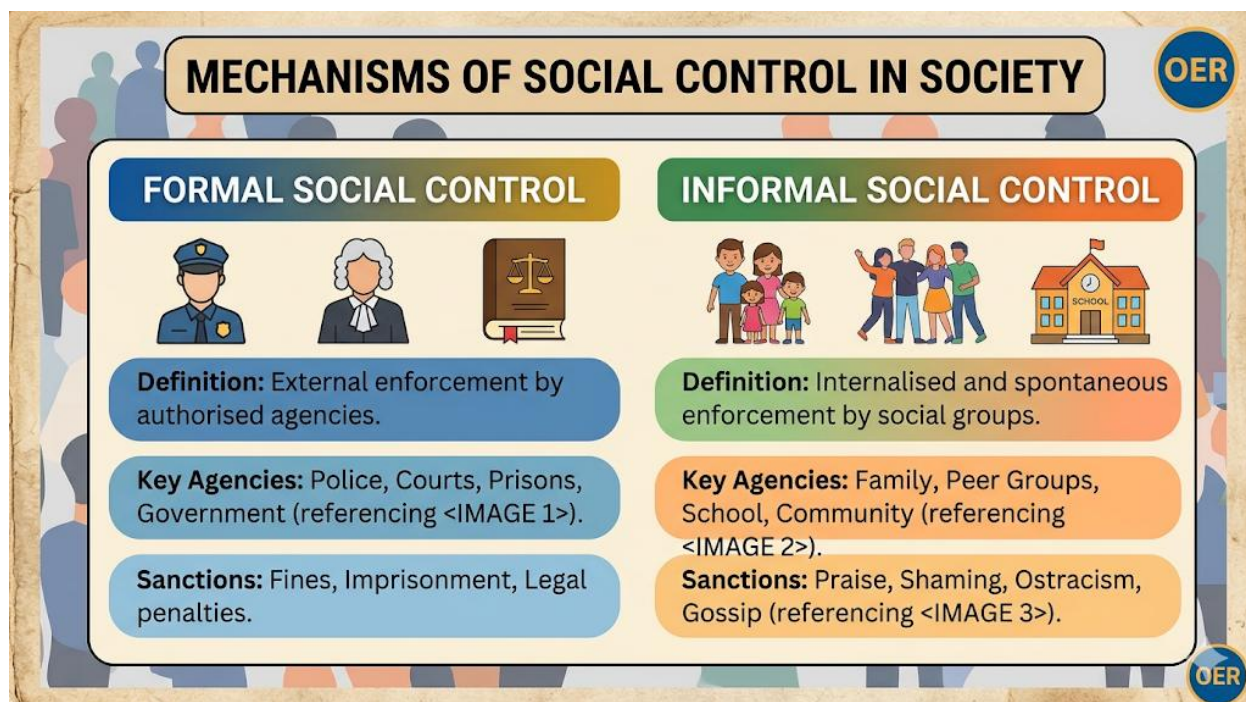


Diagram showing Weber's three types of authority Caption: Figure 1.3 Types of authority in political sociology

1.3.2 Social control and legitimacy

Social control refers to the mechanisms, strategies, and institutions used to regulate behaviour and maintain order. These include laws, norms, and sanctions. **Legitimacy** is the perception that authority and institutions are rightful and acceptable. Without legitimacy, social control often becomes coercive and unstable.

For example, democratic governments rely on legitimacy through elections, while authoritarian regimes may depend more on coercion. The balance between legitimacy and control determines the stability of political systems. Fill in the blank: When authority is perceived as rightful and acceptable, it is said to have _____.



Box 1.3: Mechanisms of social control

Pilot questions 1.3

What are institutions, and why are they important in society?

Which sociologist identified three types of authority?

Name the three types of authority described by Max Weber.

What is the difference between legitimacy and coercion in social control?

Give one example of how legitimacy is established in democratic systems.

1.4 Interactions Between Politics And Social Change

1.4.1 Political behaviour and social transformation

Political behaviour refers to the actions, attitudes, and participation of individuals and groups in political processes. This includes voting, protesting, lobbying, and other forms of civic engagement. **Social transformation** is the significant change in social structures, values, and relationships over time. Political behaviour often drives social transformation, while social changes can reshape political systems.

For example, civil rights movements illustrate how collective political behaviour can transform laws and social norms. Conversely, technological advancements and demographic shifts influence how people engage politically. Fill in the blank: Collective political behaviour can lead to _____ in laws and social norms.





OER Open Educational Resource Image

Image showing a civil rights protest march Caption: Plate 1.1 Political behaviour as a driver of social transformation

1.4.2 Case studies of political-social interplay

Case studies provide concrete examples of how politics and social change interact. One notable case is the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, where political mobilisation dismantled racial segregation and reshaped social structures. Another example is the women's suffrage movement, which expanded political rights and transformed gender relations.

These cases demonstrate that political action is not isolated but deeply embedded in social contexts. They also show that social change is often contested and requires sustained political effort. Fill in the blank: The anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa reshaped _____ structures.



CASE STUDIES: POLITICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE	
1 US CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (1950s-60s)  Political Action: Nonviolent protests, voter registration drives. Social Change: End of legal segregation, passing of Voting Rights Act (1965).	2 ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT (SOUTH AFRICA)  Political Action: Global boycotts, internal resistance, negotiations. Social Change: End of Apartheid system, first multirany, subsequent German reunification.
3 FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL (1989)  Political Action: Mass peaceful demonstrations, political shifts in Eastern Europe. Social Change: End of Communist rule in East Germany, subsequent German reunification.	4 ARAB SPRING (EARLY 2010s)  Political Action: Widespread protests, social media mobilization. Social Change: Ousting of long-standing leaders in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya; mixed long-term outcomes.

Box 1.4: Selected case studies of politics and social change

Pilot questions 1.4

What is political behaviour, and how does it influence social transformation?

Give two examples of political actions that have led to social change.

What is meant by social transformation?

How did the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa affect social structures?

Why are case studies important in understanding the relationship between politics and social change?

Series Summary

This Series has guided you through the essential relationship between politics and the social order, highlighting its relevance to the study of political sociology. We began by examining the foundations of politics and social order, defining key concepts and tracing their historical development. We then explored classical and contemporary theoretical approaches, considering how thinkers such as Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, as well as modern perspectives, explain the interaction between politics and society. Moving forward, we analysed the dynamics of power and social structures, focusing on institutions, authority, social control, and legitimacy. Finally, we studied how political behaviour interacts with social transformation, supported by case studies that illustrate the interplay between politics and social change.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to define politics and social order (SLO 1.1), analyse theoretical approaches to political sociology (SLO 1.2), evaluate the role of institutions



and legitimacy in shaping social structures (SLO 1.3), and examine how political behaviour drives social transformation through case studies (SLO 1.4). These outcomes provide you with a strong foundation for understanding the nexus between politics and society, preparing you for deeper engagement with identity politics and other analytical categories in subsequent Series.

Glossary of Terms

Authority: The recognised and legitimate right to exercise power within a society, often classified into traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational forms.

Institutions: Established systems and structures such as governments, legal frameworks, and educational bodies that organise behaviour and regulate interactions in society.

Legitimacy: The perception that authority and institutions are rightful, acceptable, and deserving of obedience, which helps maintain stability in political systems.

Nexus: The interdependent relationship between politics and society, where political systems shape social structures and social structures influence political behaviour.

Political behaviour: The actions, attitudes, and participation of individuals and groups in political processes, including voting, protesting, and lobbying.

Politics: The processes, institutions, and behaviours through which power is distributed and exercised within a society, involving governance and decision-making.

Social control: Mechanisms, strategies, and institutions such as laws, norms, and sanctions used to regulate behaviour and maintain order in society.

Social order: The structured arrangement of relationships, norms, and institutions that ensure stability and predictability within a community.

Social transformation: Significant changes in social structures, values, and relationships over time, often influenced by political behaviour and collective action.

Concept Check Questions 1

Objective questions

Which term refers to the structured arrangement of relationships, norms, and institutions that maintain stability in society? (Linked to SLO 1.1)

Who identified three types of authority: traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational? (Linked to SLO 1.3)

Which classical theorist emphasised class conflict as the basis of political power? (Linked to SLO 1.2)

What is the recognised and legitimate right to exercise power called? (Linked to SLO 1.3)



Which case study illustrates how political mobilisation dismantled racial segregation in South Africa? (Linked to SLO 1.4)

Short-answer questions

Define politics and explain its role in society. (Linked to SLO 1.1)

Briefly describe the concept of legitimacy and why it is important for political systems. (Linked to SLO 1.3)

Explain how symbolic interactionism contributes to our understanding of political behaviour. (Linked to SLO 1.2)

Give one example of political behaviour that has led to social transformation. (Linked to SLO 1.4)

What does the term “nexus” between politics and society mean? (Linked to SLO 1.1)

Long-answer questions

Analyse the contributions of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim to political sociology, highlighting their differences and similarities. (Linked to SLO 1.2)

Evaluate the role of institutions and authority in shaping social structures, using examples to support your explanation. (Linked to SLO 1.3)

Examine how political behaviour interacts with social transformation, drawing on at least two case studies. (Linked to SLO 1.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions 1

Objective questions

Social order

Max Weber

Karl Marx

Authority

Anti-apartheid struggle

Short-answer questions

Politics refers to the processes, institutions, and behaviours through which power is distributed and exercised. It regulates collective life and ensures governance.

Legitimacy is the perception that authority and institutions are rightful and acceptable. It is important because it sustains stability and prevents reliance on coercion.

Symbolic interactionism explains how everyday meanings and interactions shape political behaviour, showing how individuals interpret and act within political contexts.

The women’s suffrage movement, which expanded voting rights, is one example of political behaviour leading to social transformation.



The nexus is the interdependent relationship between politics and society, where each influences the other.

Long-answer questions

Basic response: Marx emphasised class conflict, Weber focused on authority and bureaucracy, and Durkheim highlighted social cohesion. Together, they provide complementary insights into political sociology. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may compare how Marx's economic determinism contrasts with Weber's multidimensional view of authority, and how Durkheim's emphasis on norms complements both by focusing on stability.

Basic response: Institutions organise behaviour, while authority legitimises power. For example, governments rely on authority to enforce laws. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may evaluate how different types of authority (traditional, charismatic, legal-rational) influence institutional effectiveness, and how legitimacy sustains social structures across contexts.

Basic response: Political behaviour such as protests or voting drives social transformation, as seen in the anti-apartheid movement and women's suffrage campaigns. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may examine how these movements not only changed laws but also reshaped social identities and norms, demonstrating the deep interplay between politics and social change.

Answers to Pilot Questions 1

Part 1.1 Foundations of Political and Social Order

Social order

Politics involves governance and decision-making in a community

Ancient monarchies

The nexus between politics and society

Industrialisation created new social classes demanding representation

Part 1.2 Theoretical Approaches to Political Sociology

Karl Marx

Authority

Émile Durkheim

Political institutions function to maintain stability

Everyday meanings and interactions

Part 1.3 Dynamics of Power and Social Structures

Institutions are established systems and structures that organise behaviour and regulate interactions



Max Weber

Traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational authority

Legitimacy is accepted authority, while coercion forces compliance without acceptance

Through elections in democratic systems

Part 1.4 Interactions between Politics and Social Change

Political behaviour refers to actions and participation in political processes, which influence social transformation

Civil rights movements and women's suffrage campaigns

Social transformation is significant change in social structures, values, and relationships over time

It dismantled racial segregation and reshaped social structures

They provide concrete examples that illustrate the relationship between politics and social change

References and Attributions 1

Figures

Figure 1.1 Relationship between politics and social order: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a simple diagram showing politics and social order as overlapping circles, with shared space labelled governance.” Suggested search string: “politics and social order diagram OER”.

Figure 1.2 Classical theories of political sociology: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a comparative diagram showing Marx (class conflict), Weber (authority and bureaucracy), and Durkheim (social cohesion).” Suggested search string: “classical sociological theories politics OER diagram”.

Figure 1.3 Types of authority in political sociology: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram with three branches labelled traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational authority, each with short descriptions.” Suggested search string: “Weber types of authority diagram OER”.

Plates

Plate 1.1 Political behaviour as a driver of social transformation: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of a peaceful civil rights protest march with banners and diverse participants.” Suggested search string: “civil rights protest march OER image”.

Boxes



Box 1.1 Historical examples of politics and social order: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising historical examples of politics and social order.” Suggested search string: “historical examples politics and social order OER”.

Box 1.2 Contemporary perspectives in political sociology: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising contemporary perspectives in political sociology.” Suggested search string: “contemporary sociological theories political order OER”.

Box 1.3 Mechanisms of social control: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising mechanisms of social control in society.” Suggested search string: “mechanisms of social control sociology OER”.

Box 1.4 Selected case studies of politics and social change: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising case studies of politics and social change.” Suggested search string: “case studies politics and social change OER”.

General References

Marx, K. (1848). *The Communist Manifesto*.

Weber, M. (1922). *Economy and Society*.

Durkheim, É. (1893). *The Division of Labour in Society*.

Open Educational Resources (OER) repositories such as OER Commons and Wikimedia Commons were suggested for sourcing diagrams, images, and case study materials.



- **Course code: POL 408**
- **Course title: Political Sociology**
- **Course credit load: 2**

SERIES 2: Identity Politics and Social Structures

Main Parts (conforming to 2–4 guideline):

2.1 Conceptual Foundations of Identity Politics

- 2.1.1 Defining identity politics
- 2.1.2 Historical emergence and relevance

2.2 Analytical Categories in Social Structures

- 2.2.1 Gender and political behaviour
- 2.2.2 Ethnicity and collective identity
- 2.2.3 Religion and political mobilisation

2.3 Ideology and National Liberation Movements

- 2.3.1 Role of ideology in shaping identity politics
- 2.3.2 Case studies of national liberation struggles

2.4 Intersections and Contemporary Challenges

- 2.4.1 Intersectionality of identity categories
- 2.4.2 Globalisation and identity politics today

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the nexus between politics and the social order, focusing on how institutions, authority, and political behaviour interact with social transformation. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to identity politics, a crucial dimension of political sociology that examines how social categories such as gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology shape political behaviour and influence social structures. Understanding identity politics is essential because it highlights the ways in which individuals and groups mobilise around shared identities to pursue political goals and challenge existing systems.

The aim of this Series is to enable you to critically analyse the role of identity politics in shaping social structures, evaluate the influence of analytical categories such as gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology, and examine how these categories intersect to produce contemporary political challenges.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the conceptual foundations of identity politics, defining the term and tracing its historical emergence. Next, we will examine analytical categories in social structures, focusing on gender, ethnicity, and religion as drivers of political



mobilisation. Following that, we will study ideology and national liberation movements, considering how ideas and struggles shape identity politics. Finally, we will wrap up by addressing intersections and contemporary challenges, including the impact of globalisation and the complexity of identity categories in today's political landscape.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

SLO 2.1 define the concept of identity politics and explain its historical emergence,

SLO 2.2 analyse how gender, ethnicity, and religion function as analytical categories within social structures,

SLO 2.3 evaluate the role of ideology in shaping identity politics through national liberation movements,

SLO 2.4 examine intersections of identity categories and assess contemporary challenges such as globalisation in relation to identity politics.

2.1 Conceptual Foundations Of Identity Politics

2.1.1 Defining identity politics

Identity politics refers to political positions and movements that are based on the interests and perspectives of social groups with which people identify, such as gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexuality. It highlights how shared identities can become a basis for political mobilisation and collective action. Unlike traditional politics, which often focuses on broad ideological or economic issues, identity politics emphasises the lived experiences and social realities of specific groups.

Identity politics is significant because it provides a voice for groups that may otherwise be marginalised in mainstream political discourse. Fill in the blank: Identity politics is based on the interests and perspectives of _____ groups.



IDENTITY POLITICS CATEGORIES & POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

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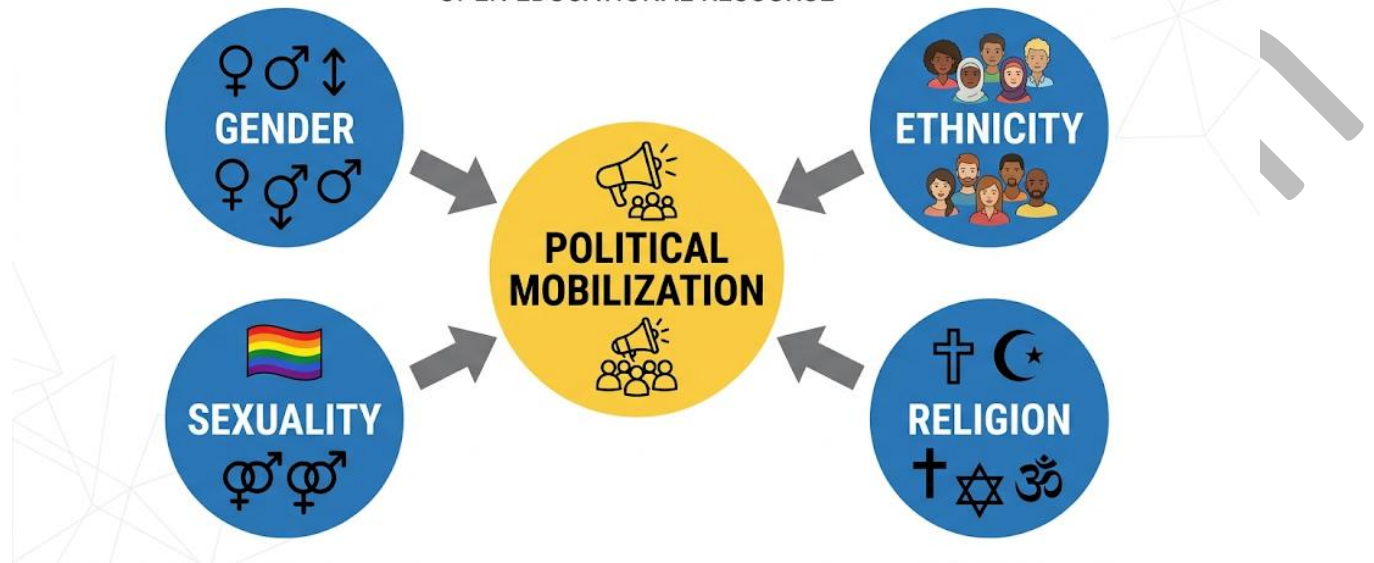


Diagram showing identity categories (gender, ethnicity, religion, sexuality) feeding into political mobilisation Caption: Figure 2.1 Identity categories as drivers of political mobilisation

2.1.2 Historical emergence and relevance

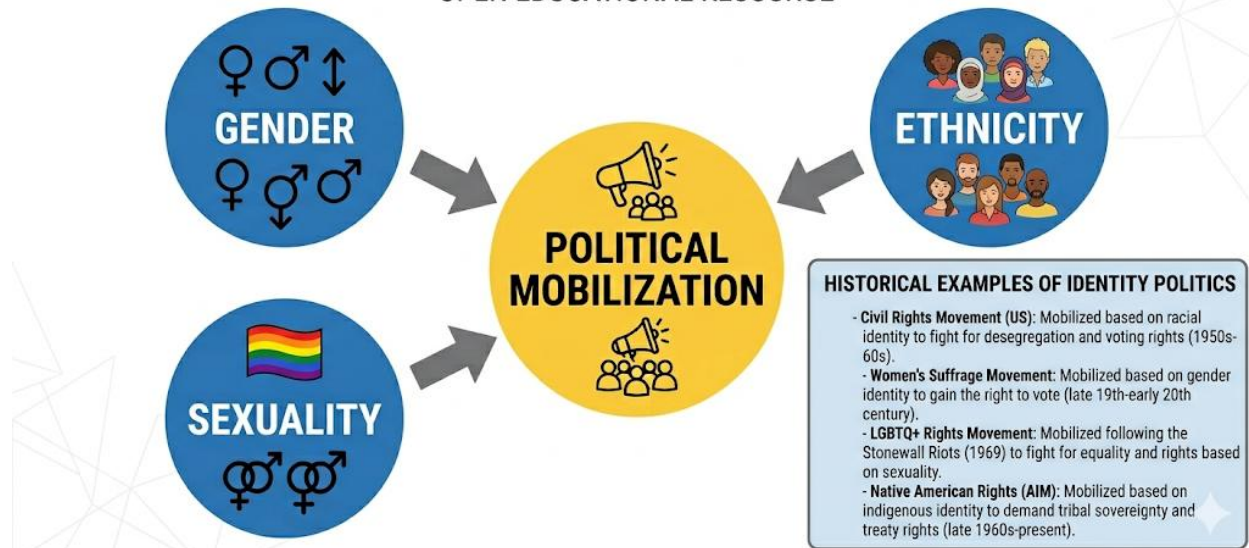
The historical emergence of identity politics can be traced to social movements of the twentieth century, such as the civil rights movement, feminist movements, and struggles for indigenous rights. These movements demonstrated how collective identity could be used to challenge exclusion and demand recognition. **Civil rights movements** sought racial equality, **feminist movements** fought for gender justice, and **indigenous rights movements** demanded cultural recognition and political autonomy.

Today, identity politics remains relevant as societies grapple with diversity, inequality, and globalisation. It continues to shape debates on representation, inclusion, and social justice. Fill in the blank: The feminist movement is an example of identity politics focused on _____ justice.



IDENTITY POLITICS CATEGORIES & POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

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Box 2.1: Historical examples of identity politics

Pilot questions 2.1

What is identity politics, and how does it differ from traditional politics?

Which identity categories are commonly associated with political mobilisation?

Name one twentieth-century movement that exemplifies identity politics.

What was the main focus of feminist movements in relation to identity politics?

Why does identity politics remain relevant in contemporary societies?

2.2 Analytical Categories In Social Structures

2.2.1 Gender and political behaviour

Gender refers to the social and cultural roles, expectations, and identities associated with being male, female, or non-binary. In political sociology, gender is a crucial analytical category because it shapes participation, representation, and policy priorities. For example, feminist movements have challenged gender inequality by demanding equal rights, while contemporary debates highlight issues such as women's representation in parliaments and the recognition of non-binary identities.

Gender influences not only who participates in politics but also how political agendas are framed. Fill in the blank: Feminist movements have historically demanded equal _____ for women.



GENDER'S INFLUENCE ON POLITICAL OUTCOMES

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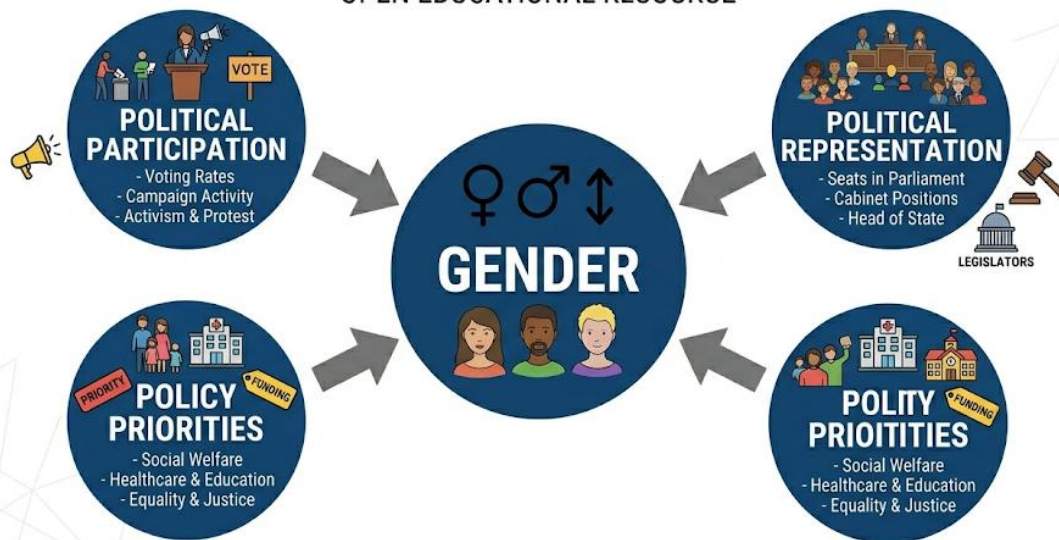


Diagram showing gender as a category influencing political participation and representation

Caption: Figure 2.2 Gender as an analytical category in politics

2.2.2 Ethnicity and collective identity

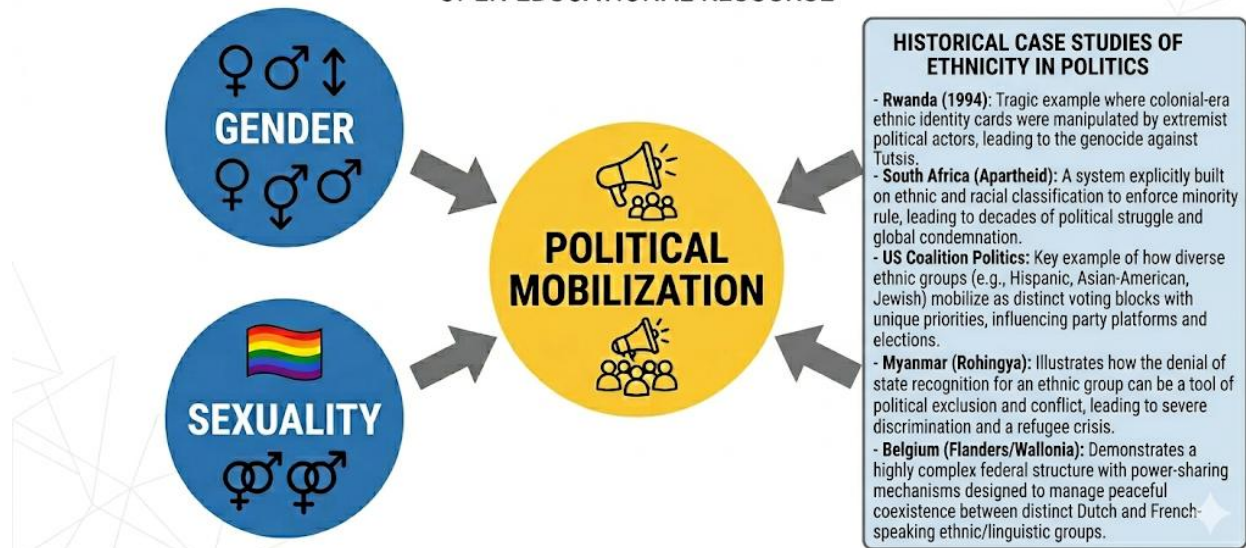
Ethnicity refers to shared cultural traits such as language, heritage, and traditions that bind groups together. In politics, ethnicity often becomes a basis for collective identity and mobilisation. Ethnic groups may demand recognition, autonomy, or representation, especially in multi-ethnic societies.

Ethnic politics can strengthen solidarity but may also lead to conflict if groups feel excluded or discriminated against. Fill in the blank: Ethnicity refers to shared cultural traits such as language, heritage, and _____.



IDENTITY POLITICS CATEGORIES & POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

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Box 2.2: Examples of ethnicity in politics

2.2.3 Religion and political mobilisation

Religion is a system of beliefs, practices, and values centred on the sacred or divine. In political sociology, religion often serves as a powerful source of mobilisation, shaping political ideologies and movements. Religious groups may influence laws, policies, and social norms, while religious identity can unite communities in political struggles.

For instance, liberation theology in Latin America linked religious values with social justice, while religious parties in various countries continue to shape electoral outcomes. Fill in the blank: Religion often serves as a powerful source of _____ in politics.



IDENTITY POLITICS CATEGORIES & POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

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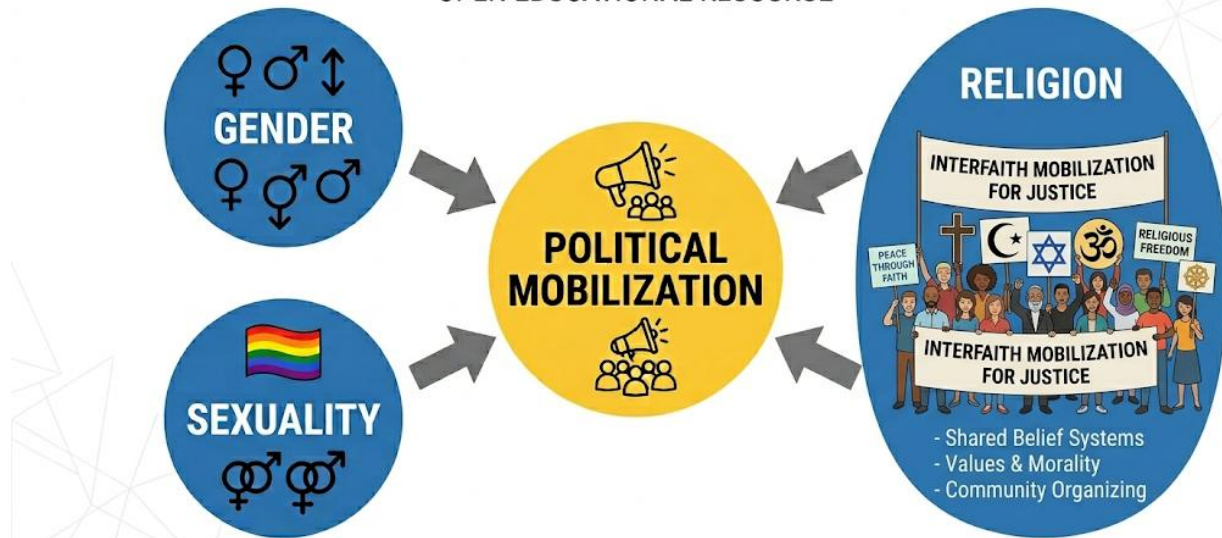


Image showing a peaceful religious rally or gathering with banners Caption: Plate 2.1 Religion as a source of political mobilisation

Pilot questions 2.2

How does gender influence political participation and representation?

What have feminist movements historically demanded in politics?

Define ethnicity and explain its role in political mobilisation.

Give one example of how ethnic politics can lead to conflict.

How has religion been used as a source of political mobilisation?

2.3 Ideology And National Liberation Movements

2.3.1 Role of ideology in shaping identity politics

Ideology refers to a system of ideas, beliefs, and values that provides a framework for interpreting society and guiding political action. In the context of identity politics, ideology often shapes how groups articulate their demands and justify their mobilisation. For example, socialist ideology has historically emphasised class solidarity, while nationalist ideology has focused on cultural identity and sovereignty.

Ideology is important because it provides coherence to political movements, helping them to frame their struggles in ways that resonate with broader society. Fill in the blank: Ideology provides a framework for interpreting _____ and guiding political action.



IDENTITY POLITICS CATEGORIES & POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

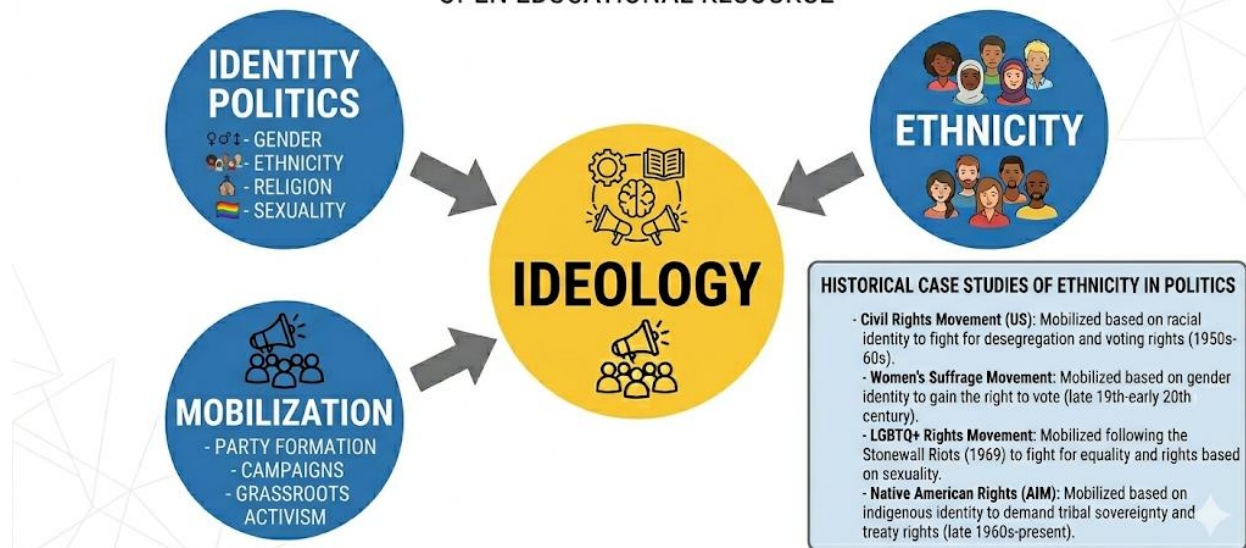


Diagram showing ideology influencing identity politics and mobilisation
Caption: Figure 2.3
Ideology as a driver of identity politics

2.3.2 Case studies of national liberation struggles

National liberation movements provide powerful examples of how ideology and identity politics intersect. In Africa, movements against colonial rule often combined nationalist ideology with ethnic and cultural identity to mobilise populations. In Asia, struggles for independence similarly drew on shared cultural and religious identities.

These movements demonstrate how ideology can unify diverse groups under a common cause, while identity politics ensures that the struggle resonates with people's lived experiences. Fill in the blank: National liberation movements often combined nationalist ideology with _____ identity to mobilise populations.



IDENTITY POLITICS CATEGORIES & POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

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Box 2.3: Examples of national liberation movements

Pilot questions 2.3

What is ideology, and why is it important in identity politics?

Give one example of an ideology that has influenced political mobilisation.

How did nationalist ideology contribute to national liberation movements?

Why are case studies useful in understanding the link between ideology and identity politics?

Name one national liberation movement in Africa or Asia and describe its ideological basis.

2.4 Intersections And Contemporary Challenges

2.4.1 Intersectionality of identity categories

Intersectionality is the analytical framework that examines how different identity categories such as gender, ethnicity, class, and religion overlap and interact to shape experiences of power and inequality. Rather than treating identities as separate, intersectionality highlights how they combine to produce unique forms of discrimination or privilege.

For example, a woman from a minority ethnic group may face challenges that are not fully explained by gender or ethnicity alone, but by the intersection of both. This perspective is crucial in political sociology because it helps us understand the complexity of identity politics in diverse societies. Fill in the blank: Intersectionality examines how different identity categories _____ and interact.



INTERSECTIONALITY & UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

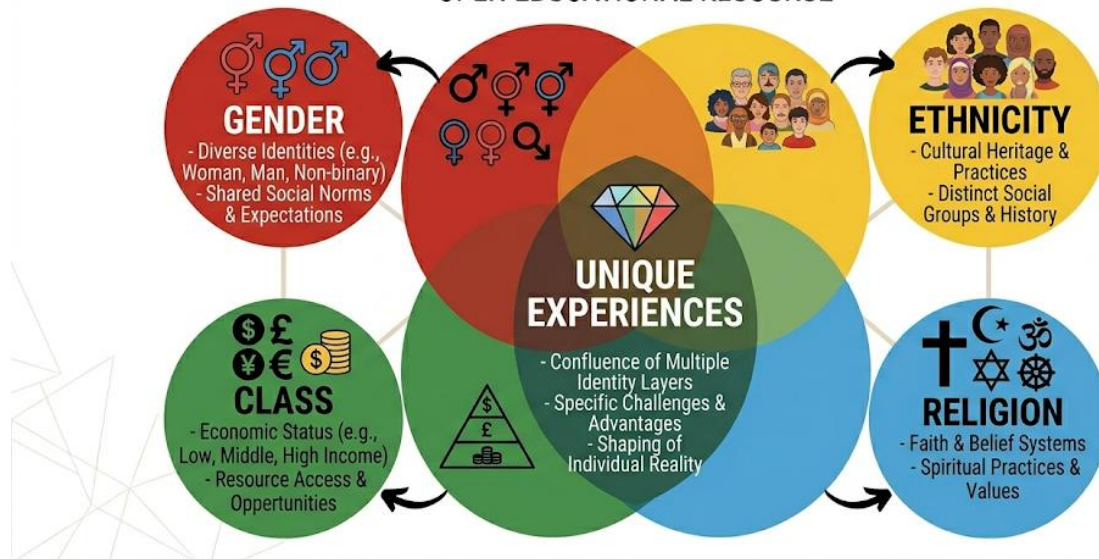


Diagram showing overlapping circles of gender, ethnicity, class, and religion, with intersection labelled “unique experiences” Caption: Figure 2.4 Intersectionality of identity categories

2.4.2 Globalisation and identity politics today

Globalisation refers to the increasing interconnectedness of societies through economic, cultural, and political exchanges across borders. In the context of identity politics, globalisation presents both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, it allows movements to connect internationally, share strategies, and build solidarity. On the other hand, it can intensify tensions as local identities react against perceived cultural homogenisation or economic inequality.

Contemporary identity politics is therefore shaped by global flows of information, migration, and activism. Movements such as climate justice campaigns or transnational feminist networks illustrate how identity politics now operates on a global scale. Fill in the blank: Globalisation refers to the increasing _____ of societies through exchanges across borders.



INTERSECTIONALITY & UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE



Box 2.4: Contemporary challenges in identity politics

Pilot questions 2.4

What is intersectionality, and why is it important in political sociology?

Give an example of how overlapping identities can produce unique challenges.

Define globalisation in the context of identity politics.

How does globalisation create opportunities for identity-based movements?

What are some challenges posed by globalisation to local identities?

Series Summary

This Series has explored the foundations and complexities of identity politics, showing how social categories shape political behaviour and influence social structures. We began by defining identity politics and tracing its historical emergence, then examined analytical categories such as gender, ethnicity, and religion as drivers of mobilisation. Following that, we considered the role of ideology in national liberation movements, highlighting how ideas and collective identities intersect to inspire political struggles. Finally, we addressed intersectionality and contemporary challenges, focusing on how overlapping identities and globalisation continue to shape political debates today.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to define identity politics and explain its historical roots (SLO 2.1), analyse gender, ethnicity, and religion as analytical categories (SLO 2.2), evaluate the role of ideology in national liberation movements (SLO 2.3), and examine intersections of identity categories while assessing contemporary challenges such as



globalisation (SLO 2.4). These outcomes equip you with the tools to critically engage with identity politics and understand its impact on social structures in both local and global contexts.

Glossary of Terms

Ethnicity: Shared cultural traits such as language, heritage, and traditions that bind groups together and can serve as a basis for political mobilisation.

Gender: The social and cultural roles, expectations, and identities associated with being male, female, or non-binary, which influence political participation and representation.

Globalisation: The increasing interconnectedness of societies through economic, cultural, and political exchanges across borders, shaping identity politics in both positive and challenging ways.

Identity politics: Political positions and movements based on the interests and perspectives of social groups with which people identify, such as gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexuality.

Ideology: A system of ideas, beliefs, and values that provides a framework for interpreting society and guiding political action, often shaping identity-based movements.

Intersectionality: An analytical framework that examines how different identity categories such as gender, ethnicity, class, and religion overlap and interact to produce unique experiences of inequality or privilege.

National liberation movements: Political struggles aimed at achieving independence or autonomy, often combining ideology with collective identity to mobilise populations.

Religion: A system of beliefs, practices, and values centred on the sacred or divine, which can serve as a powerful source of political mobilisation and influence.

Concept Check Questions 2

Objective questions

Identity politics is based on the interests and perspectives of which groups? (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Which twentieth-century movement focused on gender justice? (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Gender influences political participation, representation, and what else? (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Ethnicity refers to shared cultural traits such as language, heritage, and what? (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Which ideology has historically emphasised class solidarity? (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Short-answer questions

Define identity politics and explain how it differs from traditional politics. (Linked to SLO 2.1)



Briefly describe how ethnicity can serve as a basis for political mobilisation. (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Explain one way religion has influenced political mobilisation. (Linked to SLO 2.2)

What role does ideology play in shaping identity politics? (Linked to SLO 2.3)

What is intersectionality, and why is it important in political sociology? (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Long-answer questions

Analyse the historical emergence of identity politics, using examples from twentieth-century movements. (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Evaluate the role of gender, ethnicity, and religion as analytical categories in shaping political behaviour. (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Examine how ideology influenced national liberation movements, drawing on at least two case studies. (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Assess the impact of intersectionality and globalisation on contemporary identity politics. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions 2

Objective questions

Social groups with which people identify

Feminist movement

Policy priorities

Traditions

Socialist ideology

Short-answer questions

Identity politics refers to political positions based on the interests of social groups such as gender, ethnicity, or religion. It differs from traditional politics by focusing on lived experiences rather than broad ideological or economic issues.

Ethnicity can unite groups through shared language, heritage, and traditions, enabling them to demand recognition, autonomy, or representation.

Religion has influenced mobilisation through movements such as liberation theology, which linked religious values with social justice.

Ideology provides coherence and justification for identity-based movements, shaping their demands and strategies.

Intersectionality examines how overlapping identities interact to produce unique experiences of inequality or privilege, making it vital for understanding complex social realities.

Long-answer questions



Basic response: Identity politics emerged in the twentieth century through movements such as civil rights, feminism, and indigenous rights, which mobilised around shared identities. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may highlight how these movements challenged exclusion, reshaped political discourse, and laid foundations for contemporary debates on representation and justice.

Basic response: Gender, ethnicity, and religion influence who participates in politics and how agendas are framed. For example, feminist movements demanded equal rights, while ethnic groups sought recognition. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may evaluate how these categories interact, sometimes reinforcing solidarity but also creating tensions, especially in multi-ethnic or religiously diverse societies.

Basic response: Ideology unified national liberation movements, with nationalist ideas combining with cultural identity to mobilise populations in Africa and Asia. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may compare different ideological bases, such as socialism in Vietnam or nationalism in Algeria, and assess how they shaped both mobilisation and post-independence politics.

Basic response: Intersectionality shows how overlapping identities create unique challenges, while globalisation connects movements internationally but also intensifies local tensions. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may assess how globalisation fosters transnational activism, such as feminist or climate justice networks, while simultaneously provoking resistance from groups seeking to preserve local identities.

Answers to Pilot Questions 2

Part 2.1 Conceptual Foundations of Identity Politics

Identity politics is based on the interests and perspectives of social groups.

Gender, ethnicity, religion, and sexuality.

Civil rights movement.

Gender justice.

Because it addresses diversity, inequality, and representation in contemporary societies.

Part 2.2 Analytical Categories in Social Structures

Gender influences who participates in politics and how agendas are framed.

Equal rights.

Traditions.

Ethnic exclusion or discrimination.

Religion has been used to mobilise communities and shape political ideologies.

Part 2.3 Ideology and National Liberation Movements



Ideology is a system of ideas and values that guides political action and shapes identity politics.

Socialist ideology.

By unifying diverse groups under shared cultural identity and sovereignty.

They illustrate how ideology and identity politics intersect in real struggles.

Examples include Ghana's independence movement and India's nationalist struggle.

Part 2.4 Intersections and Contemporary Challenges

Intersectionality is the framework that examines how overlapping identities interact to shape experiences of inequality or privilege.

A woman from a minority ethnic group facing challenges linked to both gender and ethnicity.

Globalisation is the increasing interconnectedness of societies through exchanges across borders.

It allows movements to connect internationally and build solidarity.

It can provoke tensions as local identities react against cultural homogenisation or inequality.

References and Attributions 2

Figures

Figure 2.1 Identity categories as drivers of political mobilisation: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram with four circles labelled gender, ethnicity, religion, and sexuality, all pointing towards a central circle labelled political mobilisation.” Suggested search string: “identity politics categories diagram OER”.

Figure 2.2 Gender as an analytical category in politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing gender influencing political participation, representation, and policy priorities.” Suggested search string: “gender and political behaviour diagram OER”.

Figure 2.3 Ideology as a driver of identity politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing ideology at the centre, with arrows pointing to identity politics, mobilisation, and social change.” Suggested search string: “ideology and identity politics diagram OER”.

Figure 2.4 Intersectionality of identity categories: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a Venn diagram showing gender, ethnicity, class, and religion overlapping, with the intersection labelled unique experiences.” Suggested search string: “intersectionality diagram OER”.



Plates

Plate 2.1 Religion as a source of political mobilisation: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of a peaceful religious rally with banners and diverse participants.” Suggested search string: “religion and political mobilisation OER image”.

Boxes

Box 2.1 Historical examples of identity politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising historical examples of identity politics.” Suggested search string: “historical examples identity politics OER”.

Box 2.2 Examples of ethnicity in politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising examples of ethnicity in politics.” Suggested search string: “ethnicity and politics case studies OER”.

Box 2.3 Examples of national liberation movements: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising examples of national liberation movements and their ideological bases.” Suggested search string: “national liberation movements ideology OER”.

Box 2.4 Contemporary challenges in identity politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising contemporary challenges in identity politics under globalisation.” Suggested search string: “globalisation and identity politics OER”.

General References

Crenshaw, K. (1989). *Demarginalising the intersection of race and sex: A Black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine*. University of Chicago Legal Forum.

Fanon, F. (1961). *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press.

hooks, b. (1984). *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*. South End Press.

Smith, A. D. (1991). *National Identity*. Penguin Books.

Open Educational Resources (OER) repositories such as OER Commons and Wikimedia Commons were suggested for sourcing diagrams, images, and case study materials.



- **Course code: POL 408**
- **Course title: Political Sociology**
- **Course credit load: 2**

SERIES 3: Analytical Categories in Political Behaviour

Main Parts (conforming to 2–4 guideline):

3.1 Class and Political Behaviour

- 3.1.1 Defining class in political sociology
- 3.1.2 Class conflict and mobilisation
- 3.1.3 Case studies of class-based movements

3.2 Race and Political Behaviour

- 3.2.1 Race as a social construct in politics
- 3.2.2 Racial inequality and political participation
- 3.2.3 Case studies of racial justice movements

3.3 Religion and Political Behaviour

- 3.3.1 Religion as an analytical category
- 3.3.2 Religious institutions and political influence
- 3.3.3 Case studies of religion in political mobilisation

3.4 Contemporary Analytical Perspectives

- 3.4.1 Intersection of class, race, and religion
- 3.4.2 Globalisation and analytical categories today

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined identity politics and how categories such as gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology shape political behaviour and social structures. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to analytical categories in political behaviour, focusing on class, race, and religion as key lenses through which political participation and mobilisation can be understood. These categories are central to political sociology because they reveal how social divisions and collective identities influence political action and outcomes.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with the ability to critically analyse class, race, and religion as analytical categories in political behaviour, and to evaluate how these categories intersect and evolve in contemporary contexts.



We shall commence this Series by exploring class and political behaviour, defining class in political sociology and examining class conflict and mobilisation through case studies. Next, we will move on to race, considering its role as a social construct, its impact on inequality, and its influence on political participation, supported by examples of racial justice movements. Following that, we will study religion as an analytical category, looking at how religious institutions and beliefs shape political mobilisation. Finally, we will wrap up by addressing contemporary analytical perspectives, focusing on the intersections of class, race, and religion, and assessing the impact of globalisation on these categories today.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

SLO 3.1 define class in political sociology and explain how class conflict shapes political behaviour,

SLO 3.2 analyse race as a social construct and evaluate its impact on political participation and mobilisation,

SLO 3.3 examine religion as an analytical category and assess its influence on political institutions and movements,

SLO 3.4 evaluate contemporary perspectives by exploring the intersections of class, race, and religion, and assessing the role of globalisation in shaping political behaviour.

3.1 Class And Political Behaviour

3.1.1 Defining class in political sociology

Class refers to divisions in society based on economic position, occupation, and access to resources. In political sociology, class is an analytical category used to explain differences in political participation, representation, and influence. For instance, working-class groups may mobilise around issues of wages and labour rights, while middle and upper classes may focus on taxation, investment, or property rights.

Class is not only about income but also about power and status in society. Fill in the blank: In political sociology, class is an analytical category used to explain differences in _____ participation and influence.



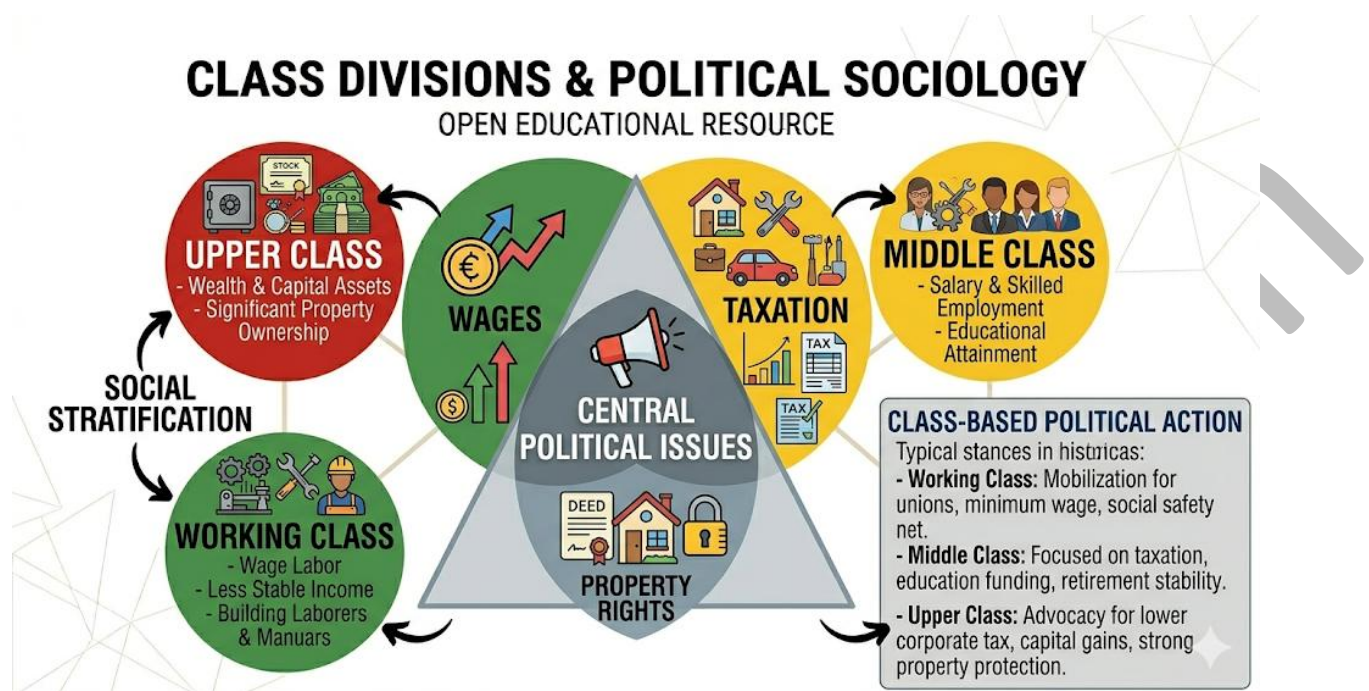


Diagram showing three social classes (working, middle, upper) linked to different political concerns
Caption: Figure 3.1 Class divisions and political concerns

3.1.2 Class conflict and mobilisation

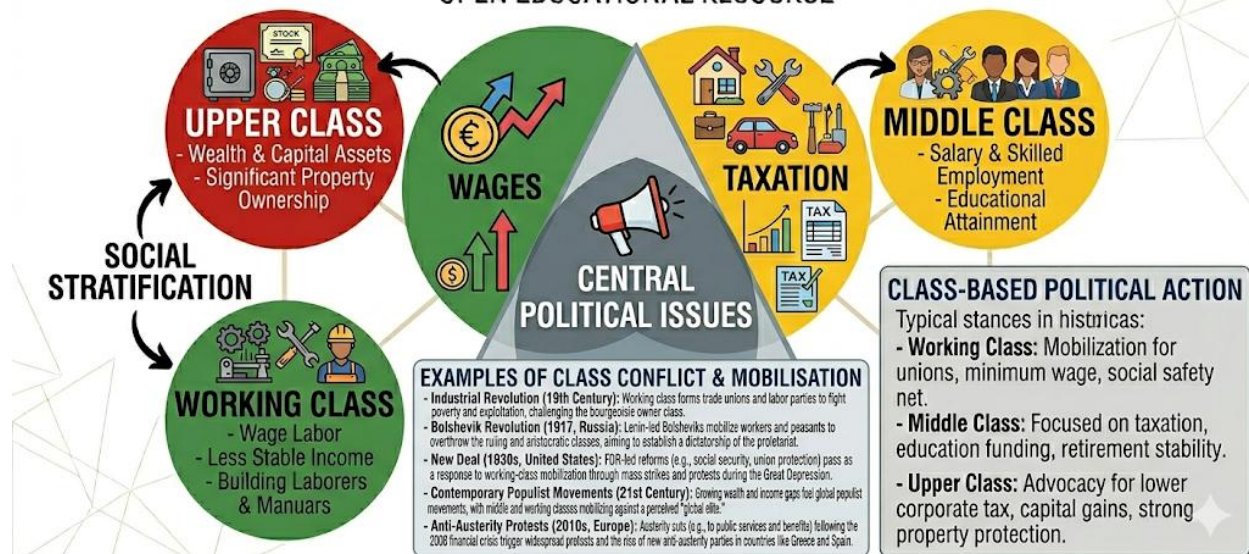
Class conflict refers to tensions and struggles between different social classes over resources, power, and political influence. Historically, class conflict has been a driving force in political change, from labour strikes to revolutions. Mobilisation occurs when groups organise collectively to demand reforms or resist exploitation.

For example, trade unions represent working-class interests, while political parties may align themselves with particular class bases. Fill in the blank: Trade unions are organisations that represent _____-class interests.



CLASS DIVISIONS & POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE



Box 3.1: Examples of class conflict and mobilisation

3.1.3 Case studies of class-based movements

Case studies provide practical illustrations of how class shapes political behaviour. In Europe, the rise of socialist and labour parties reflected working-class mobilisation. In Latin America, movements against inequality often combined class demands with broader social justice agendas.

These examples show that class-based movements can reshape political systems and policies.

Fill in the blank: The rise of socialist parties in Europe reflected _____-class mobilisation.



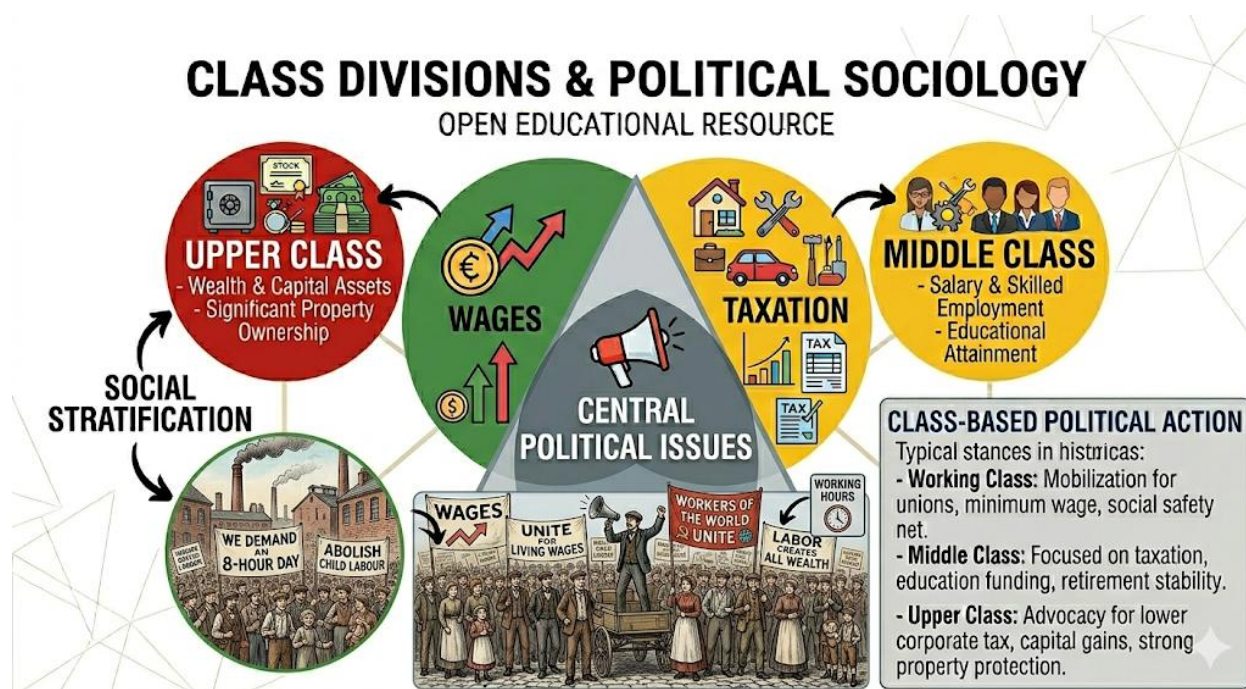


Image showing a historical labour protest or rally with banners
Caption: Plate 3.1 Class-based mobilisation in political history

Pilot questions 3.1

What does class mean in political sociology?

How does class influence political participation and representation?

Define class conflict and give one example.

What role do trade unions play in class mobilisation?

Name one case study of a class-based movement and explain its significance.

3.2 Race And Political Behaviour

3.2.1 Race as a social construct in politics

Race refers to socially constructed categories based on perceived physical differences such as skin colour, which societies use to classify and differentiate groups. In political sociology, race is not seen as a biological reality but as a social construct that shapes identity, belonging, and exclusion. Political behaviour is often influenced by racial categorisation, as groups mobilise to challenge discrimination or to assert rights.

Race matters in politics because it affects representation, access to resources, and the framing of public policies. Fill in the blank: In political sociology, race is understood as a _____ construct rather than a biological reality.



RACE, THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCT, IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE



Diagram showing race as a social construct influencing identity, representation, and mobilisation
Caption: Figure 3.2 Race as a social construct in political behaviour

3.2.2 Racial inequality and political participation

Racial inequality refers to unequal access to opportunities, resources, and rights based on racial categorisation. In politics, racial inequality often manifests in disparities in voter participation, representation in government, and policy outcomes. For example, minority groups may face barriers to voting or underrepresentation in legislative bodies.

Political participation is shaped by these inequalities, as marginalised groups often mobilise to demand reforms and greater inclusion. Fill in the blank: Racial inequality often manifests in disparities in voter _____ and representation.



RACE, THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCT, IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE



Box 3.2: Examples of racial inequality in politics

3.2.3 Case studies of racial justice movements

Racial justice movements illustrate how race influences political behaviour. In the United States, the civil rights movement fought against segregation and discrimination, leading to landmark legislation. In South Africa, the anti-apartheid struggle mobilised against racial oppression and achieved democratic transformation.

These case studies show how collective mobilisation around race can reshape political systems and advance equality. Fill in the blank: The civil rights movement in the United States fought against _____ and discrimination.



RACE, THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCT, IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE



Image showing a civil rights march with banners and diverse participants Caption: Plate 3.2
Racial justice mobilisation in political history

Pilot questions 3.2

How is race understood in political sociology?

Why does race matter in political behaviour?

Define racial inequality and give one example of how it affects politics.

How do racial inequalities shape political participation?

Name one racial justice movement and explain its significance.

3.3 Religion And Political Behaviour

3.3.1 Religion as an analytical category

Religion refers to systems of beliefs, practices, and values centred on the sacred or divine. In political sociology, religion is treated as an analytical category because it influences identity, social cohesion, and political mobilisation. Religious affiliation often shapes voting behaviour, party alignment, and policy preferences.

Religion matters in politics because it provides moral frameworks and collective identities that can unite communities or create divisions. Fill in the blank: In political sociology, religion is treated as an analytical _____ because it influences identity and mobilisation.



RELIGION & POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

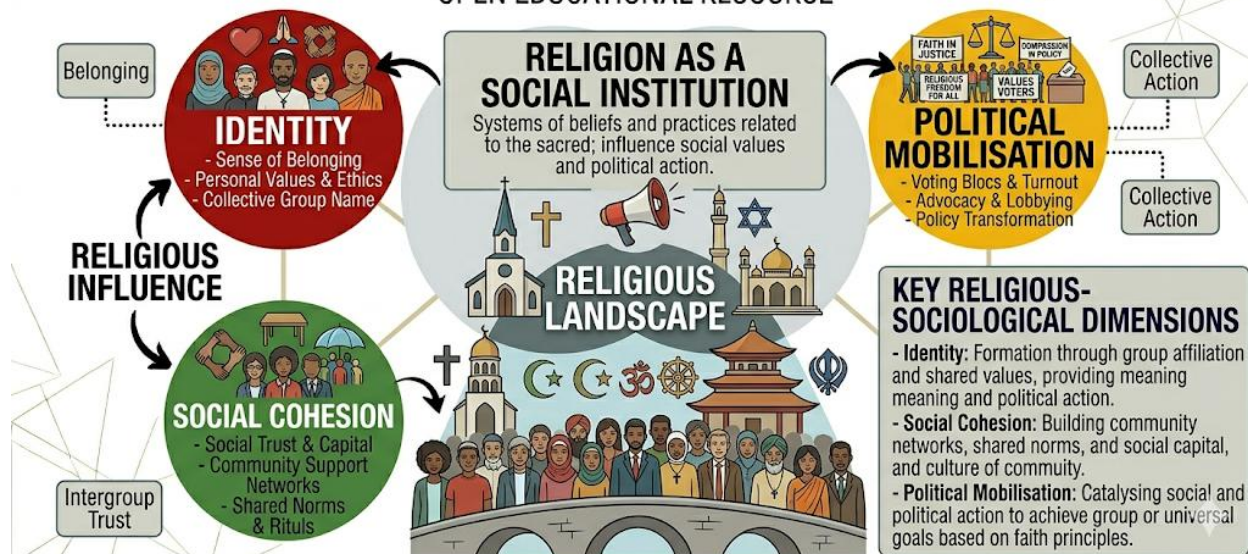


Diagram showing religion influencing identity, social cohesion, and political mobilisation

Caption: Figure 3.3 Religion as an analytical category in political behaviour

3.3.2 Religious institutions and political influence

Religious institutions such as churches, mosques, and temples play significant roles in shaping political behaviour. They can act as centres of mobilisation, provide moral authority, and influence policy debates. For example, religious leaders may endorse candidates, shape public opinion, or advocate for social reforms.

At times, religious institutions also resist political authority, becoming sites of opposition and activism. Fill in the blank: Religious institutions can act as centres of _____ and influence policy debates.





Box 3.3: Roles of religious institutions in politics

3.3.3 Case studies of religion in political mobilisation

Case studies highlight how religion shapes political behaviour. In Latin America, liberation theology linked religious values with social justice, inspiring movements against inequality. In Poland, the Catholic Church played a central role in resisting communist rule. In many countries, religious parties continue to influence electoral outcomes and policy directions.

These examples show how religion can be both a source of unity and a driver of political change. Fill in the blank: Liberation theology in Latin America linked religious values with _____ justice.





Image showing a religious rally or gathering with banners advocating social justice
 Plate 3.3 Religion and political mobilisation in practice

Pilot questions 3.3

- Why is religion considered an analytical category in political sociology?
- How do religious institutions influence political behaviour?
- Define the role of religious leaders in shaping public opinion.
- Give one example of religion being used to resist political authority.
- Name one case study where religion influenced political mobilisation and explain its significance.

3.4 Contemporary Analytical Perspectives

3.4.1 Intersection of class, race, and religion

Intersection in political sociology refers to the way different identity categories overlap and interact to shape political behaviour. Class, race, and religion do not operate in isolation; they often combine to produce unique experiences of inclusion or exclusion. For example, a working-class minority group may face challenges linked both to economic inequality and racial discrimination, while religious affiliation can further influence political mobilisation.

Understanding these intersections helps us to see the complexity of political behaviour and the need for nuanced analysis. Fill in the blank: Intersection in political sociology refers to the way different identity categories _____ and interact.



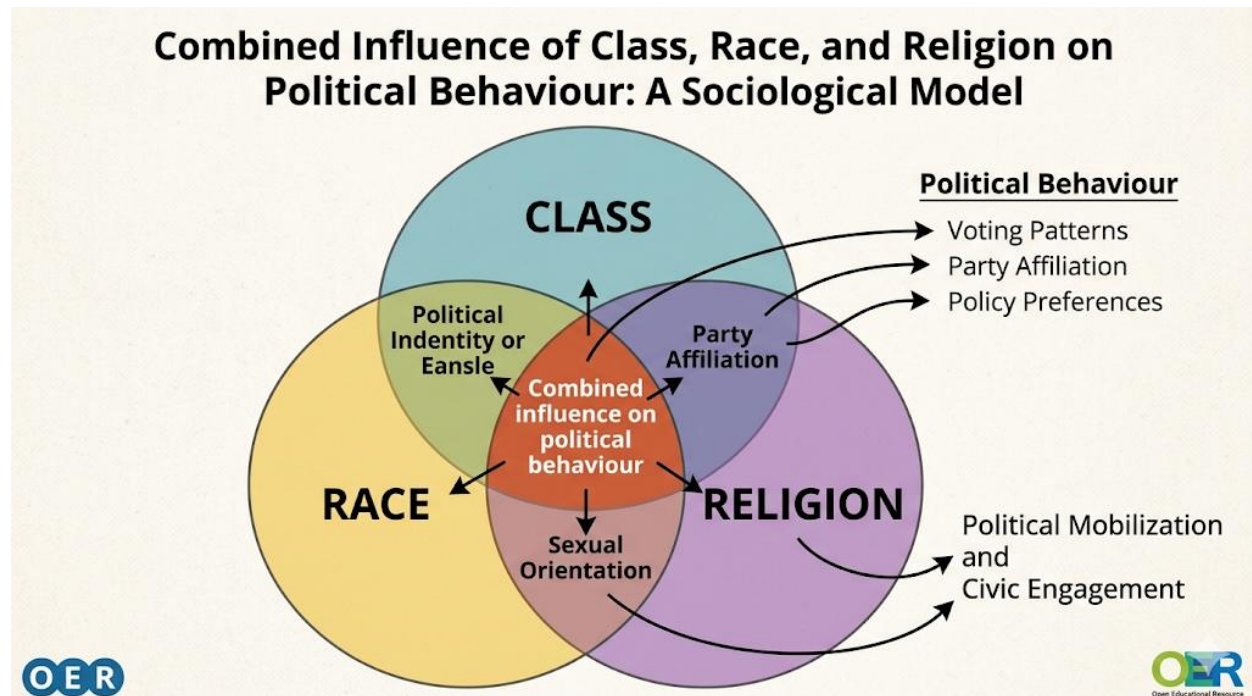


Diagram showing overlapping circles labelled class, race, and religion, with the intersection labelled “combined influence on political behaviour” Caption: Figure 3.4 Intersection of class, race, and religion

3.4.2 Globalisation and analytical categories today

Globalisation refers to the growing interconnectedness of societies through economic, cultural, and political exchanges across borders. In relation to analytical categories, globalisation has reshaped how class, race, and religion influence political behaviour. On one hand, globalisation enables transnational activism, allowing movements to share strategies and build solidarity across borders. On the other hand, it can intensify tensions as local identities react against perceived cultural homogenisation or economic inequality.

Contemporary political behaviour is therefore shaped by both local realities and global forces. Fill in the blank: Globalisation enables transnational activism but can also intensify tensions as local identities react against cultural _____.



Contemporary Perspectives on Analytical Categories under Globalisation	
TRANSFORMATIONS & DEBATES	KEY THEORETICAL LENSES
• NATION-STATE: Challenged by supranational bodies, global markets, and non-state actors. (e.g., <IMAGE-1>) • CITIZENSHIP: Concepts like 'post-national citizenship' and dual allegiance emerge. • CIVIL SOCIETY: Emergence of global civil society and transnational advocacy networks. (e.g., <IMAGE 2>) • SOVEREIGNTY: Reconfigured rather than disappeared, leading to 'shared' or 'pooled' sovereignty.	• HYPERGLOBALISM: View that globalization defines a new era, minimizing state power. (e.g., <IMAGE-3>) • SCEPTICISM: Arguments that globalization is exaggerated; regional blocs remain more significant. • TRANSFORMATIONALISM: Perspective that globalization is a central force changing societies, but states retain a role. (e.g., <IMAGE 4>) • GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: Focus on new forms of regulation and decision-making beyond the nation-state.

Open Educational Resource (OER)

Box 3.4: Contemporary perspectives on analytical categories

Pilot questions 3.4

What does intersection mean in political sociology?

How do class, race, and religion interact to shape political behaviour?

Define globalisation in relation to analytical categories.

How does globalisation create opportunities for political movements?

What challenges does globalisation pose to local identities?

Series Summary

This Series has examined analytical categories in political behaviour, showing how class, race, and religion shape political participation, mobilisation, and influence. We began by defining class in political sociology and exploring how class conflict drives mobilisation, supported by case studies of labour and socialist movements. We then moved on to race, considering it as a social construct, analysing racial inequality in political participation, and reviewing racial justice movements such as the civil rights struggle. Following that, we studied religion as an analytical category, looking at the role of religious institutions and leaders in shaping political behaviour, with examples from liberation theology and anti-communist mobilisation. Finally, we addressed contemporary perspectives, focusing on the intersections of class, race, and religion, and assessing how globalisation reshapes these categories today.



By completing this Series, you should now be able to define and explain class in political sociology (SLO 3.1), analyse race as a social construct and evaluate its impact on political mobilisation (SLO 3.2), examine religion as an analytical category and assess its influence on political behaviour (SLO 3.3), and evaluate contemporary perspectives by exploring intersections and the role of globalisation (SLO 3.4). These outcomes provide you with a comprehensive framework for understanding how social divisions and identities influence political behaviour in both historical and contemporary contexts.

Glossary of Terms

Class: Divisions in society based on economic position, occupation, and access to resources, which influence political participation and representation.

Class conflict: Tensions and struggles between different social classes over resources, power, and political influence, often driving political change.

Globalisation: The growing interconnectedness of societies through economic, cultural, and political exchanges across borders, reshaping how analytical categories influence political behaviour.

Intersection: The overlap and interaction of different identity categories such as class, race, and religion, which combine to shape unique political experiences.

Race: A socially constructed category based on perceived physical differences, used to classify groups and influence identity, belonging, and political mobilisation.

Racial inequality: Unequal access to opportunities, resources, and rights based on racial categorisation, often affecting voter participation and representation.

Religion: Systems of beliefs, practices, and values centred on the sacred or divine, which influence identity, social cohesion, and political mobilisation.

Religious institutions: Organisations such as churches, mosques, and temples that shape political behaviour by providing moral authority, centres of mobilisation, and influence in policy debates

Concept Check Questions 3

Objective questions

In political sociology, class is an analytical category used to explain differences in _____ participation and influence. (Linked to SLO 3.1)

Trade unions are organisations that represent _____-class interests. (Linked to SLO 3.1)

In political sociology, race is understood as a _____ construct rather than a biological reality. (Linked to SLO 3.2)



Racial inequality often manifests in disparities in voter _____ and representation. (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Liberation theology in Latin America linked religious values with _____ justice. (Linked to SLO 3.3)

Short-answer questions

Define class in political sociology and explain its relevance to political behaviour. (Linked to SLO 3.1)

What is class conflict, and how does it drive mobilisation? (Linked to SLO 3.1)

Explain how race functions as a social construct in politics. (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Give one example of racial inequality affecting political participation. (Linked to SLO 3.2)

How do religious institutions influence political behaviour? (Linked to SLO 3.3)

What does intersection mean in political sociology? (Linked to SLO 3.4)

How does globalisation reshape analytical categories in political behaviour? (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Long-answer questions

Analyse how class shapes political behaviour, using examples of mobilisation and conflict. (Linked to SLO 3.1)

Evaluate the role of race as a social construct in shaping political participation and mobilisation, with reference to case studies. (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Examine how religion influences political behaviour, drawing on examples of religious institutions and movements. (Linked to SLO 3.3)

Assess contemporary perspectives by exploring the intersections of class, race, and religion, and the impact of globalisation. (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions 3

Objective questions

Political

Working

Social

Participation

Social

Short-answer questions

Class refers to divisions in society based on economic position, occupation, and access to resources. It is relevant because it shapes political participation, representation, and influence.



Class conflict is the struggle between social classes over resources and power. It drives mobilisation through strikes, protests, and political movements.

Race functions as a social construct by categorising people based on perceived physical differences, influencing identity, belonging, and political mobilisation.

Minority groups facing barriers to voting is one example of racial inequality affecting participation.

Religious institutions influence political behaviour by providing moral authority, mobilising communities, and shaping policy debates.

Intersection refers to the overlap and interaction of identity categories such as class, race, and religion, producing unique political experiences.

Globalisation reshapes analytical categories by enabling transnational activism and solidarity, while also intensifying local identity tensions.

Long-answer questions

Basic response: Class shapes political behaviour by influencing participation and representation, with working-class groups mobilising around wages and rights, and upper classes focusing on taxation and property. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may highlight historical examples such as socialist parties in Europe or labour unions, and assess how class conflict has driven systemic political change.

Basic response: Race as a social construct shapes political participation by influencing identity and representation, with racial justice movements challenging inequality. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may analyse case studies such as the civil rights movement in the United States or anti-apartheid mobilisation in South Africa, showing how race reshaped political systems.

Basic response: Religion influences political behaviour through institutions and leaders, providing moral authority and mobilising communities. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may examine liberation theology in Latin America or the Catholic Church in Poland, assessing how religion both supports and resists political authority.

Basic response: Contemporary perspectives highlight intersections of class, race, and religion, while globalisation enables activism and creates tensions. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may evaluate how globalisation fosters transnational networks such as feminist or climate justice movements, while also provoking resistance from groups seeking to preserve local identities.

Answers to Pilot Questions 3

Part 3.1 Class and Political Behaviour

Class means divisions in society based on economic position, occupation, and access to resources.

Class influences political participation and representation by shaping interests and priorities.



Class conflict is the struggle between social classes over resources and power; an example is labour strikes.

Trade unions represent working-class interests.

The rise of socialist parties in Europe reflected working-class mobilisation.

Part 3.2 Race and Political Behaviour

Race is understood in political sociology as a social construct.

Race matters in political behaviour because it affects identity, representation, and mobilisation.

Racial inequality is unequal access to opportunities and rights based on race; an example is barriers to voting for minority groups.

Racial inequalities shape participation by limiting access to representation and policy influence.

The civil rights movement in the United States fought against segregation and discrimination.

Part 3.3 Religion and Political Behaviour

Religion is considered an analytical category because it influences identity, cohesion, and mobilisation.

Religious institutions influence political behaviour by mobilising communities and shaping policy debates.

Religious leaders provide moral authority and shape public opinion.

The Catholic Church in Poland resisted communist rule.

Liberation theology in Latin America linked religion with social justice.

Part 3.4 Contemporary Analytical Perspectives

Intersection means the overlap and interaction of identity categories such as class, race, and religion.

Class, race, and religion interact to produce unique political experiences of inclusion or exclusion.

Globalisation is the growing interconnectedness of societies through exchanges across borders.

Globalisation creates opportunities for movements by enabling transnational activism and solidarity.

Globalisation challenges local identities through cultural homogenisation and economic inequality.



References and Attributions 3

Figures

Figure 3.1 Class divisions and political concerns: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing working, middle, and upper classes connected to political issues like wages, taxation, and property rights.” Suggested search string: “class divisions political sociology diagram OER”.

Figure 3.2 Race as a social construct in political behaviour: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing race as a social construct influencing identity, representation, and mobilisation.” Suggested search string: “race social construct political sociology diagram OER”.

Figure 3.3 Religion as an analytical category in political behaviour: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing religion influencing identity, social cohesion, and political mobilisation.” Suggested search string: “religion political sociology diagram OER”.

Figure 3.4 Intersection of class, race, and religion: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a Venn diagram showing class, race, and religion overlapping, with the intersection labelled combined influence on political behaviour.” Suggested search string: “intersection class race religion political sociology diagram OER”.

Plates

Plate 3.1 Class-based mobilisation in political history: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of a historical labour protest with banners and workers gathered collectively.” Suggested search string: “labour protest socialist movement OER image”.

Plate 3.2 Racial justice mobilisation in political history: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of a civil rights march with banners and diverse participants.” Suggested search string: “civil rights movement protest OER image”.

Plate 3.3 Religion and political mobilisation in practice: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of a religious rally with banners advocating social justice.” Suggested search string: “religion and political mobilisation OER image”.

Boxes

Box 3.1 Examples of class conflict and mobilisation: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising examples of class conflict and mobilisation.” Suggested search string: “class conflict political mobilisation OER”.

Box 3.2 Examples of racial inequality in politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising examples of racial inequality in politics.” Suggested search string: “racial inequality political participation OER”.

Box 3.3 Roles of religious institutions in politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising roles of religious institutions in politics.” Suggested search string: “religious institutions political influence OER”.



Box 3.4 Contemporary perspectives on analytical categories: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising contemporary perspectives on analytical categories under globalisation.” Suggested search string: “globalisation analytical categories political sociology OER”.

General References

Crenshaw, K. (1989). *Demarginalising the intersection of race and sex: A Black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine*. University of Chicago Legal Forum.

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Smith, A. D. (1991). *National Identity*. Penguin Books.

Open Educational Resources (OER) repositories such as OER Commons and Wikimedia Commons were suggested for sourcing diagrams, images, and case study materials.



- **Course code: POL 408**
- **Course title: Political Sociology**
- **Course credit load: 2**

SERIES 4: Social Theories of Political Order

Main Parts (conforming to 2–4 guideline):

4.1 Classical Social Theories of Political Order

- 4.1.1 Hobbes and the social contract
- 4.1.2 Locke and liberal order
- 4.1.3 Rousseau and collective sovereignty

4.2 Modern Sociological Perspectives

- 4.2.1 Marx and class struggle
- 4.2.2 Weber and authority types
- 4.2.3 Durkheim and social cohesion

4.3 Contemporary Theories of Political Order

- 4.3.1 Postcolonial perspectives
- 4.3.2 Feminist critiques of political order
- 4.3.3 Globalisation and new forms of order

4.4 Comparative Applications of Social Theories

- 4.4.1 Case studies in democratic systems
- 4.4.2 Case studies in authoritarian systems
- 4.4.3 Relevance of theories in contemporary governance

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored analytical categories such as class, race, and religion, and examined how they shape political behaviour and mobilisation. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to social theories of political order, which provide the frameworks for understanding how societies organise authority, maintain stability, and respond to challenges. These theories are central to political sociology because they explain not only why political systems exist but also how they endure or change over time.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to classical, modern, and contemporary social theories of political order, and to equip you with the ability to apply these theories in analysing different political systems and governance structures.

We shall commence this Series by examining classical social theories, focusing on Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau and their contributions to the idea of political order. Next, we will move on



to modern sociological perspectives, considering Marx's theory of class struggle, Weber's types of authority, and Durkheim's emphasis on social cohesion. Following that, we will study contemporary theories, including postcolonial perspectives, feminist critiques, and the impact of globalisation on political order. Finally, we will wrap up by applying these theories comparatively, looking at case studies in democratic and authoritarian systems, and assessing their relevance to contemporary governance.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 4.1** explain classical social theories of political order, including Hobbes's social contract, Locke's liberal order, and Rousseau's collective sovereignty.
- SLO 4.2** analyse modern sociological perspectives on political order, focusing on Marx's theory of class struggle, Weber's types of authority, and Durkheim's emphasis on social cohesion.
- SLO 4.3** evaluate contemporary theories of political order, including postcolonial perspectives, feminist critiques, and the impact of globalisation.
- SLO 4.4** apply social theories comparatively to democratic and authoritarian systems, and assess their relevance to contemporary governance.

4.1 Classical Social Theories Of Political Order

4.1.1 Hobbes and the social contract

Social contract refers to the implicit agreement among individuals to surrender certain freedoms in exchange for security and order provided by a governing authority. For Hobbes, writing in *Leviathan* (1651), human beings in the state of nature lived in constant fear and conflict, described famously as “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” To escape this chaos, people agreed to form a political order under a sovereign with absolute authority.

Hobbes's theory highlights the importance of authority in maintaining peace and preventing disorder. Fill in the blank: Hobbes described life in the state of nature as “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and _____.”



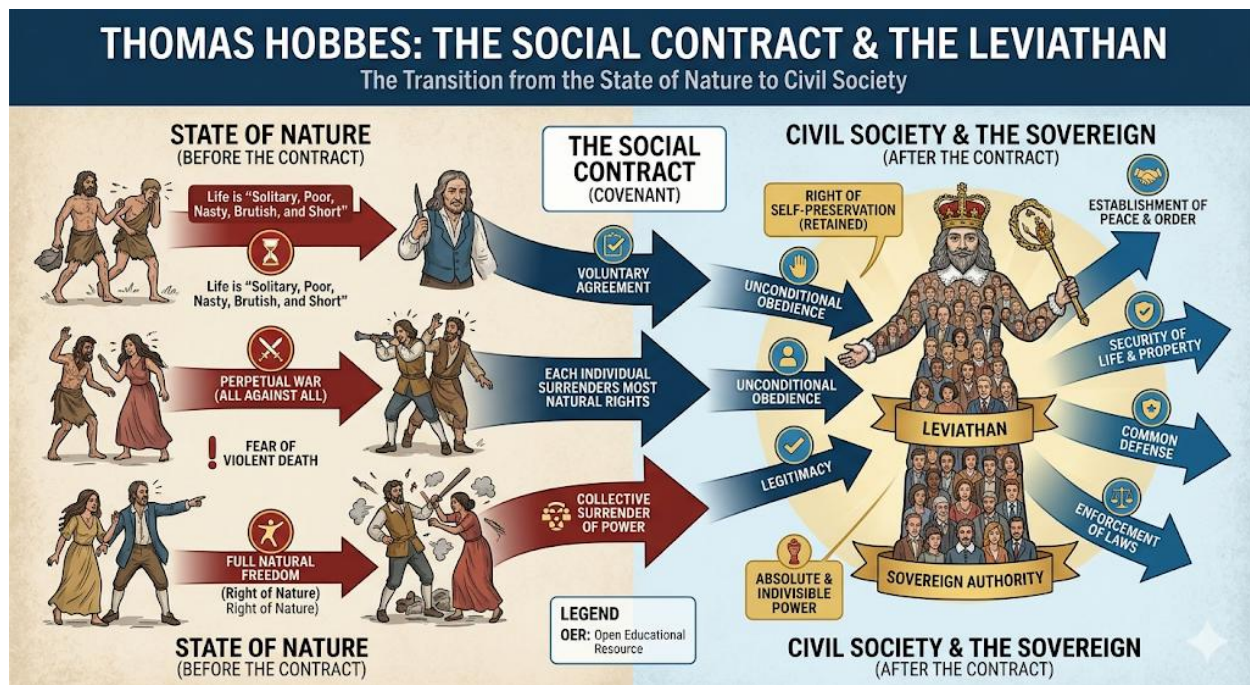


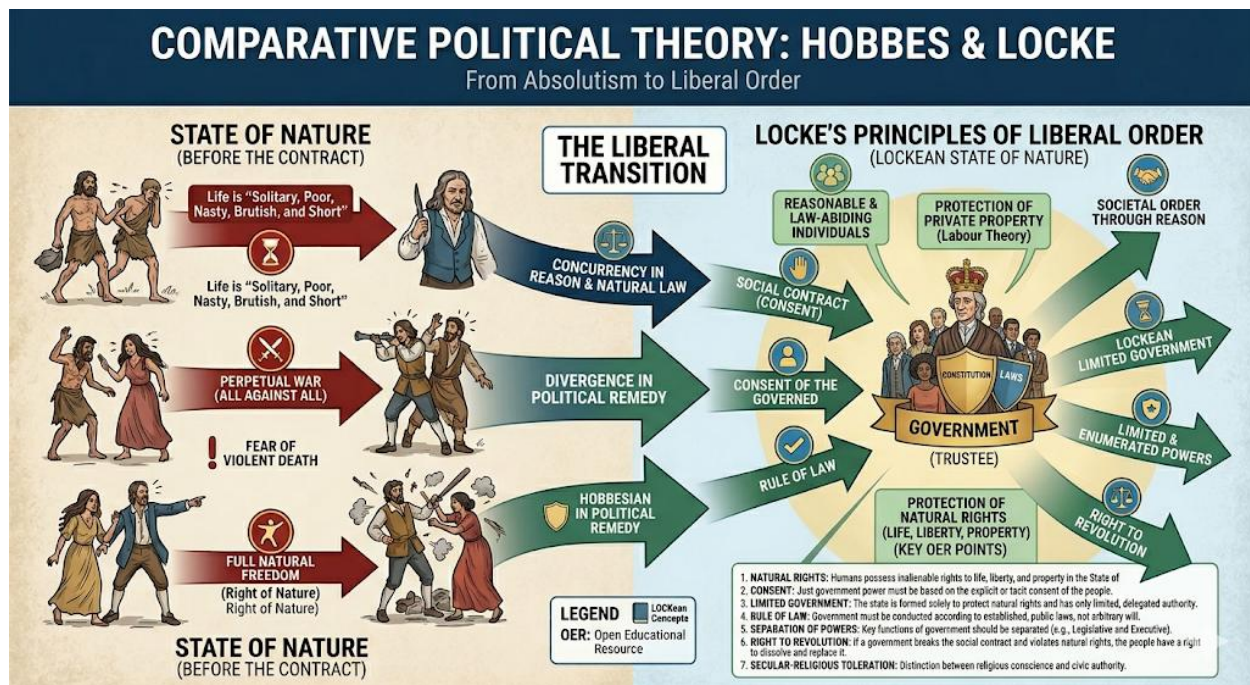
Diagram showing Hobbes's social contract: individuals surrender freedoms → sovereign authority → peace and order
Caption: Figure 4.1 Hobbes's view of the social contract

4.1.2 Locke and liberal order

Liberal order refers to a political system based on individual rights, limited government, and the rule of law. Locke argued in *Two Treatises of Government* (1690) that people in the state of nature possessed natural rights to life, liberty, and property. Unlike Hobbes, Locke believed that government should be limited and exist only to protect these rights.

Locke's ideas laid the foundation for constitutional democracy and influenced revolutions such as the American and French. Fill in the blank: Locke believed that government exists to protect natural rights to life, liberty, and _____.





Box 4.1: Key principles of Locke's liberal order

4.1.3 Rousseau and collective sovereignty

Collective sovereignty refers to the idea that legitimate political authority comes from the general will of the people. Rousseau, in *The Social Contract* (1762), argued that individuals achieve freedom not by surrendering rights to a ruler but by participating in collective decision-making. The general will represents the common interest, and laws should reflect this shared will.

Rousseau's theory emphasises democracy and participation, highlighting the role of citizens in shaping political order. Fill in the blank: Rousseau believed that legitimate authority comes from the general _____ of the people.



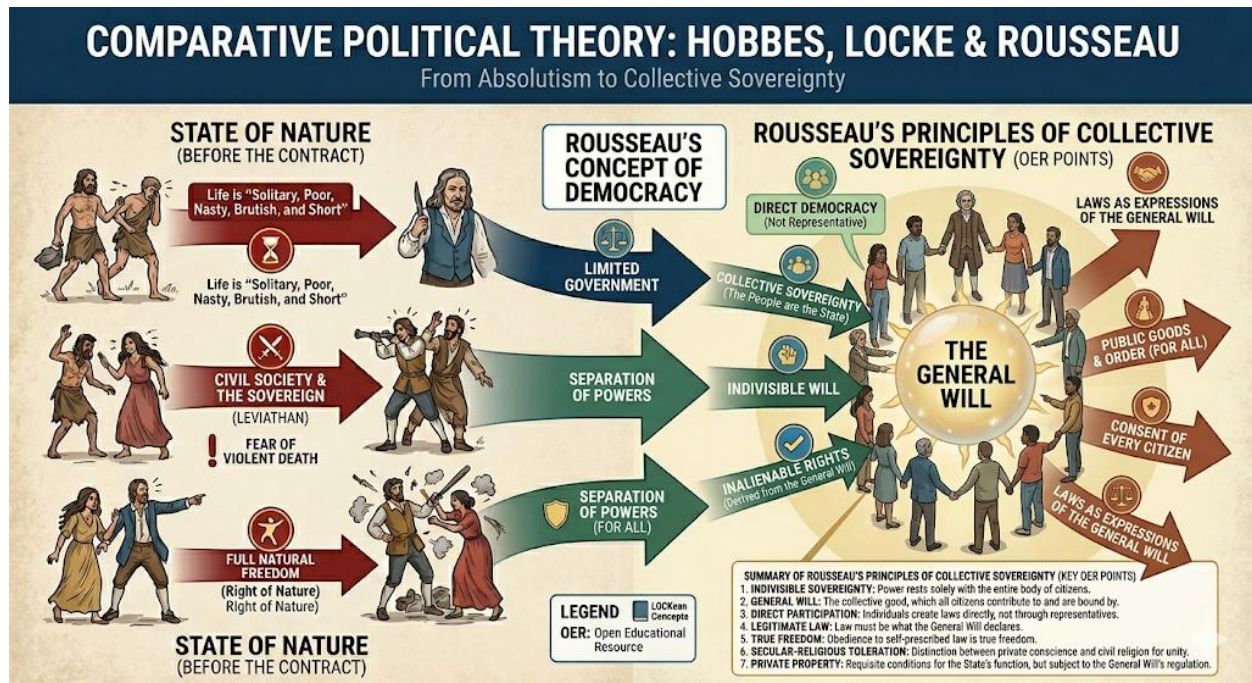


Image showing a public assembly or democratic gathering symbolising collective sovereignty
Caption: Plate 4.1 Rousseau's idea of collective sovereignty in practice

Pilot questions 4.1

What does Hobbes mean by the social contract?

How does Hobbes describe life in the state of nature?

What are Locke's natural rights, and how do they shape his idea of government?

How does Locke's view of government differ from Hobbes's?

What is Rousseau's concept of collective sovereignty, and how does it relate to democracy?

4.2 Modern Sociological Perspectives

4.2.1 Marx and class struggle

Class struggle refers to the ongoing conflict between social classes over resources, power, and control of production. Karl Marx argued that history is driven by this struggle, particularly between the bourgeoisie (owners of capital) and the proletariat (workers). For Marx, political order is shaped by economic structures, and true change comes through revolutionary transformation.

Marx's theory highlights how economic inequality influences political systems and behaviour. Fill in the blank: Marx believed that history is driven by the struggle between the bourgeoisie and the _____.



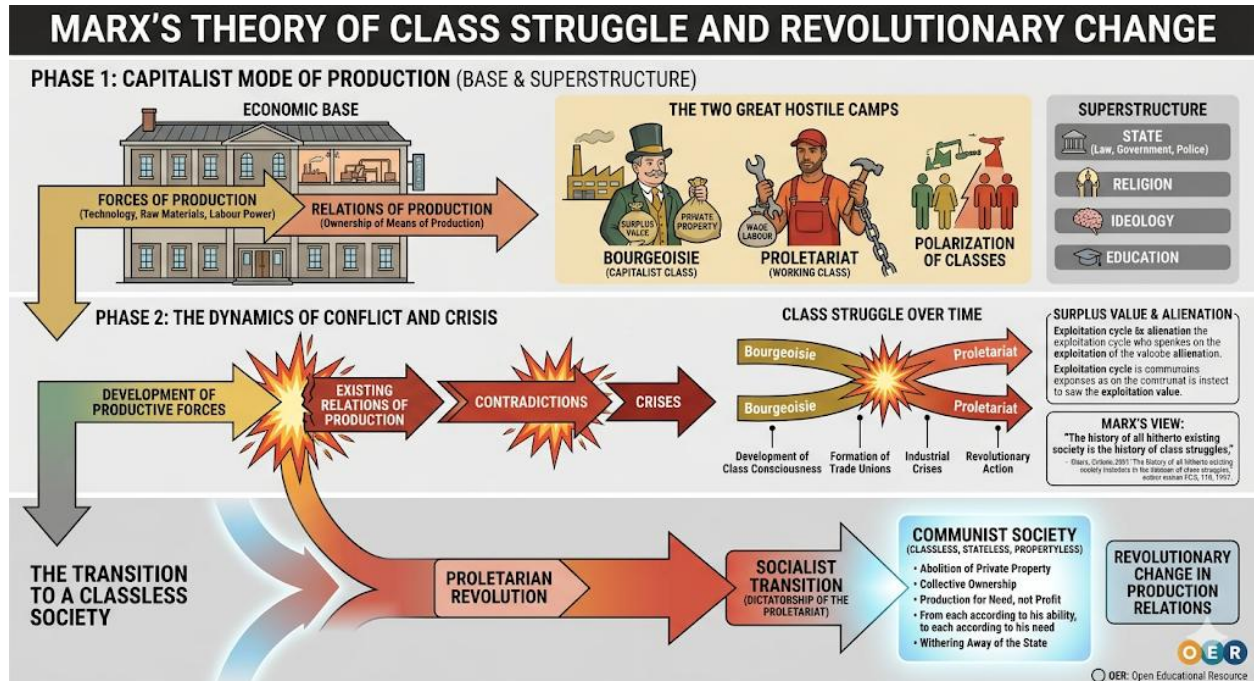


Diagram showing Marx's view of class struggle: bourgeoisie vs proletariat → conflict → revolutionary change
Caption: Figure 4.2 Marx's theory of class struggle

4.2.2 Weber and authority types

Authority types are categories identified by Max Weber to explain how legitimacy is established in political order. Weber distinguished three main types:

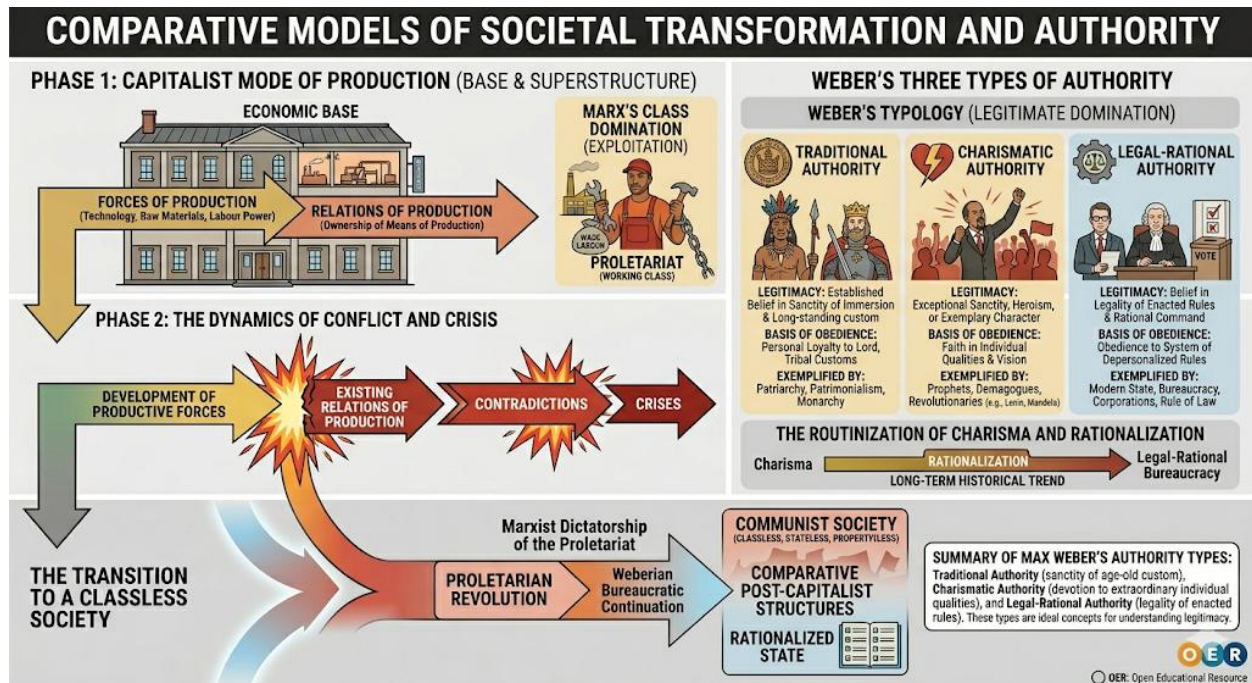
Traditional authority: based on customs and long-standing practices.

Charismatic authority: based on the personal qualities and leadership of an individual.

Legal-rational authority: based on rules, laws, and formal institutions.

These types help us understand why people obey leaders and institutions. Fill in the blank:
Weber's legal-rational authority is based on rules, laws, and formal _____.





Box 4.2: Weber's three types of authority

4.2.3 Durkheim and social cohesion

Social cohesion refers to the bonds that hold society together, enabling cooperation and stability. Émile Durkheim argued that political order depends on shared values, norms, and collective conscience. He distinguished between mechanical solidarity (based on similarity in traditional societies) and organic solidarity (based on interdependence in modern societies).

Durkheim's theory shows that political order is not only about authority but also about the moral and social ties that unite people. Fill in the blank: Durkheim distinguished between mechanical solidarity and _____ solidarity.



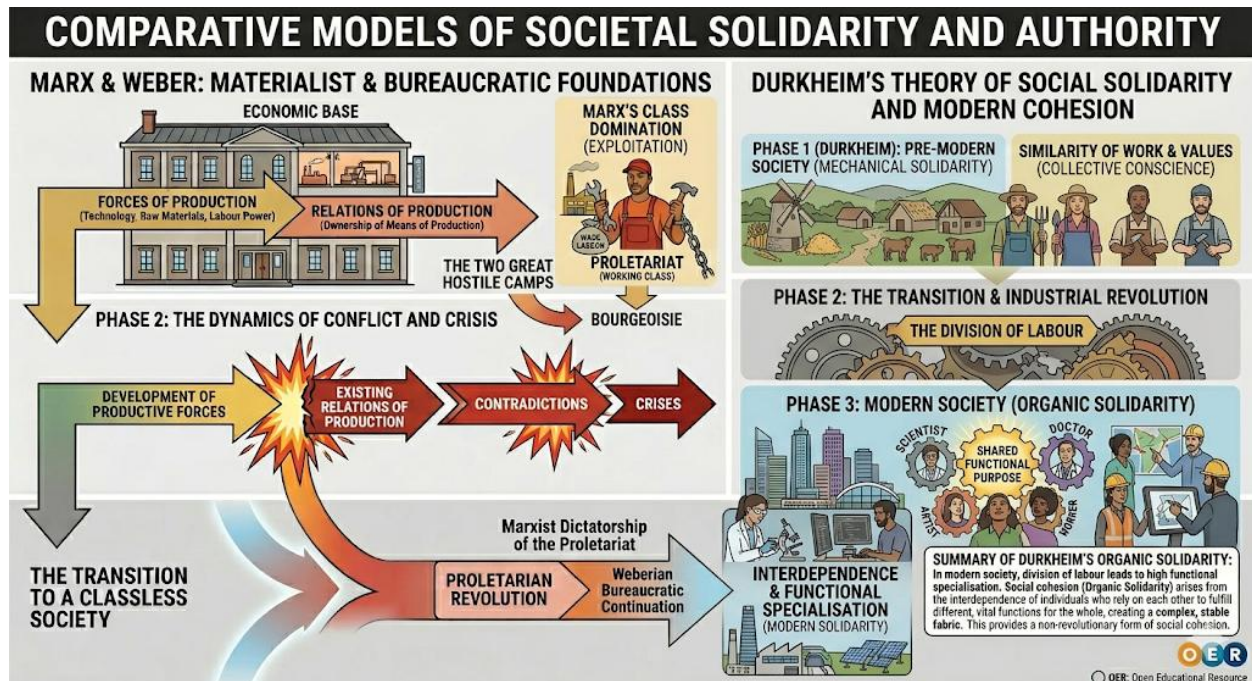


Image showing diverse individuals working together in a modern society, symbolising organic solidarity
Caption: Plate 4.2 Durkheim's concept of social cohesion in modern society

Pilot questions 4.2

- What does Marx mean by class struggle?
- Who are the bourgeoisie and the proletariat in Marx's theory?
- What are Weber's three types of authority?
- How does legal-rational authority differ from charismatic authority?
- What is Durkheim's concept of social cohesion, and how does it support political order?

4.3 Contemporary Theories Of Political Order

4.3.1 Postcolonial perspectives

Postcolonial perspectives examine how colonial histories continue to shape political order in formerly colonised societies. These theories highlight issues of dependency, identity, and inequality, showing how colonial legacies influence governance, economic structures, and cultural norms. Postcolonial scholars argue that political order in many regions cannot be understood without considering the impact of imperial domination and its aftermath.

Fill in the blank: Postcolonial perspectives emphasise how colonial _____ continue to shape political order in formerly colonised societies.



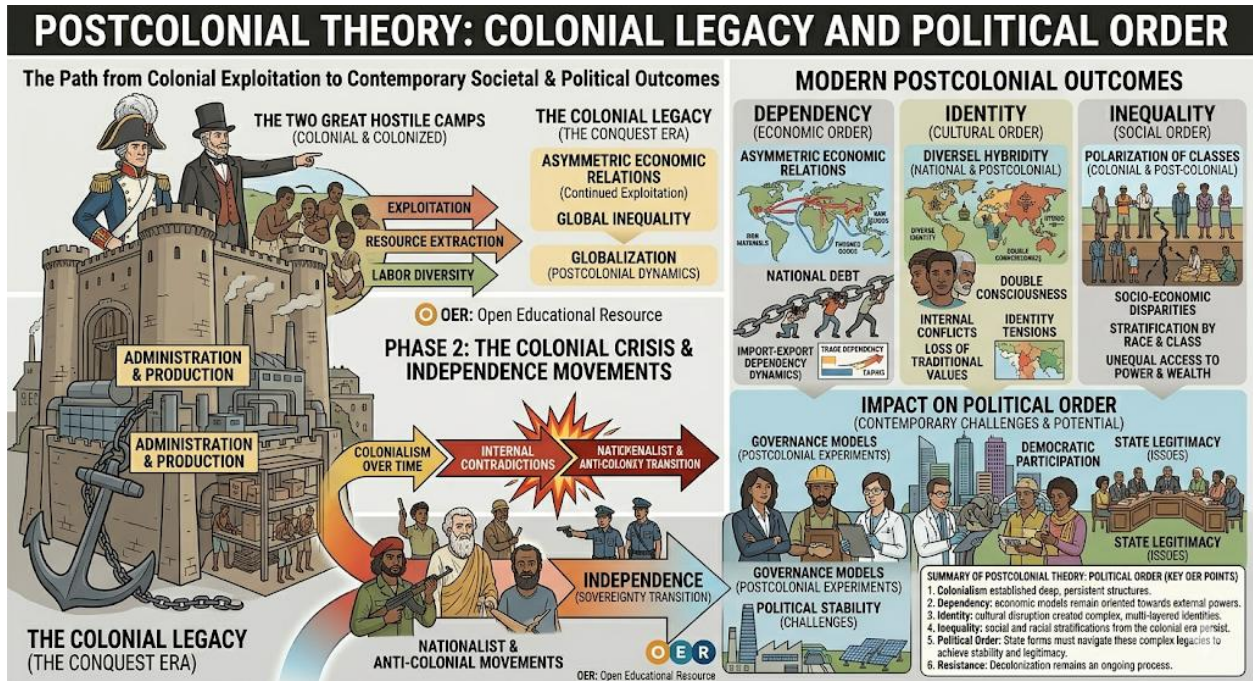


Diagram showing colonial legacy → dependency, identity, inequality → impact on political order
Caption: Figure 4.3 Postcolonial perspectives on political order

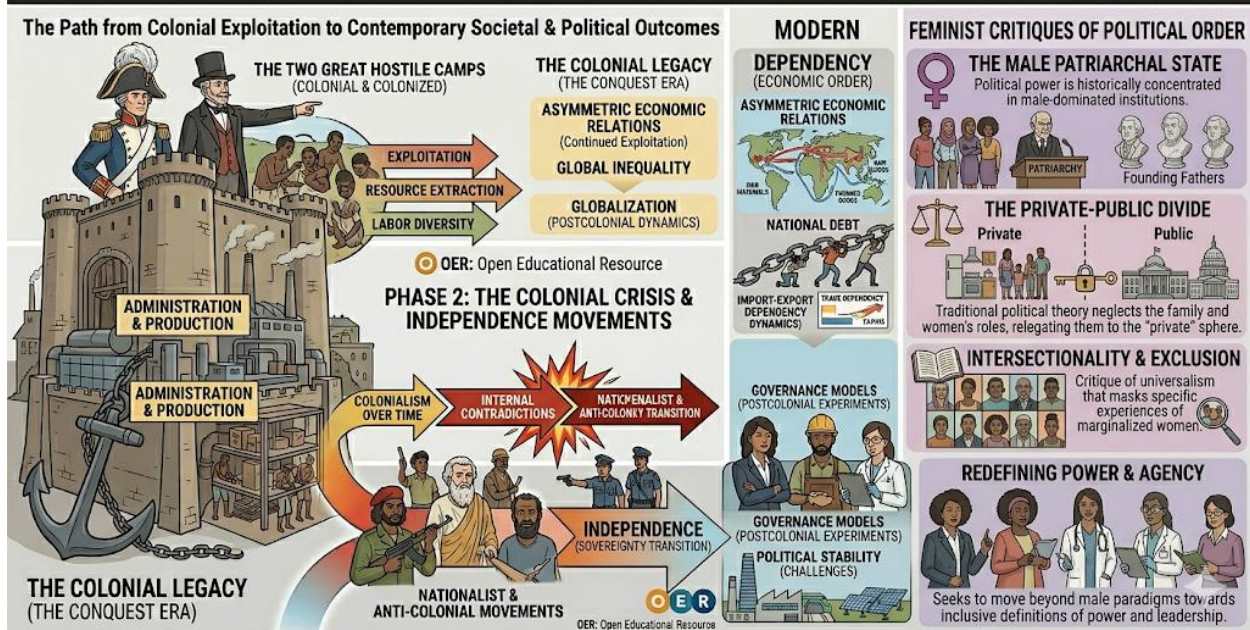
4.3.2 Feminist critiques of political order

Feminist critiques challenge traditional theories of political order by highlighting gender inequalities and the exclusion of women from political participation. These perspectives argue that political systems often reinforce patriarchal structures, limiting representation and rights. Feminist theorists call for inclusive governance that recognises the role of women and other marginalised groups in shaping political life.

Fill in the blank: Feminist critiques argue that political systems often reinforce _____ structures.



POSTCOLONIAL & FEMINIST THEORY: LEGACIES AND CRITIQUES OF POLITICAL ORDER



Box 4.3: Key themes in feminist critiques of political order

4.3.3 Globalisation and new forms of order

Globalisation refers to the interconnectedness of societies through economic, cultural, and political exchanges. Contemporary theories argue that globalisation reshapes political order by creating transnational institutions, networks, and movements. While it enables cooperation and solidarity across borders, it also generates tensions as local identities resist perceived cultural homogenisation and economic inequality.

Fill in the blank: Globalisation reshapes political order by creating _____ institutions, networks, and movements.



POSTCOLONIAL, FEMINIST, & GLOBALIZATION THEORY: LEGACIES AND CRITIQUES OF POLITICAL ORDER

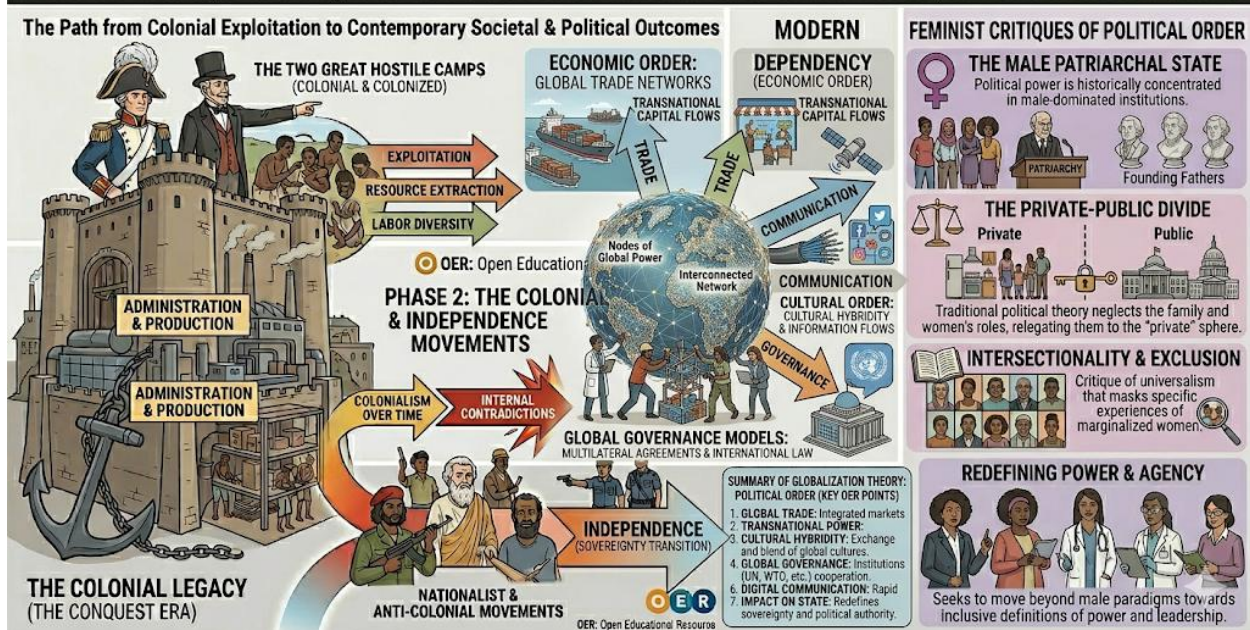


Image showing interconnected globe with symbols of trade, communication, and governance

Caption: Plate 4.3 Globalisation and new forms of political order

Pilot questions 4.3

What do postcolonial perspectives emphasise about political order?

How do feminist critiques challenge traditional theories of political order?

What are the key themes in feminist critiques of governance?

How does globalisation reshape political order?

What tensions arise from globalisation in relation to local identities?

4.4 Comparative Applications Of Social Theories

4.4.1 Case studies in democratic systems

Democratic systems are political orders based on popular participation, representation, and accountability. Applying social theories helps us understand how democracy is maintained and challenged. For example, Locke's liberal order underpins constitutional democracy, Rousseau's collective sovereignty supports participatory governance, and Durkheim's social cohesion explains the moral bonds that sustain democratic institutions.

Fill in the blank: Locke's liberal order underpins _____ democracy by emphasising rights and limited government.



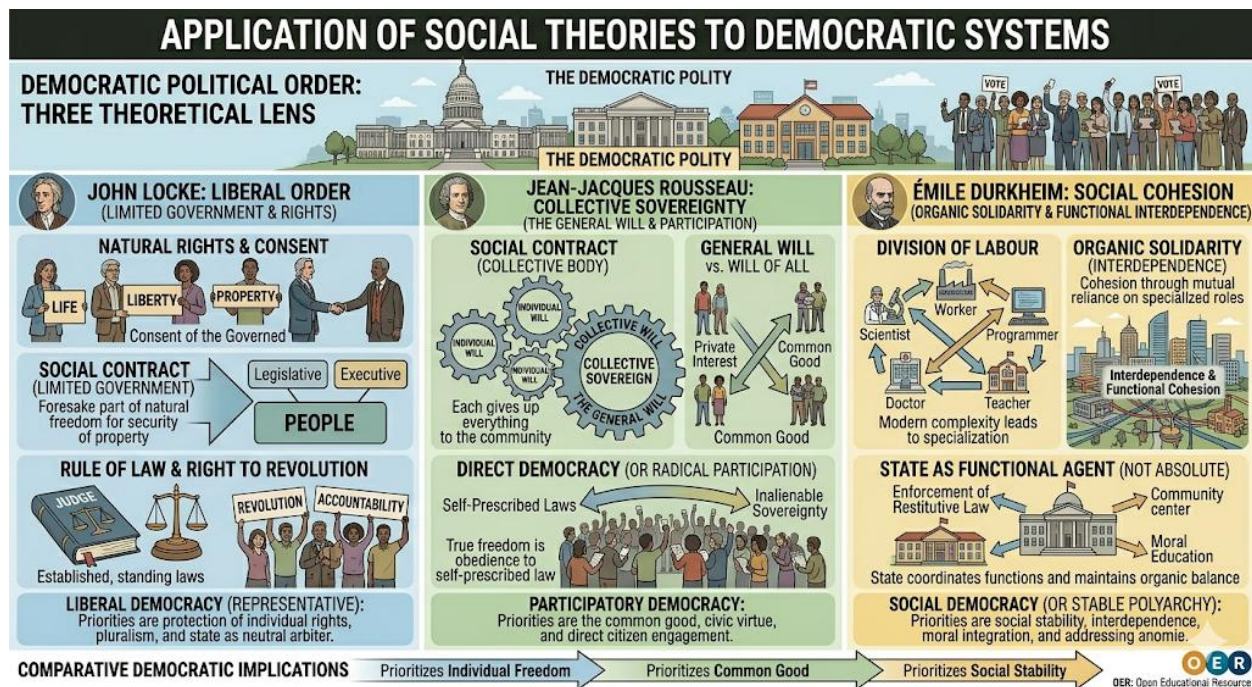


Diagram showing application of Locke, Rousseau, and Durkheim to democratic systems

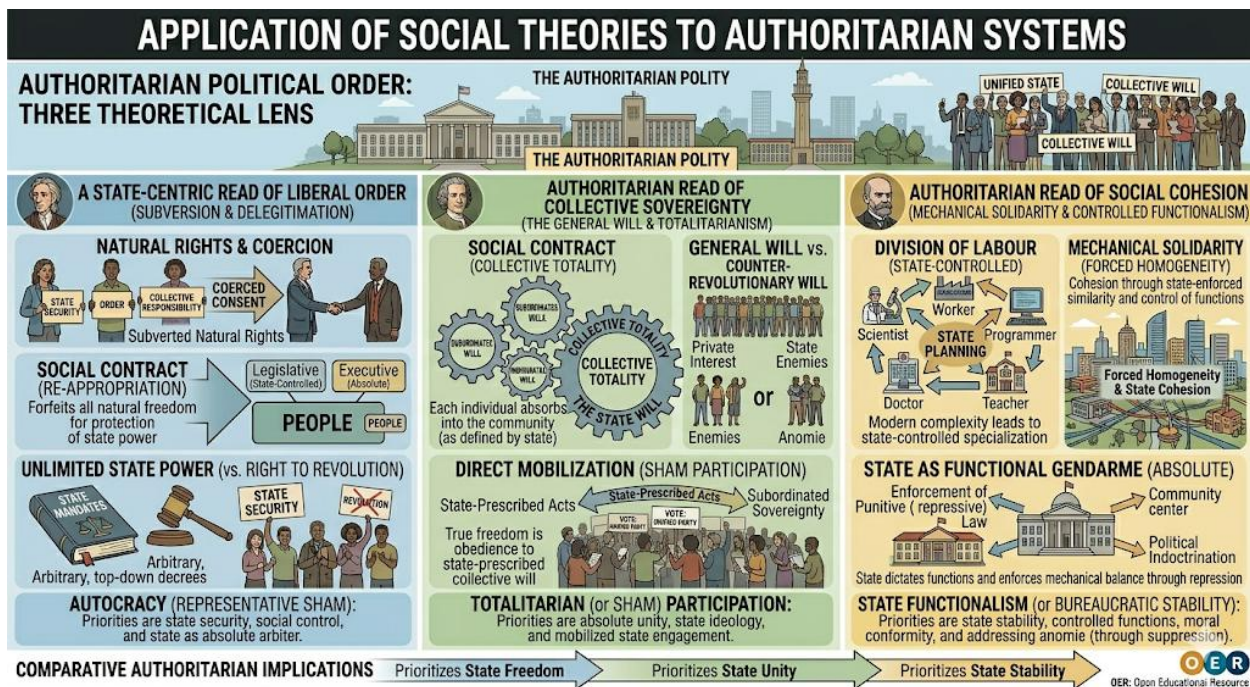
Caption: Figure 4.4 Application of social theories in democratic systems

4.4.2 Case studies in authoritarian systems

Authoritarian systems are political orders where power is concentrated in a single authority or small elite, with limited participation and accountability. Hobbes's emphasis on strong sovereign authority can be applied to explain why authoritarian regimes maintain order through control. Weber's concept of charismatic authority also helps explain how leaders consolidate power in such systems.

Fill in the blank: Weber's concept of _____ authority helps explain how leaders consolidate power in authoritarian systems.





Box 4.4: Social theories applied to authoritarian systems

4.4.3 Relevance of theories in contemporary governance

Contemporary governance refers to the structures and processes by which societies are managed today, often combining democratic principles with global influences. Social theories remain relevant because they provide tools to analyse authority, participation, and cohesion. For instance, globalisation challenges traditional sovereignty, feminist critiques demand inclusivity, and postcolonial perspectives highlight historical inequalities.

Fill in the blank: Postcolonial perspectives highlight historical _____ that continue to shape contemporary governance.



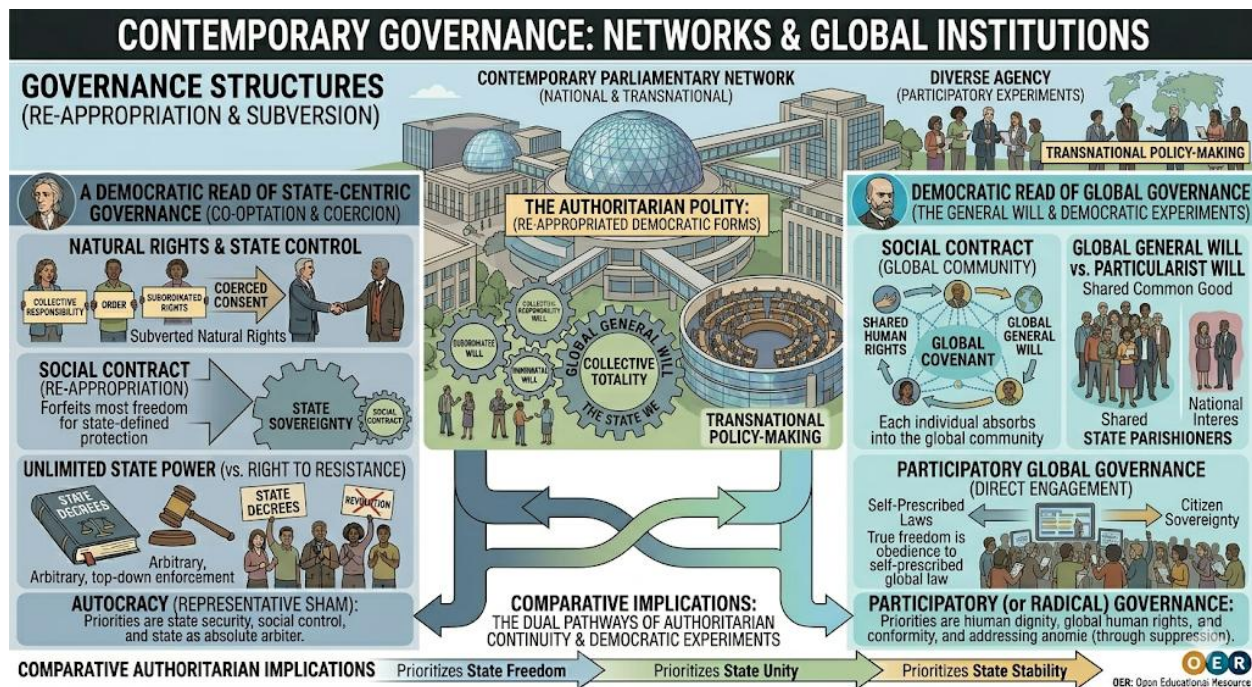


Image showing a modern parliament or international organisation symbolising contemporary governance
Caption: Plate 4.4 Relevance of social theories in contemporary governance

Pilot questions 4.4

- How do Locke, Rousseau, and Durkheim's theories apply to democratic systems?
- What role does Hobbes's sovereign authority play in authoritarian systems?
- How does Weber's concept of charismatic authority explain leadership in authoritarian regimes?
- Why are social theories still relevant in contemporary governance?
- Which contemporary perspectives challenge traditional theories of political order?

Series Summary

This Series has explored social theories of political order, showing how different thinkers and perspectives explain the organisation of authority, stability, and governance. We began with classical theories, examining Hobbes's social contract, Locke's liberal order, and Rousseau's collective sovereignty. We then moved on to modern sociological perspectives, considering Marx's theory of class struggle, Weber's types of authority, and Durkheim's emphasis on social cohesion. Following that, we studied contemporary theories, including postcolonial perspectives, feminist critiques, and the impact of globalisation. Finally, we applied these theories comparatively to democratic and authoritarian systems, and assessed their relevance to contemporary governance.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to explain classical theories of political order (SLO 4.1), analyse modern sociological perspectives (SLO 4.2), evaluate contemporary theories



including postcolonial and feminist critiques (SLO 4.3), and apply these frameworks to different political systems while assessing their relevance today (SLO 4.4). These outcomes provide you with a strong theoretical foundation and practical tools for understanding how political order is created, maintained, and transformed across diverse contexts.

Glossary of Terms

Authoritarian systems: Political orders where power is concentrated in a single authority or small elite, with limited participation and accountability.

Charismatic authority: A type of authority identified by Max Weber, based on the personal qualities and leadership of an individual.

Class struggle: The ongoing conflict between social classes over resources, power, and control of production, central to Karl Marx's theory of history.

Collective sovereignty: Rousseau's idea that legitimate political authority comes from the general will of the people, expressed through collective decision-making.

Democratic systems: Political orders based on popular participation, representation, and accountability, often linked to Locke's liberal order and Rousseau's collective sovereignty.

Feminist critiques: Perspectives that challenge traditional theories of political order by highlighting gender inequalities and patriarchal structures in governance.

Globalisation: The interconnectedness of societies through economic, cultural, and political exchanges, reshaping political order by creating transnational institutions and networks.

Legal-rational authority: A type of authority identified by Weber, based on rules, laws, and formal institutions.

Liberal order: Locke's theory of political order based on natural rights, limited government, and the rule of law.

Mechanical solidarity: Durkheim's concept of social cohesion in traditional societies, based on similarity and shared values.

Organic solidarity: Durkheim's concept of social cohesion in modern societies, based on interdependence and specialised roles.

Postcolonial perspectives: Theories that examine how colonial histories and legacies continue to shape political order in formerly colonised societies.

Social cohesion: The bonds that hold society together, enabling cooperation and stability, emphasised by Durkheim.

Social contract: Hobbes's idea of an implicit agreement among individuals to surrender certain freedoms in exchange for security and order under a sovereign authority.

Traditional authority: A type of authority identified by Weber, based on customs and long-standing practices.



Concept Check Questions 4

Objective questions

Hobbes argued that people surrender freedoms to a sovereign in exchange for _____. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

(Linked to SLO 4.1)

Locke believed that government exists to protect natural rights to life, liberty, and _____. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

(Linked to SLO 4.1)

Rousseau's concept of collective sovereignty is based on the general _____ of the people. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

(Linked to SLO 4.1)

Marx described history as driven by class _____. (Linked to SLO 4.2)

Weber's three types of authority are traditional, charismatic, and _____-rational. (Linked to SLO 4.2)

Durkheim distinguished between mechanical solidarity and _____ solidarity. (Linked to SLO 4.2)

Short-answer questions

Define Hobbes's social contract and explain its purpose. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

What are Locke's natural rights, and how do they shape his idea of government? (Linked to SLO 4.1)

Explain Rousseau's concept of collective sovereignty. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

Who are the bourgeoisie and the proletariat in Marx's theory? (Linked to SLO 4.2)

What are Weber's three types of authority, and how do they differ? (Linked to SLO 4.2)

How does Durkheim's concept of social cohesion support political order? (Linked to SLO 4.2)

What do postcolonial perspectives emphasise about political order? (Linked to SLO 4.3)

How do feminist critiques challenge traditional theories of political order? (Linked to SLO 4.3)

How does globalisation reshape political order? (Linked to SLO 4.3)

Why are social theories still relevant in contemporary governance? (Linked to SLO 4.4)

Long-answer questions

Analyse Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau's contributions to classical theories of political order. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

Evaluate Marx, Weber, and Durkheim's perspectives on political order, highlighting their differences and similarities. (Linked to SLO 4.2)

Examine contemporary theories of political order, focusing on postcolonial perspectives, feminist critiques, and globalisation. (Linked to SLO 4.3)



Assess the application of social theories to democratic and authoritarian systems, and explain their relevance to contemporary governance. (Linked to SLO 4.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions 4

Objective questions

Security

Property

Will

Struggle

Legal

Organic

Short-answer questions

Hobbes's social contract is the agreement by which individuals surrender certain freedoms to a sovereign authority in exchange for peace and order.

Locke's natural rights are life, liberty, and property. They shape his idea of government by requiring it to protect these rights.

Rousseau's collective sovereignty is the belief that legitimate authority comes from the general will of the people expressed through collective decision-making.

The bourgeoisie are the owners of capital, while the proletariat are the workers.

Weber's three types of authority are traditional (based on customs), charismatic (based on personal qualities), and legal-rational (based on rules and institutions).

Durkheim's concept of social cohesion supports political order by emphasising shared values and collective conscience, which bind society together.

Postcolonial perspectives emphasise how colonial legacies continue to shape governance, identity, and inequality in formerly colonised societies.

Feminist critiques challenge traditional theories by highlighting gender inequality and patriarchal structures in political systems.

Globalisation reshapes political order by creating transnational institutions, networks, and movements, while also generating tensions with local identities.

Social theories remain relevant because they provide tools to analyse authority, participation, and cohesion in contemporary governance.

Long-answer questions

Basic response: Hobbes emphasised sovereign authority for security, Locke stressed natural rights and limited government, and Rousseau highlighted collective sovereignty through the general will. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may compare their views on human



nature and authority, noting how Hobbes justified absolute rule, Locke influenced constitutional democracy, and Rousseau promoted participatory governance.

Basic response: Marx focused on class struggle, Weber identified authority types, and Durkheim emphasised social cohesion. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may contrast Marx's economic determinism with Weber's emphasis on legitimacy, and show how Durkheim's solidarity complements or challenges these perspectives.

Basic response: Contemporary theories include postcolonial perspectives on colonial legacies, feminist critiques of gender inequality, and globalisation's impact on political order. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may provide case studies, such as postcolonial governance in Africa, feminist movements for representation, and global institutions like the UN reshaping sovereignty.

Basic response: Social theories apply to democratic systems through Locke, Rousseau, and Durkheim, and to authoritarian systems through Hobbes and Weber. They remain relevant in analysing governance today. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may assess how theories explain both stability and resistance, and evaluate their usefulness in contexts such as contemporary democracies, authoritarian regimes, and global governance challenges.

Answers to Pilot Questions 4

Part 4.1 Classical Social Theories of Political Order

Hobbes means the social contract is an agreement where individuals surrender freedoms to a sovereign in exchange for security and order.

He described life in the state of nature as “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

Locke's natural rights are life, liberty, and property, which shape his idea of limited government.

Locke's view differs from Hobbes's because he emphasised limited government and protection of rights rather than absolute authority.

Rousseau's concept of collective sovereignty is that legitimate authority comes from the general will of the people, linked to democracy.

Part 4.2 Modern Sociological Perspectives

Marx means class struggle is the conflict between social classes over resources and power.

The bourgeoisie are capital owners, and the proletariat are workers.

Weber's three types of authority are traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational.

Legal-rational authority is based on rules and institutions, while charismatic authority depends on personal qualities of leaders.

Durkheim's concept of social cohesion supports political order through shared values and solidarity.



Part 4.3 Contemporary Theories of Political Order

Postcolonial perspectives emphasise how colonial legacies shape governance, identity, and inequality.

Feminist critiques challenge traditional theories by highlighting gender inequality and exclusion.

Key themes include patriarchal structures, lack of representation, and calls for inclusivity.

Globalisation reshapes political order by creating transnational institutions and networks.

Tensions arise as local identities resist cultural homogenisation and economic inequality.

Part 4.4 Comparative Applications of Social Theories

Locke's liberal order, Rousseau's collective sovereignty, and Durkheim's social cohesion apply to democratic systems by supporting rights, participation, and moral bonds.

Hobbes's sovereign authority explains how authoritarian systems maintain order through control.

Weber's charismatic authority explains how leaders consolidate power in authoritarian regimes.

Social theories are still relevant because they provide tools to analyse authority, participation, and cohesion in governance.

Contemporary perspectives such as postcolonial and feminist critiques challenge traditional theories by addressing inequality and inclusivity.

References and Attributions 4

Figures

Figure 4.1 Hobbes's view of the social contract: AI-generated using the prompt "Create a diagram showing Hobbes's social contract with individuals surrendering freedoms to a sovereign authority for peace and order." Suggested search string: "Hobbes social contract diagram OER".

Figure 4.2 Marx's theory of class struggle: AI-generated using the prompt "Create a diagram showing Marx's view of class struggle between bourgeoisie and proletariat leading to revolutionary change." Suggested search string: "Marx class struggle diagram OER".

Figure 4.3 Postcolonial perspectives on political order: AI-generated using the prompt "Create a diagram showing colonial legacy leading to dependency, identity, and inequality, and their impact on political order." Suggested search string: "postcolonial theory political order diagram OER".

Figure 4.4 Application of social theories in democratic systems: AI-generated using the prompt "Create a diagram showing Locke's liberal order, Rousseau's collective



sovereignty, and Durkheim's social cohesion applied to democratic systems." Suggested search string: "application of social theories democracy OER diagram".

Plates

Plate 4.1 Rousseau's idea of collective sovereignty in practice: AI-generated using the prompt "Generate an image of a public assembly or democratic gathering symbolising Rousseau's collective sovereignty." Suggested search string: "Rousseau general will democracy OER image".

Plate 4.2 Durkheim's concept of social cohesion in modern society: AI-generated using the prompt "Generate an image of diverse individuals working together in a modern society symbolising organic solidarity." Suggested search string: "Durkheim social cohesion solidarity OER image".

Plate 4.3 Globalisation and new forms of political order: AI-generated using the prompt "Generate an image of an interconnected globe with symbols of trade, communication, and governance to represent globalisation." Suggested search string: "globalisation political order OER image".

Plate 4.4 Relevance of social theories in contemporary governance: AI-generated using the prompt "Generate an image of a modern parliament or international organisation symbolising contemporary governance." Suggested search string: "contemporary governance political sociology OER image".

Boxes

Box 4.1 Key principles of Locke's liberal order: AI-generated using the prompt "Generate a text box summarising Locke's principles of liberal order." Suggested search string: "Locke liberal order political theory OER".

Box 4.2 Weber's three types of authority: AI-generated using the prompt "Generate a text box summarising Weber's three types of authority." Suggested search string: "Weber authority types political sociology OER".

Box 4.3 Key themes in feminist critiques of political order: AI-generated using the prompt "Generate a text box summarising feminist critiques of political order." Suggested search string: "feminist political theory critiques OER".

Box 4.4 Social theories applied to authoritarian systems: AI-generated using the prompt "Generate a text box summarising applications of social theories to authoritarian systems." Suggested search string: "authoritarian systems political sociology OER".

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hooks, b. (1984). *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*. South End Press.

Smith, A. D. (1991). *National Identity*. Penguin Books.

Open Educational Resources (OER) repositories such as OER Commons and Wikimedia Commons were suggested for sourcing diagrams, images, and case study materials.



- **Course code: POL 408**
- **Course title: Political Sociology**
- **Course credit load: 2**

SERIES 5: Race, Gender, Ethnicity, Religion, and Ideology

Main Parts (conforming to 2–4 guideline):

5.1 Race, Ethnicity, and Political Behaviour

- 5.1.1 Race as a social construct in politics
- 5.1.2 Ethnicity and identity politics
- 5.1.3 Case studies of racial and ethnic mobilisation

5.2 Gender and Political Participation

- 5.2.1 Feminist perspectives on political order
- 5.2.2 Gender inequality in representation
- 5.2.3 Women's movements and political change

5.3 Religion and Ideology in Political Life

- 5.3.1 Religion as a source of political mobilisation
- 5.3.2 Ideology as a framework for political order
- 5.3.3 Case studies of religion and ideology in governance

5.4 Intersections and Contemporary Challenges

- 5.4.1 Intersectionality of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology
- 5.4.2 Globalisation and identity politics
- 5.4.3 Contemporary debates on inclusivity and representation

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined social theories of political order and explored how thinkers such as Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Weber, and Durkheim explained authority, cohesion, and governance. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to the role of identity and belief systems in shaping political life. Race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology are not only categories of identity but also powerful forces that influence participation, representation, and mobilisation. Understanding these dimensions is essential for grasping how political behaviour and structures are formed and contested.



The aim of this Series is to equip you with the knowledge to analyse how race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology interact with political systems, and to help you evaluate their impact on inclusivity, representation, and contemporary challenges in governance.

We shall commence this Series by exploring race and ethnicity, focusing on how they function as social constructs and how they shape identity politics and mobilisation. Next, we will move on to gender and political participation, considering feminist perspectives, inequalities in representation, and the role of women's movements in driving change. Following that, we will examine religion and ideology, looking at how they serve as sources of mobilisation and frameworks for political order, supported by case studies. Finally, we will wrap up by addressing intersections and contemporary challenges, highlighting how race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology overlap, and how globalisation and debates on inclusivity continue to reshape political life today.

Series Learning Outcomes 5

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 5.1** explain how race and ethnicity function as social constructs in politics, and analyse their role in identity politics and mobilisation.
- SLO 5.2** evaluate feminist perspectives on political order, identify gender inequalities in representation, and assess the impact of women's movements on political change.
- SLO 5.3** examine the role of religion and ideology in political life, including their capacity to mobilise communities and shape governance structures.
- SLO 5.4** apply the concept of intersectionality to race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology, and critically assess contemporary challenges such as globalisation and debates on inclusivity.

5.1 Race, Ethnicity, And Political Behaviour

5.1.1 Race as a social construct in politics

Race refers to socially constructed categories based on perceived physical differences, often used historically to classify and differentiate groups. In politics, race influences identity, representation, and mobilisation. Scholars emphasise that race is not a biological reality but a social construct that shapes access to power and resources. Political behaviour is often affected by how societies define and respond to racial categories.

Fill in the blank: Race is not a biological reality but a _____ construct that influences political behaviour.



SOCIAL THEORIES & POLITICAL ORDER: RACE, COGNITION, & MOBILIZATION

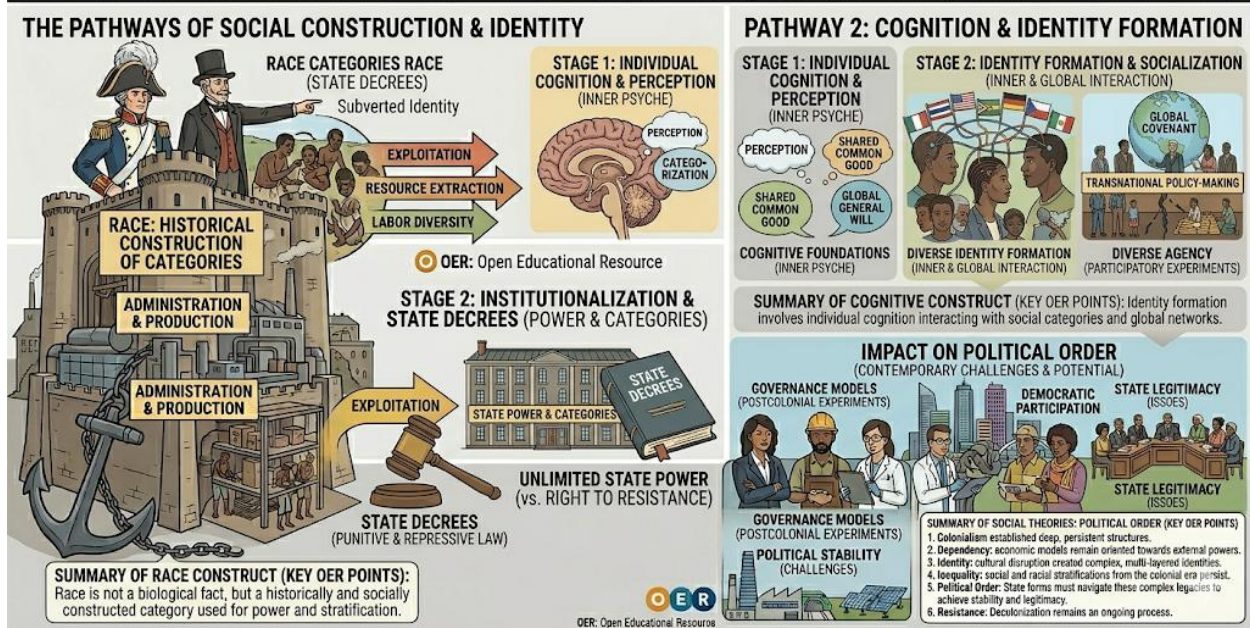


Diagram showing race as a social construct → identity formation → political mobilisation

Caption: Figure 5.1 Race as a social construct in politics

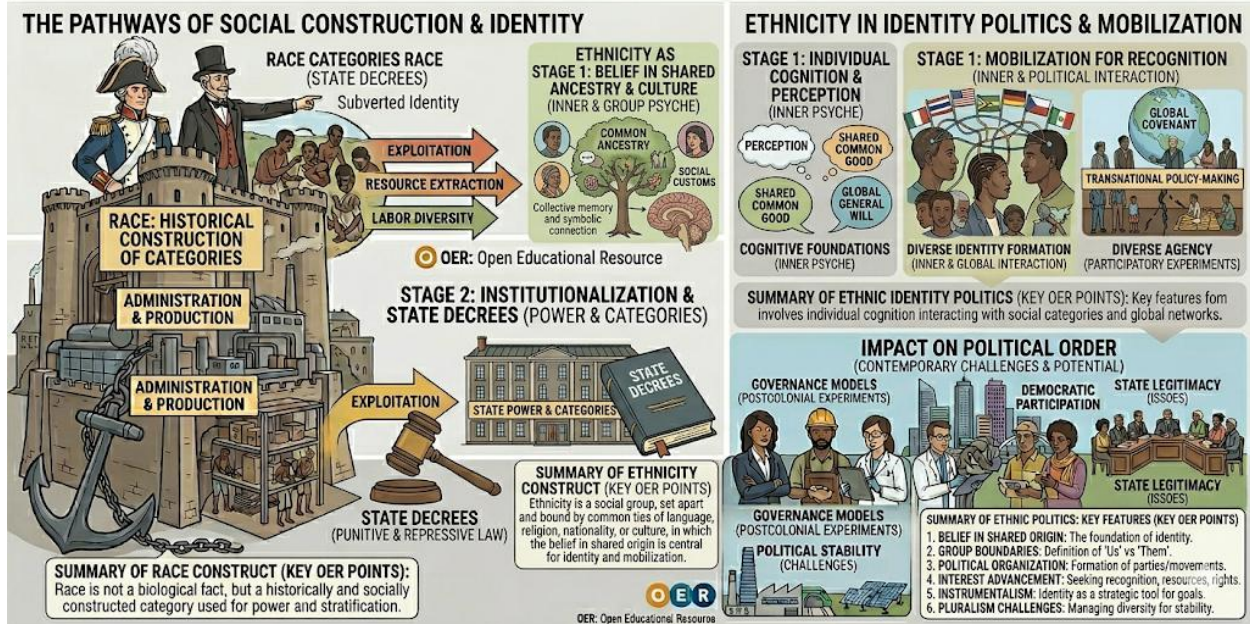
5.1.2 Ethnicity and identity politics

Ethnicity refers to shared cultural traits such as language, traditions, and ancestry that bind groups together. In politics, ethnicity often becomes a basis for **identity politics**, where groups mobilise around shared identity to demand recognition, rights, or resources. Ethnic mobilisation can strengthen democratic participation but may also lead to division if exploited by elites.

Fill in the blank: Ethnicity refers to shared cultural traits such as language, traditions, and _____.



SOCIAL THEORIES & POLITICAL ORDER: RACE, ETHNICITY, COGNITION, & MOBILIZATION



Box 5.1: Key features of ethnicity in politics

5.1.3 Case studies of racial and ethnic mobilisation

Racial and ethnic mobilisation occurs when groups organise collectively to influence political outcomes. Examples include the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, which challenged racial segregation, and ethnic-based parties in Africa, which mobilise support around cultural identity. These case studies show both the empowering and divisive potential of race and ethnicity in politics.

Fill in the blank: The Civil Rights Movement in the United States challenged racial _____ and demanded equality.



SOCIAL THEORIES & POLITICAL ORDER: RACE, ETHNICITY, MOBILIZATION & CIVIL RIGHTS

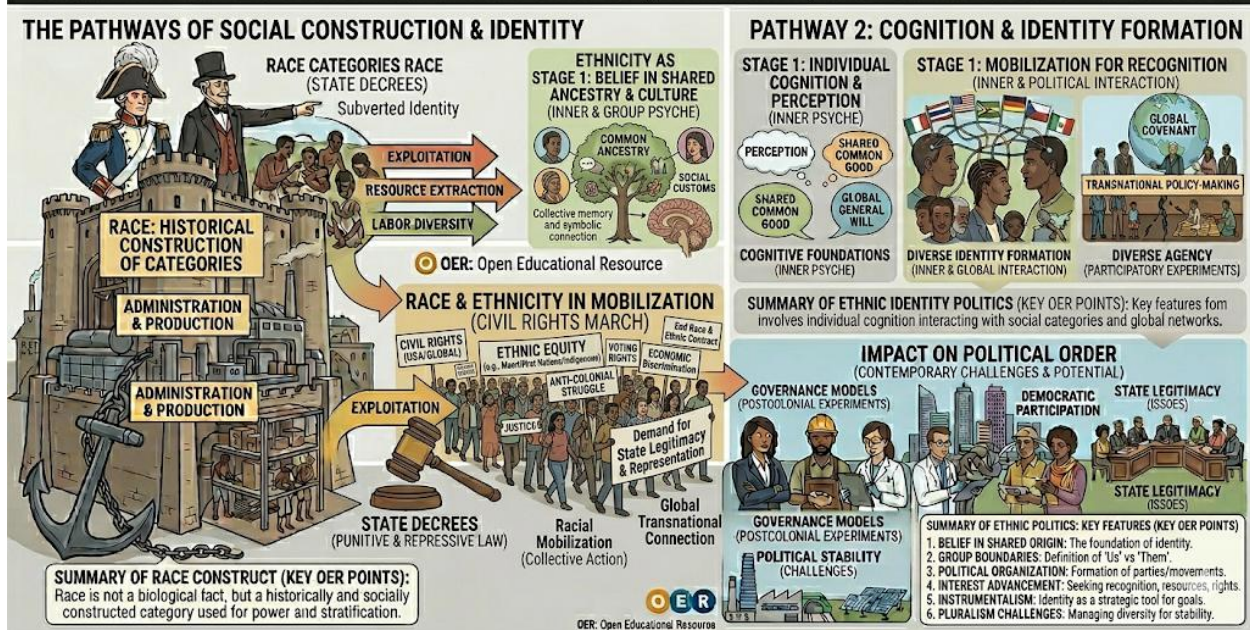


Image showing a civil rights march or ethnic political rally Caption: Plate 5.1 Case studies of racial and ethnic mobilisation

Pilot questions 5.1

- What does it mean to say race is a social construct?
- How does race influence political behaviour?
- What is ethnicity, and how does it differ from race?
- How does identity politics emerge from ethnicity?
- Give one example of racial or ethnic mobilisation in politics.

5.2 Gender And Political Participation

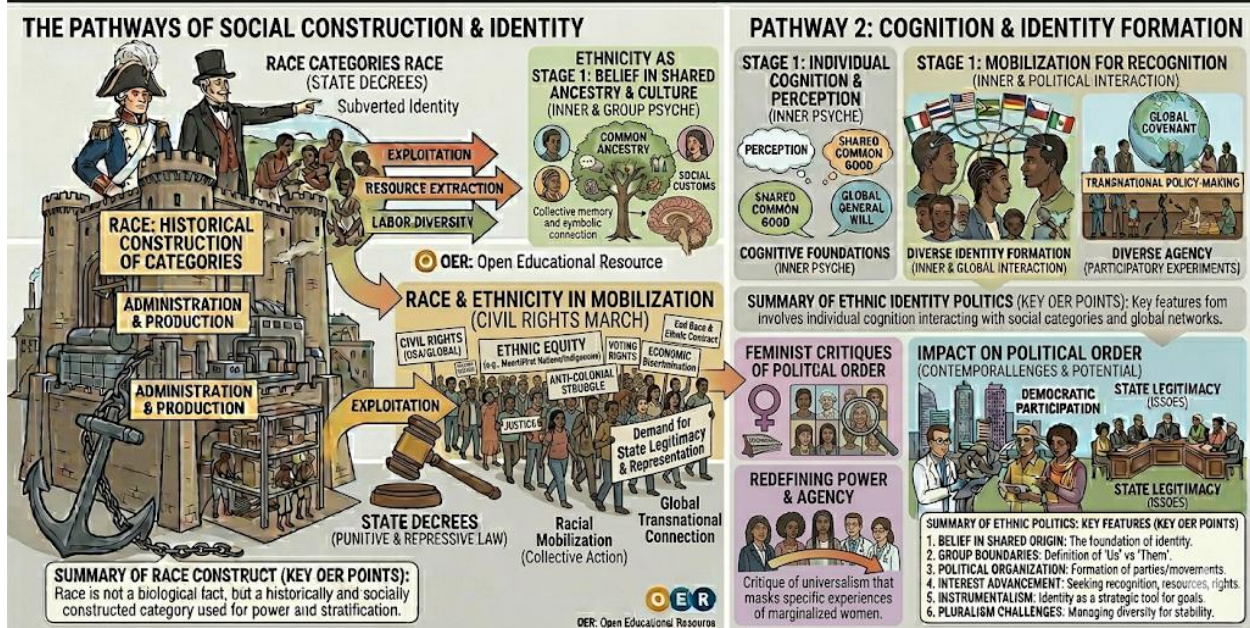
5.2.1 Feminist perspectives on political order

Feminist perspectives highlight how political systems often reinforce gender inequality and exclude women from decision-making. These perspectives argue that traditional theories of political order overlooked women's roles and experiences, and call for inclusive governance that recognises gender as a central factor in politics. Feminist scholars emphasise equality, representation, and the dismantling of patriarchal structures.

Fill in the blank: Feminist perspectives argue that political systems often reinforce _____ inequality and exclude women from decision-making.



POSTCOLONIAL, FEMINIST, & GLOBALIZATION THEORY: LEGACIES AND CRITIQUES OF POLITICAL ORDER



Box 5.2: Key themes in feminist perspectives

5.2.2 Gender inequality in representation

Gender inequality refers to the unequal participation and representation of men and women in political systems. Despite progress, women remain underrepresented in parliaments, cabinets, and leadership positions worldwide. This inequality affects policy outcomes, as diverse perspectives are not fully included in decision-making. Addressing gender inequality requires reforms such as quotas, awareness campaigns, and institutional support.

Fill in the blank: Gender inequality refers to the unequal _____ and representation of men and women in political systems.



POSTCOLONIAL, FEMINIST, & GLOBALIZATION THEORY: LEGACIES AND CRITIQUES OF POLITICAL ORDER

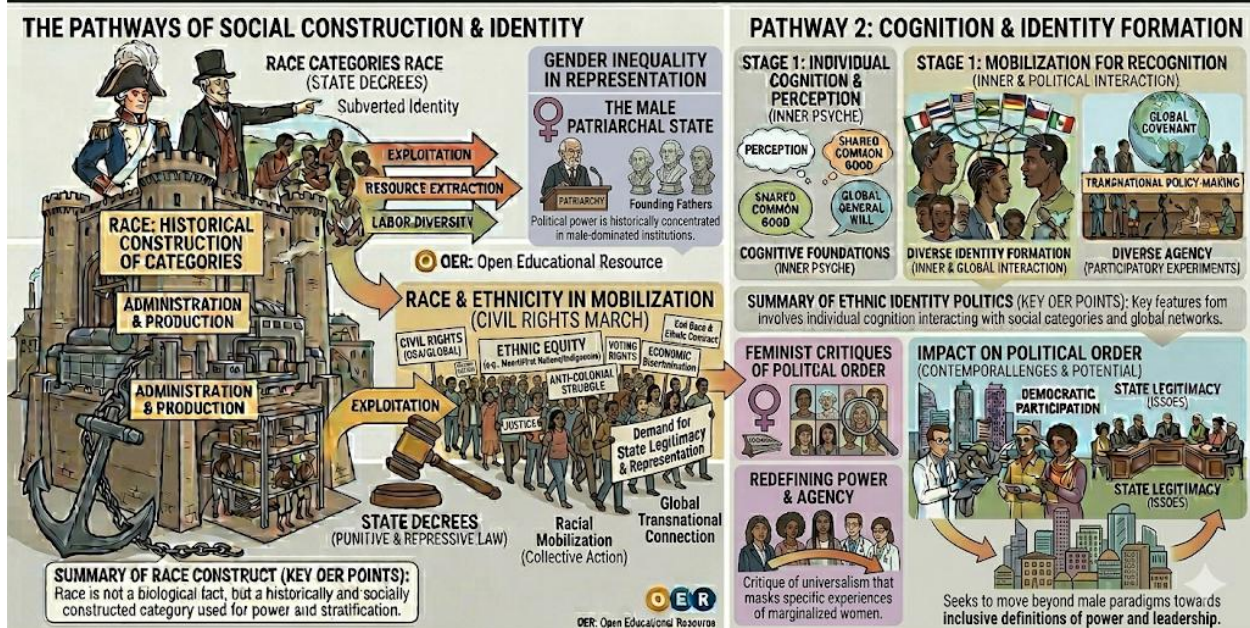


Diagram showing gender inequality in representation: fewer women in leadership → limited perspectives in policy outcomes
Caption: Figure 5.2 Gender inequality in political representation

5.2.3 Women's movements and political change

Women's movements are collective efforts by women to demand rights, equality, and representation in political life. Examples include the suffrage movements of the early 20th century, which secured voting rights, and contemporary campaigns for equal pay and reproductive rights. These movements demonstrate how collective action can reshape political systems and challenge entrenched inequalities.

Fill in the blank: The suffrage movements of the early 20th century secured women's right to _____.



POSTCOLONIAL, FEMINIST, & GLOBALIZATION THEORY: LEGACIES AND CRITIQUES OF POLITICAL ORDER

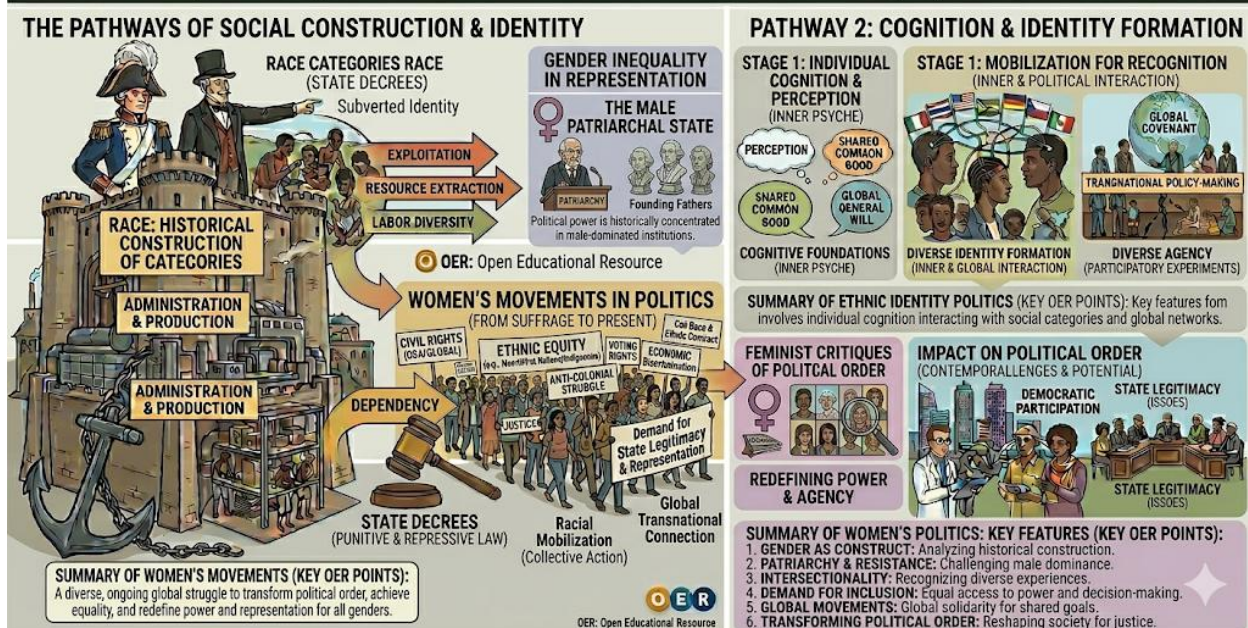


Image showing a women's suffrage march or modern women's rights protest Caption: Plate 5.2 Women's movements driving political change

Pilot questions 5.2

- What do feminist perspectives highlight about political systems?
- How does gender inequality affect political representation?
- What reforms can help address gender inequality in politics?
- Give one example of a women's movement that influenced political change.
- Why are women's movements important for reshaping political systems?

5.3 Religion And Ideology In Political Life

5.3.1 Religion as a source of political mobilisation

Religion refers to systems of belief and practice that often provide moral guidance and community identity. In politics, religion can serve as a powerful source of mobilisation, inspiring collective action and shaping laws and policies. Religious institutions and leaders have historically influenced governance, from medieval monarchies legitimised by divine authority to modern movements advocating social justice.

Fill in the blank: Religion can serve as a powerful source of _____, inspiring collective action and shaping laws and policies.



POSTCOLONIAL, FEMINIST, GLOBALIZATION, & RELIGIOUS THEORY: LEGACIES AND CRITIQUES OF POLITICAL ORDER

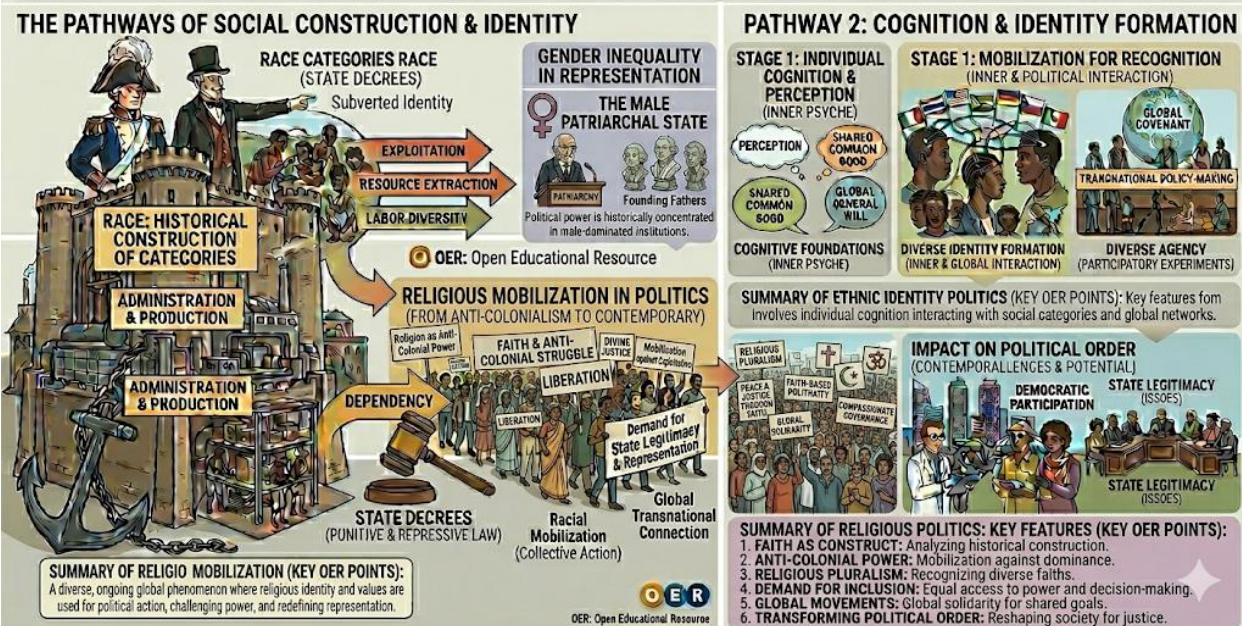


Image showing a religious gathering or protest symbolising mobilisation Caption: Plate 5.3
Religion as a source of political mobilisation

5.3.2 Ideology as a framework for political order

Ideology refers to a set of ideas and beliefs that provide a framework for understanding society and guiding political action. Examples include liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and nationalism. Ideologies shape political order by offering visions of how power should be organised and what values should be prioritised. They influence party platforms, policy decisions, and citizen behaviour.

Fill in the blank: Ideology refers to a set of ideas and beliefs that provide a _____ for understanding society and guiding political action.

POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AS FRAMEWORKS FOR ORDER: A COMPARATIVE OER DIAGRAM

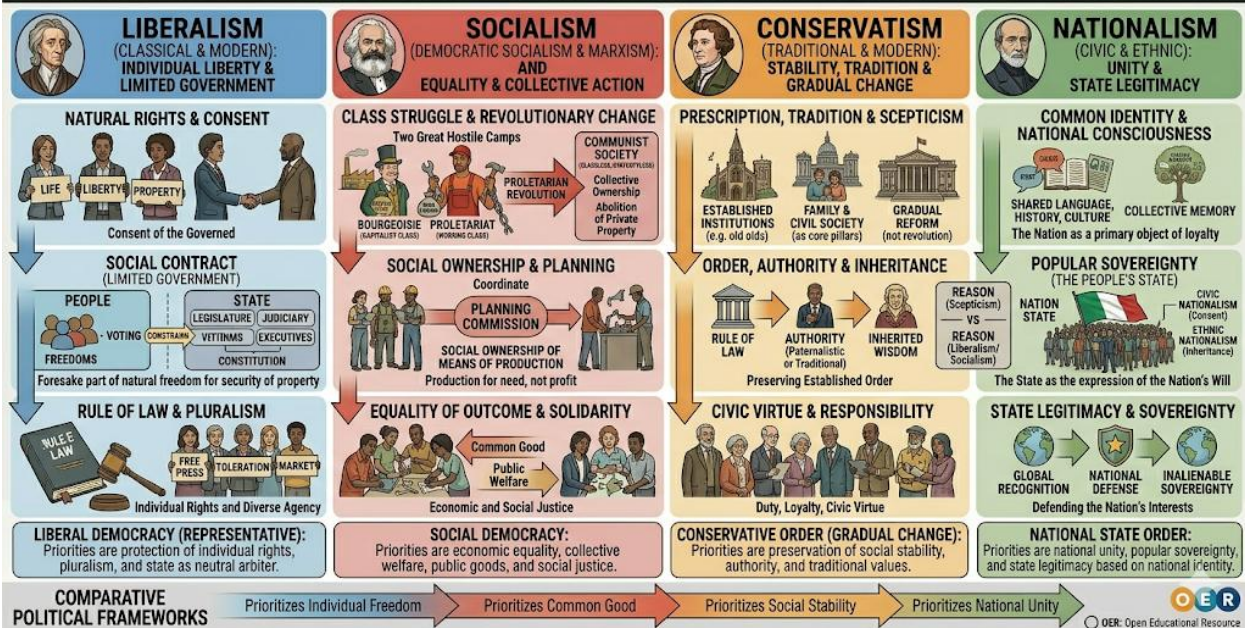


Diagram showing different ideologies (liberalism, socialism, conservatism, nationalism) → frameworks for political order Caption: Figure 5.3 Ideologies as frameworks for political order

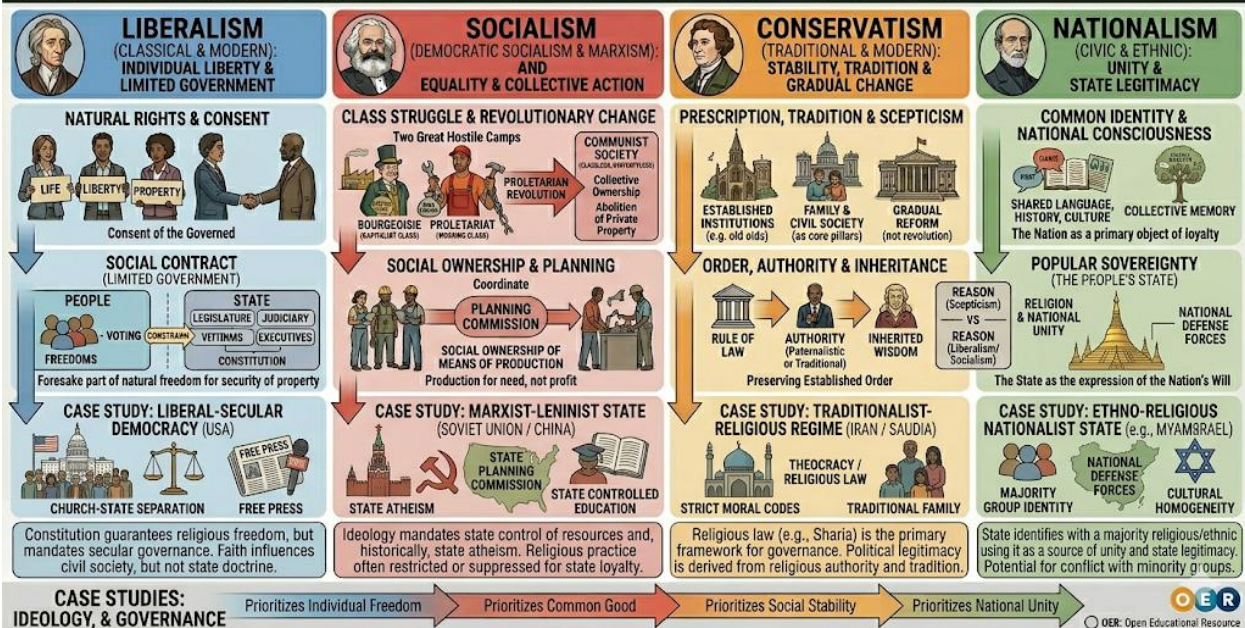
5.3.3 Case studies of religion and ideology in governance

Case studies illustrate how religion and ideology shape governance in practice. For example, the role of Catholicism in Latin American politics, the influence of Islam in Middle Eastern governance, or the impact of socialist ideology in Cuba. These examples show how belief systems can legitimise authority, mobilise citizens, and guide policy, while also generating conflict when competing ideologies clash.

Fill in the blank: Socialist ideology in _____ has shaped governance by emphasising equality and state control of resources.



FRAMEWORKS FOR POLITICAL ORDER: IDEOLOGIES & CASE STUDIES



Box 5.3: Case studies of religion and ideology in governance

Pilot questions 5.3

How can religion serve as a source of political mobilisation?

What is ideology, and how does it shape political order?

Give examples of major political ideologies.

How do case studies illustrate the role of religion in governance?

What impact has socialist ideology had on governance in Cuba?

5.4 Intersections And Contemporary Challenges

5.4.1 Intersectionality of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology

Intersectionality refers to the way different aspects of identity, such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology, overlap and interact to shape experiences of inclusion or exclusion. This concept highlights that individuals may face multiple layers of disadvantage or privilege depending on how these identities combine. In politics, intersectionality helps explain why some groups encounter unique barriers to participation and representation.

Fill in the blank: Intersectionality refers to the way different aspects of identity _____ and interact to shape experiences.



FRAMEWORKS FOR POLITICAL ORDER: IDEOLOGIES & CASE STUDIES

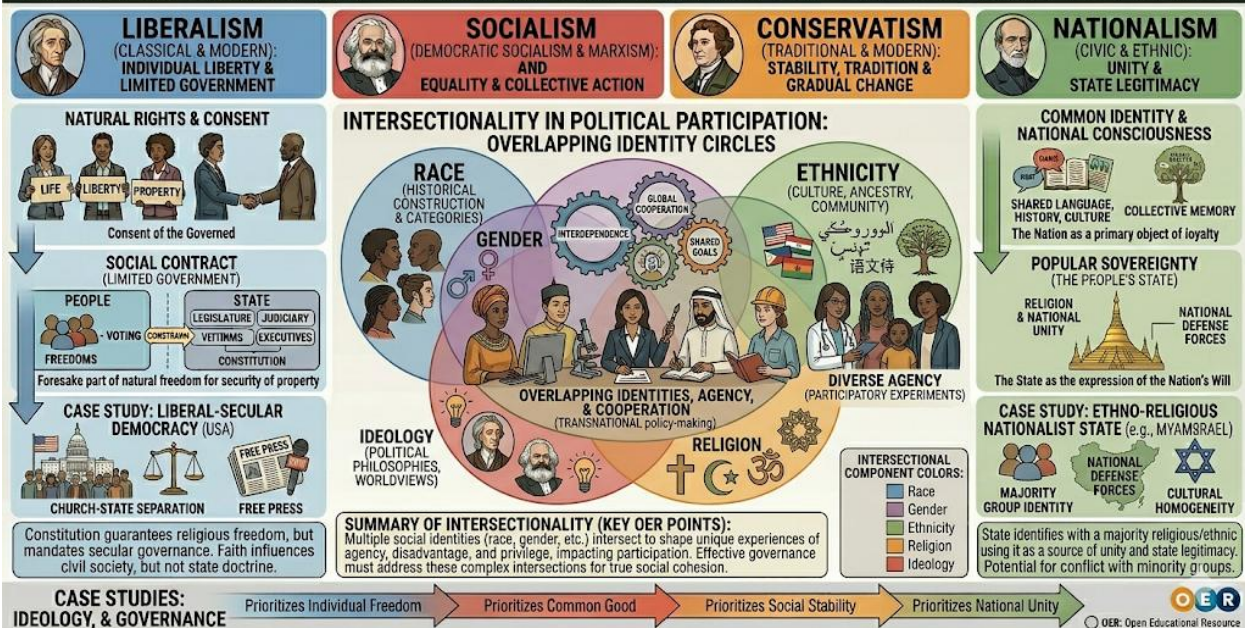


Diagram showing overlapping circles of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology → intersectionality → political participation Caption: Figure 5.4 Intersectionality in political life

5.4.2 Globalisation and identity politics

Globalisation refers to the increasing interconnectedness of societies through economic, cultural, and political exchanges. It reshapes identity politics by exposing communities to global influences while also intensifying local demands for recognition. Globalisation can promote inclusivity through shared values and cooperation, but it can also generate resistance when groups feel their identities are threatened by cultural homogenisation.

Fill in the blank: Globalisation reshapes identity politics by exposing communities to global influences while intensifying local demands for _____.



FRAMEWORKS FOR POLITICAL ORDER: IDEOLOGIES & CASE STUDIES



Image showing interconnected globe with diverse cultural symbols representing globalisation and identity politics Caption: Plate 5.4 Globalisation and identity politics

5.4.3 Contemporary debates on inclusivity and representation

Inclusivity refers to the active effort to ensure that diverse groups are represented and valued in political systems. Contemporary debates focus on how to achieve fair representation for marginalised groups, including racial minorities, women, and religious communities. These debates often involve policies such as affirmative action, quotas, and reforms to electoral systems. While inclusivity strengthens democracy, it also raises questions about balancing group rights with individual freedoms.

Fill in the blank: Contemporary debates on inclusivity often involve policies such as affirmative action, quotas, and reforms to _____ systems.



FRAMEWORKS FOR POLITICAL ORDER: IDEOLOGIES & CASE STUDIES



Box 5.4: Contemporary debates on inclusivity and representation

Pilot questions 5.4

- What does intersectionality mean in the context of political life?
- How does globalisation reshape identity politics?
- What challenges can arise when globalisation influences local identities?
- What policies are often discussed in debates on inclusivity and representation?
- Why is inclusivity important for strengthening democracy?

Series Summary

This Series has examined how race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology shape political behaviour and governance. We began by considering race and ethnicity as social constructs, exploring their role in identity politics and mobilisation. We then moved on to gender and political participation, highlighting feminist perspectives, inequalities in representation, and the transformative power of women's movements. Following that, we studied religion and ideology, focusing on their capacity to mobilise communities and provide frameworks for political order, supported by case studies. Finally, we addressed intersections and contemporary challenges, looking at how these identities overlap, how globalisation reshapes identity politics, and how debates on inclusivity and representation continue to evolve.

By completing this Series, you should now be able to explain how race and ethnicity influence political behaviour (SLO 5.1), evaluate feminist perspectives and assess gender inequality in representation (SLO 5.2), examine the role of religion and ideology in political life (SLO 5.3), and apply intersectionality to contemporary challenges such as globalisation and inclusivity



(SLO 5.4). These outcomes provide you with a deeper understanding of how identity and belief systems interact with political structures, equipping you to critically analyse both historical and current debates in governance.

Glossary of Terms

Ethnicity: Shared cultural traits such as language, traditions, and ancestry that bind groups together and often serve as a basis for identity politics.

Feminist perspectives: Approaches that highlight gender inequality in political systems, critique patriarchal structures, and call for inclusive governance.

Gender inequality: The unequal participation and representation of men and women in political systems, often reflected in leadership and policy-making roles.

Ideology: A set of ideas and beliefs that provide a framework for understanding society and guiding political action, such as liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and nationalism.

Identity politics: Political mobilisation based on shared identity, such as ethnicity, race, or gender, to demand recognition, rights, or resources.

Inclusivity: Efforts to ensure that diverse groups are represented and valued in political systems, often through policies such as quotas or affirmative action.

Intersectionality: The concept that different aspects of identity, such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology, overlap and interact to shape experiences of inclusion or exclusion.

Race: A socially constructed category based on perceived physical differences, used historically to classify groups and often influencing political behaviour.

Religion: Systems of belief and practice that provide moral guidance and community identity, often serving as sources of political mobilisation and influence.

Women's movements: Collective efforts by women to demand rights, equality, and representation in political life, such as suffrage campaigns and contemporary protests.

Concept Check Questions 5

Objective questions

Race is not a biological reality but a _____ construct. (Linked to SLO 5.1)

Ethnicity refers to shared cultural traits such as language, traditions, and _____. (Linked to SLO 5.1)

Feminist perspectives argue that political systems often reinforce _____ inequality. (Linked to SLO 5.2)

Gender inequality refers to the unequal participation and _____ of men and women in politics. (Linked to SLO 5.2)



Ideology refers to a set of ideas and beliefs that provide a _____ for understanding society.
(Linked to SLO 5.3)

Intersectionality refers to the way different aspects of identity _____ and interact. (Linked to SLO 5.4)

Short-answer questions

What does it mean to say race is a social construct? (Linked to SLO 5.1)

How does ethnicity influence identity politics? (Linked to SLO 5.1)

What do feminist perspectives highlight about political systems? (Linked to SLO 5.2)

How does gender inequality affect political representation? (Linked to SLO 5.2)

Define ideology and give two examples. (Linked to SLO 5.3)

How can religion serve as a source of political mobilisation? (Linked to SLO 5.3)

What does intersectionality help explain in political life? (Linked to SLO 5.4)

How does globalisation reshape identity politics? (Linked to SLO 5.4)

What policies are often discussed in debates on inclusivity and representation? (Linked to SLO 5.4)

Long-answer questions

Analyse how race and ethnicity function as social constructs in politics, and explain their role in identity politics and mobilisation. (Linked to SLO 5.1)

Evaluate feminist perspectives on political order, highlighting how they critique patriarchal structures and propose inclusive governance. (Linked to SLO 5.2)

Examine gender inequality in representation and assess the impact of women's movements on political change. (Linked to SLO 5.2)

Discuss the role of religion and ideology in political life, using case studies to illustrate their influence on governance. (Linked to SLO 5.3)

Assess the intersections of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology, and explain how globalisation and inclusivity debates shape contemporary politics. (Linked to SLO 5.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions 5

Objective questions

Social

Ancestry

Gender

Representation

Framework



Overlap

Short-answer questions

Race is a social construct because it is based on perceived differences rather than biological reality, yet it influences identity and politics.

Ethnicity influences identity politics by providing shared cultural traits that groups mobilise around to demand recognition and rights.

Feminist perspectives highlight gender inequality, exclusion of women, and critique patriarchal structures in political systems.

Gender inequality limits women's participation and perspectives in decision-making, affecting policy outcomes.

Ideology is a set of ideas guiding political action; examples include liberalism and socialism.

Religion mobilises communities by providing moral authority, identity, and collective purpose in politics.

Intersectionality explains how overlapping identities create unique experiences of inclusion or exclusion.

Globalisation reshapes identity politics by exposing communities to global influences while intensifying local demands for recognition.

Policies include affirmative action, quotas, and electoral reforms to strengthen representation.

Long-answer questions

Basic response: Race and ethnicity are social constructs shaping identity politics and mobilisation. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may explain how these constructs empower groups but also risk division when exploited.

Basic response: Feminist perspectives critique patriarchal structures and call for inclusive governance. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may link feminist theory to practical reforms such as quotas and representation campaigns.

Basic response: Gender inequality limits representation, while women's movements drive change. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may compare suffrage movements with modern campaigns for equal pay and rights.

Basic response: Religion and ideology influence governance by legitimising authority and mobilising citizens. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may use case studies such as Catholicism in Latin America or socialism in Cuba to illustrate impact.

Basic response: Intersectionality shows how identities overlap, while globalisation and inclusivity debates reshape politics. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may critically assess tensions between global influences and local identities, and evaluate inclusivity policies.

Answers to Pilot Questions 5



Part 5.1 Race, Ethnicity, and Political Behaviour

Saying race is a social construct means it is based on perceived differences rather than biological reality, yet it influences identity and politics.

Race influences political behaviour by shaping identity, representation, and mobilisation.

Ethnicity refers to shared cultural traits such as language, traditions, and ancestry.

Identity politics emerges when groups mobilise around shared identity to demand recognition and rights.

The Civil Rights Movement in the United States is an example of racial mobilisation in politics.

Part 5.2 Gender and Political Participation

Feminist perspectives highlight gender inequality, exclusion of women, and critique patriarchal structures in political systems.

Gender inequality affects representation by limiting women's participation and perspectives in decision-making.

Reforms such as quotas, awareness campaigns, and institutional support can help address gender inequality.

The suffrage movements of the early 20th century influenced political change by securing women's right to vote.

Women's movements are important because they reshape political systems and challenge entrenched inequalities.

Part 5.3 Religion and Ideology in Political Life

Religion serves as a source of mobilisation by providing moral authority, identity, and collective purpose.

Ideology is a set of ideas and beliefs that guide political action and shape political order.

Examples of major ideologies include liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and nationalism.

Case studies illustrate religion's role in governance, such as Catholicism in Latin America or Islam in Middle Eastern politics.

Socialist ideology in Cuba has shaped governance by emphasising equality and state control of resources.

Part 5.4 Intersections and Contemporary Challenges

Intersectionality means that overlapping identities create unique experiences of inclusion or exclusion.

Globalisation reshapes identity politics by exposing communities to global influences while intensifying local demands for recognition.



Challenges arise when globalisation influences local identities, sometimes leading to resistance or cultural tensions.

Policies often discussed in debates on inclusivity include affirmative action, quotas, and electoral reforms.

Inclusivity is important because it strengthens democracy by ensuring diverse groups are represented and valued.

References and Attributions 5

Figures

Figure 5.1 Race as a social construct in politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing race as a social construct leading to identity formation and political mobilisation.” Suggested search string: “race social construct politics diagram OER”.

Figure 5.2 Gender inequality in political representation: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing gender inequality in representation, with fewer women in leadership leading to limited perspectives in policy outcomes.” Suggested search string: “gender inequality political representation diagram OER”.

Figure 5.3 Ideologies as frameworks for political order: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and nationalism as frameworks for political order.” Suggested search string: “political ideologies framework diagram OER”.

Figure 5.4 Intersectionality in political life: AI-generated using the prompt “Create a diagram showing overlapping circles of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ideology to illustrate intersectionality in political participation.” Suggested search string: “intersectionality politics diagram OER”.

Plates

Plate 5.1 Case studies of racial and ethnic mobilisation: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of a civil rights march or ethnic political rally symbolising racial and ethnic mobilisation.” Suggested search string: “civil rights movement ethnic mobilisation OER image”.

Plate 5.2 Women’s movements driving political change: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of a women’s suffrage march or modern women’s rights protest symbolising women’s movements in politics.” Suggested search string: “women’s suffrage movement protest OER image”.

Plate 5.3 Religion as a source of political mobilisation: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of a religious gathering or protest symbolising religion as a source of political mobilisation.” Suggested search string: “religion political mobilisation OER image”.

Plate 5.4 Globalisation and identity politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate an image of an interconnected globe with diverse cultural symbols representing globalisation



and identity politics.” Suggested search string: “globalisation identity politics OER image”.

Boxes

Box 5.1 Key features of ethnicity in politics: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising key features of ethnicity in politics.” Suggested search string: “ethnicity identity politics OER”.

Box 5.2 Key themes in feminist perspectives: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising feminist perspectives on political order.” Suggested search string: “feminist perspectives political order OER”.

Box 5.3 Case studies of religion and ideology in governance: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising case studies of religion and ideology in governance.” Suggested search string: “religion ideology governance case studies OER”.

Box 5.4 Contemporary debates on inclusivity and representation: AI-generated using the prompt “Generate a text box summarising contemporary debates on inclusivity and representation.” Suggested search string: “inclusivity representation political debates OER”.

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Open Educational Resources (OER) repositories such as OER Commons and Wikimedia Commons were suggested for sourcing diagrams, images, and case study materials.



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