

Course Name- B.A.L.L.B. IVth Sem.

Subject- Political Science

Teacher- Dr. Niru Jain

Topic concept of Totalitarian and  
Military Rule

## **TOTALITARIANISM**

Totalitarianism puts more severe restrictions than authoritarianism and is usually guided by an ideology often aimed at drastic reorganisation of society. The scope of such a government covers all the activities of the society. Hegel (1770-1831), the German philosopher is regarded as the father of totalitarianism. According to Hegel, the State is man in his fullness and perfection of development.

He elevated the State to a mystical height and he considered the State as the march of GOD on earth. State is infallible and omnipotent. The totalitarianism means that nothing in citizens should be outside the control of the State. It implies an unlimited State which covers the whole life of the individual. Every spare of the human activity is subjected to regulation and control of the State. All aspects of human affairs are within the jurisdiction of the State. The State is omnipotent, Omni competent and omniscient. It is absolute. The State is an end in itself. Totalitarianism is based on principle "all in the State, nothing outside the State, nothing the against the State." Totalitarianism considers the individual freedom as unnecessary fetish. The individual can have no private rights.

### **The Characteristic features of Totalitarian Government**

- (1) The totalitarian State is dictatorial in character. Supreme authority devolves in the hands of one individual or in one party.
- (2) The totalitarian State does not believe in individual liberty. It allows no liberty of thought, speech, writing and association. Censorship is a part of the system.

(3) The totalitarian State does not believe in reason. It glorifies instincts and impulses.

(4) Totalitarianism glorifies the nation and emphasizes the power of the State. Narrow nationalism, chauvinism, aggressive warfare and imperialistic expansion are the attributes of totalitarianism.

(5) Totalitarianism does not believe in liberalism and humanitarianism. It builds up racial prejudices and hatredness.

(6) The totalitarian State is antagonistic to religion. Religion is looked down upon and an attempt is made to substitute their leader and doctrine, for religion.

(7) Totalitarianism is made a mass movement. Well organised and disciplined members of the party with practical national objective, succeed, in coming to Power. Totalitarian State carries an intensive propaganda and uses psychological means to appeal the mob. Marches, uniforms and rhetoric are used to rouse the people.

(8) The elite in the totalitarian authority is a highly disciplined and coherent body. They are bound together by its doctrine through the institution of the party. The party acquires a monopoly of power and does not allow the existence of any other party.

### **Merits of Authoritarian or Totalitarian or Dictatorial Government**

- (1) It can take quick decisions.
- (2) It establishes an efficient government.
- (3) It provides strong and stable government.
- (4) It is able to ensure high sense of patriotism among its citizens.
- (5) It tackles emergencies very promptly.
- (6) It is useful in times of national crisis.
- (7) It ensures progress and prosperity.

## **Demerits of Authoritarian or Totalitarian or Dictatorial Government**

- (1) It does not give any importance to individual in the governance of the country.
- (2) It does not allow any civil or political rights.
- (3) Based on force, it uses more violence and uses force in their relations with other countries.
- (4) It does not consider the public opinion.
- (5) It does not allow moderation of actions and toleration of others' views and does not help in the maintenance of internal or international peace.
- (6) It crushes individual liberty. It crushes human personality.
- (7) It lacks permanence.
- (8) It makes the people sluggish and indifferent.
- (9) It glorifies force. It maintains power with force.
- (10) It considers that State takes as an end in itself.

## **Different forms of Totalitarianism**

Totalitarianism assumes different forms in different countries. It assumed the form of Fascism in Italy, Nazism in Germany and Communism in Russia.

## **MILITARY RULE**

Under military rule, the State is administered by the military force or under the supervision of military persons. Military rule is not militarism. There is no militarisation. In military rule the civilians are replaced by armed forces in the administration.

Military rule is of two kinds—

### **1. Direct**

It is direct when the military commanders assume power and form the Government.

### **2. Indirect**

It is indirect when the military exercises power through its control over the civilian administration.

In both cases, the decision-making power belongs to the military. The military intervention in government is quite different from military rule. Military intervention becomes imperative in 'fake' democracies where change of government is not possible through peaceful means. Military intervention is generally motivated by concern for the national interest. Inefficient politicians, bankrupt parties and corrupt politics largely account for military intervention to safeguard the independence and integrity of the new States. Military intervention need not necessarily mean military rule. The armed forces may not take over power but may stipulate conditions for civil administration.