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## SOCIAL BASES OF POLITICS

The study of politics began with the Classic Greek Philosophers who regarded “politics as the area in which men resolved their social relationships, their family system, their ways of producing goods within the society and culture as a unit.”

By locating power in the socio-economic arrangements within the society, Marxism insists that politics is embedded in society and economic power is the basis of political power. This political power is mainly a struggle between those who want to change the distribution and those who want to maintain it. The main tradition within this new approach to politics is what has come to be known as pluralism, to whom power no longer resides to anyone centre and political resources are more widely distributed throughout the society.

The pluralistic account of the evolution between politics and society suffer from several flaws. While it asserts the role of social groups and interest in politics, it's a critical description of decision making in liberal democracies betrays its inadequate centre and power differential between groups, especially between capitalist and the workers who are fundamental in influencing the decision making process of the state.

Marxist approach to politics locates the primary source of political power and behaviour in sociological factors. The society according to Marx, is based on two key structures, firstly, economic infrastructure and secondly a social, political and ideological superstructure. This superstructure possess two elements- the productive forces - includes the labour and machinery and the production relations, i.e. between the former which includes property relations and rights. Marxism says that private property gives rise to division in the classes. The bourgeoisie being the economically dominant class and hence having the political control.

Hence according to Marxism politics is a sphere of relationships of all classes and strata. Hence politics must be traced back to its hidden bases of class struggle, the hidden bases of the entire social structure and the corresponding specific form of the state.