

# Liberalism

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# What Is Liberalism?

- Liberalism is a political and philosophical ideology to establish individual freedom, consent and equality. Different liberals adopt a vast range of views based on their understanding of this ideology.
- Individual rights, including civil and human rights, come first among these views.
- It also supports freedom and liberty of speech, religious conscience and press, defining secularism and democracy.

# Feature of liberalism

## ❖ Individual Liberty

- Liberalism is essentially an ideology of liberty. Its love for individual liberty is unquestionable. It has become libertarianism. For liberals, liberty is the very essence of human personality. It is a means to one's development

# Capitalistic Economy

- Liberalism advocates a free-market economy, i.e., the capitalistic mode of economy. It believes in a private property system, regarding property rights as sacrosanct; maximum profit as the only motive; capitalistic mode of production and distribution as the only essence; the market forces as the controlling means of economy.

# Limited State

- Liberalism advocates the concept of a limited state. The liberals view the state as a means for attaining the good of the individual. They oppose every type of totalitarian state. They are of the opinion that a more powerful state means a less free individual. Locke used to say, “because the functions of the state are limited, so are limited its powers.

# Theory of Classical Liberalism

The beginning of classical liberalism is ingrained in political changes from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century. But the ideology turned into a political principle mostly after the 1789's [French Revolution](#). Later, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the ideology came out as retaliation to the Industrial Revolution and progressing urbanisation in European Nations and the United States.

- The classical theory emphasises minimal power and limited function of the state. It further stressed egotism, self-sufficiency and self-responsibility of own livelihood and condition.
- promotes a self-regulating market. It further denotes that government intervention is inessential and damaging in such market policy.

THANK YOU