

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

Subject- History

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Topic- Dictatorship

Dictatorship: Meaning, Its advantages and disadvantage

Dictatorship or Totalitarianism is a situation where a single person or political party rules the entire country. It does not involve any electoral process for the appointment. The person dominates all the subjects of the country or state which he's ruling. It has fewer advantages than disadvantages

Features of Dictatorship

1. One Party, One Leader and One Programme:

In dictatorship only one party is allowed to exist and it is the dictator's own party. Other political parties, associations and organizations are not allowed to function. These are banned. All opposition to the dictator is ruthlessly suppressed. Hitler used to say, "Swastika or gallows".

One Leader:

Under dictatorship, leadership is given to a single man. Full faith is to be concentrated in the leader. The leader is supposed to represent national unity. He is considered to be a symbol of national prestige. He is the final authority in every matter and his word is supreme.

One Programme:

The whole country is supposed to have one political programme and it is the programme of dictator's own party.

2. Absence of Individual Liberty:

The individual does not enjoy any liberty or rights under dictatorship. Maximum obedience to the laws is equated to the maximum liberty. People are not allowed any liberty of speech, association and press. All agencies of education and propaganda such as schools, colleges, radio, papers and films are controlled by the state. In the words of Mussolini "people do not want liberty but they want law and order.

" No criticism against the dictator is tolerated. People are supposed to believe and obey. Democratic slogans of liberty, equality and fraternity are replaced by slogans like duty, discipline and sacrifice. Mussolini asserted, "Liberty is a dead carcass, I kick it."

3. National Glorification:

Dictators glorify their nations to an illogical extreme. A mad sense of patriotism is inculcated in the minds of the people. They are made intensely nationalistic.

The state is regarded as the march of God on earth. The state is considered to be the end and the individual a means to that end. People are supposed to sacrifice their lives on the alter of state.

4. Glorification of War:

Dictators glorify war. War is considered to be essential for the normal health of body-politic. The state is all powerful and it must enhance its prestige. The dictators adopt a war-like policy and glorify brute force as the means for achieving national greatness. In the opinion of Hitler, "In eternal warfare, mankind has become great; in eternal peace it will be ruined."

To quote Mussolini, "War is to the man what maternity is to the woman."

5. Totalitarian State:

Dictatorship is a totalitarian state which controls each and every aspect of human personality, and takes into its fold all human activities in the social, economic, political, educational, religious and cultural spheres.

No margin for individual liberty is left behind. "Nothing against the state, everything for the state, nothing outside the state" is the basic principle of dictatorship.

6. Racialism:

Dictators preach racialism. The Germans under Hitler regarded themselves to be superior to the people living in the rest of the world. They claimed that they belonged to the ancient Aryan stock. As such they regarded themselves to be superior to others.

Similarly, the Italians claimed that they belonged to the race of the ancient Roman conqueror and that they had a divine mission to conquer the world.

Advantages

1. Low crime rates.

In a dictatorship, usually, there are very strict rules and punishment for even a small crime or violation of the law. Such strict punishments arise threat among people. Thus there are lower crimes as compared to the countries which do not have a dictator form of government.

2. Rapid progression

The dictators have access and control over everything right from the economy to the laws and the people. Hence they do not have to worry about this field. They set their goals in which they have to progress and develop. The absence of other concerns helps them to achieve their goal easily.

3. Efficient administration

They set the rules and regulations which they think are suitable. No one amongst the citizens dares to object them. Because there is no consultation or debates taking place over any issue, hence quick actions can be taken. This makes a dictator country always stay ahead of rival nations.

4. We get a stable government.

5. There's less space for corruption amongst citizens.

4. They prove very crucial during the times of emergency. Because there's only one person taking the decision so there's no last moment ambiguity in opinions. However in case something goes wrong the person responsible is only blamed.

Disadvantages

1. It leads to abuse of power. The dictator misuses his power at the expense of the citizens.
2. Dictators always oppress and suppress the people. Or even promote their own favorites and interests. This causes inequality but no one really objects because it would mean putting oneself in danger at the hands of the ruling government.
3. Mass killings. Large numbers of innocent people are killed. Because the people might get frustrated with the policies of the government and this makes the dictator consider the person ad enemies of the government.
4. The population is never happy with such a government. So it's possible that at some point the masses will protest and agitate against the policies of unity and try to overthrow the government. This dictatorship is not permanent and never sustains for long. It somehow leads to war. At present North Korea is the biggest example of power dictatorship and the country is so advanced with all its technologies and nuclear weapons that despite this being the 21st century even if multiple countries join hands and come along to wage war against it then they will suffer a greater loss and does not even ensures their victory.