

Title : Liberalism Review in 21st Century

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Category : Article, Competition

Topics : Philosophy

Liberalism Review in 21st Century

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ABSTRACT

Liberalism in International Relations had made a huge impact on understanding and conducting politics in the global realm. Liberalism is a perspective, an idea that purpose the good of human nature, thus accelerate the aim towards world peace by boosting confidence and trust between nations and states. However, the synthesis of means and idea of the perspective is not gained in today worlds. The war still occurs. Thus, the need to review and observe the idea need to be done. This paper invokes some of the fundamental value and general overview of the idea to observe the challenge by noticing the nature of liberalism itself.

Keywords: Liberalism, International relations, war

INTRODUCTION

In a global world today, understanding it is more complex than before. Every event has happened for reasons, and in fact because of many reasons. It can be because of repercussion and consequences. Profoundly the idea of classic international relations scholar needs a review in today's world. As the world progress, many things started to fall out of place, and the classics scholars are seen as somewhat inconsequential. Thus, the work of the old need to be reviewed and re-assessed to maintain and sustain the core value of the work in the modern international world.

It is a called to analyse the relevancy of the idea of Liberalism in today's world because the idealism they brought is seriously delusional because of the lack of a realistic approach (Mearsheimer, 2018). This critique is not groundless humiliation in a sense of different belief, but it is based on the true event. The idea of the establishment of the League of Nation is made by liberalist who has been emerged by the idea proposed by Woodrow Wilson (History, 2017) to prevent the recoil of World War 1. The result of the prevention become the nightmare of the human being.

Furthermore, the idea of liberalism needed to re-examine its core element to be applied in usage. Every idea has its value, its key factor. By examining the root of its idea, the pattern of its thought, the line of thought that they reckon, as regards for the establishment of an idea. Re-examine an idea does not mean the idea is not reliable, it just needs criticism to make a solid argument out of it. Not just out of touch and baseless assumption of optimism.

Along with it is the need to identify the application of liberalism. What is the outcome of the thought? Do the application beneficial in the matter of achieving the aim of the idea itself. Identify and assess the implementation of the idea in an attempt to evaluate the optimism of liberalism to compete with the argument of other schools of thought.

In the discussion of an idea, one must know, that reality is more complicated than it seems. The complexity cannot be constituted in an idea. There is no idea that absolute. There must be something that an idea cannot confine. The limitation of liberalism could be covered by other schools of thought. Thus, evaluation of idea in the modern is obligatory.

Although the optimism of the liberalist seems unrealistic, it is effective in progressing towards an unachievable and inevitable aim, the prevention of war. Contrary to liberalism, realism is more realistic in its action in the international domain hence the name itself. Both of the school of thought derived from the study on war. Why did the war happen? Is the turf of the thoughts. The realist saw the cause of the war came from the malevolence evil that been already inside a human, resultantly in a fight to survive in international politic. This belief not only hazardous, but it can cause the diplomacy between state unstable and vulnerable.

Finding peace is not easy, it needs maintenance and evaluation of the belief to aligned with time. The more the world progress, the more it needs reconstruction in an attempt to stay relevant. The complexity of the modern conflict may seem overwhelming, yet it has a future. This paper strongly believes that the integration of perspectives is crucial to explain a global concern issue and orchestrate an actor in a global world.

LIBERALISM

Liberalism idea consists of viewing the individual as a rational actor in international politics. An individual has rights and duties that must be fulfilled. State only play as a servant to managing a dispute between individual, to maintain and sustain a harmony life with the fulfilment of each of their rights. Although they do not agree on some sub-discussion, they unanimously assent on the idea of the individual is the main protagonist in the political domain, and the State guise is to maintain the stability of the political, social and economic environment as the aims and end pursue by the person. Thus, giving the outline that individual also a factor that must be considered in global context besides state actor.

The root of the ideology came from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the shifting of economic and political thought specifically in Great Britain and the United States. They focus on the economical aspects upon whether an entrepreneur must or must not be constrained by a state. They believe the world order is circulated in the subject of a man, the rational and the reason.

Classic theory

Here's are the key element that had been extracted from the Liberalism Scholar, John Locke, He stated that the nature of a man is not inclined to violence. Perhaps, the nature of a man is not a blood lust leader to simply commencing a war between states. It is commonly because of the conflict of interest. They all aiming for one ultimate goals, harmony and security assurance. They all share common goals.

Therefore, they all have the rationale to conduct good behaviour towards others if they pursue the same ideals. While the world becomes more and more complex, the interdependence of a state cannot be isolated from the discussion. In truth, that the major factor that restrains a country from launching a war on others. The rationality and the reason of a man is the one that we must put our faith in.

In all that matter, the ideas to go into a war are unarguably the ideas of the Head of a state, not the idea of the people. Contrary to the belief of Realism, the word and action of the leader are representative of the people. What if the action is opposed by the people? Then the assumption of the Realist might be an irrelevance to explain.

The delegation of the authority is constructed by the people, to ease the daily problem and to keep everything in order and harmony as prevention from anarchy and chaos. A social contract is established between the people and the authority for the society to function in prosperity. It is not seen in hierarchical order, but it is seen as a return in favour of the public service to keep everything organized.

The absolute tenet of liberalism is about the idea of the freedom of an individual. The idea that they can achieve as an actor and have the rights to choose each of their ends. Not only a new paradigm shift from the realist view that stated the only State is an actor in international relations but a most comprehensive one. Axiomatically shows the international community can progress towards a better end by the doctrine of transnational actors.

Idealism

Whereas liberal idealism derived from the moral-oriented argument. Human is essentially good by nature. The belief in altruistic value is something that their hold onto that lead to progress and the effort to maintain harmony in society. The reason is the sole motivation that made people competent to have mutual aid and cooperation. These things were made possible through literacy and education on the subject matter.

Furthermore, cooperation and mutual aid were possible because of the capability for people to care for each other, or that's the assumption. This rigorous claim made by the idealist is constructed to counter the realism perspective that exerts the inconsideration narrative of the human being. The world order demands the state to be selfish, to be inconsiderate towards others, to achieve survival.

In addition, the discussion on war was also included by the idealist. War is the result of anarchic nature and inevitable were denied by the liberal. The cause of war is from the system, thus the system needs to change. An institution needs to be established to prevent war through collective security, collective moral, and collective interest. The ultimate goal for every state and every person is to acquire peace, order, harmonic environment thus making it easier to bring the goal to fruition by the multilateral method. War is not a national matter, it's a global responsibility as everyone believe peace is their objective.

Institutionalism

Now, by adopting the idea of people are good fundamentally, Wilson Woodrow suggests an idea to create an institution, an organization to curb the war from happening again. Bringing his idea into fruition is the establishment of the League of Nation after the first world war in hope that the platform would create an engagement between states and nations from conflicting. The result was not unsuccessful, bringing the world once more a great world war 2.

The idea to create an institution was defied, but it is remarkable progress toward achieving peace. Towards combating the anarchy nature of global politics. An anarchy nature purpose the survival of nations and states because the security and safety will always be at risk. Not to mention the rising of multipolar power that creates an unstable balance of power in the global order.

Before understanding liberal institutionalism, one must know the aim of the establishment of principle; First, it was essential to create an opportunity for nations and states to have a platform for their diplomacy. The stage created were meant to boost the cooperations, and giving the participants of the organization to maintain their conduct in the international domain to preserve their interest on a global scale. Second, it was necessary for the institution to assist the intention of nations and states with their public appearance, as well as to abolish the misassumption and misunderstanding

between states because it is one of the main factors that contribute to the occurrence of war. Third, the decision of a country to contribute to the organization is a reflection on the government policy, and their will to engage in a commitment towards the principle and value through the international obligation that they had signed. The participation of states would likely foster the international agreement and create trust in the international order (Jackson & Sørensen, 2013).

International institution is a combination of two-component, organization and rules. Both of them are independently able to exist but frequently seen as a duo. International organization is a group constructed on a value basis or common principle between states and nations. Some are created based on region, and some were constituted in a matter of activity. For instances, the World Trade Organization, Organization of Islamic Corporation, United Nations and European Union.

Whereas the rules, it was called as a “regime”, a set of law that governs the commonality or value of the organization favour. Still, the regime is able to exist independently without an organization. It becomes a contract, rules that govern the global domain from falling into chaos. A rule of thumb for countries to conduct themselves into order.

Liberalism is one of the most prominent worldviews that influence the approach that been taken by nations and states, it now becomes a doctrine. The approach of liberalism always been about individual and keeping things in order. The perspective gives more than clarity on occurrence, it gives value and motivation for an actor to conduct its manners on the international domain.

THE IMPLEMENTATION

Liberalism can be seen in its application in diplomacy ties and relations between states and nations. With the doctrine of the good nature of human, the trust on an entity nature is being manifest through relationship and bond in the international domain. The optimistic viewpoint on a state to oblige the regimes and regulations are also constructed excellent cooperation and collaboration of between nations and states. One of the prime examples can be seen in the ASEAN reputation and performance. Even the organization assumed to have a catastrophic failure and were assemble with distrust from each of the original members. The great accomplishment of the ASEAN is maintaining and

preserving peace in the most unstable region. (Mahbubani & Sng, 2017). It has now become a most successful and remarkable international organization.

Furthermore, the fundamental value of liberalism is on individualism, the people, and focusing on moral and ethics. Peoples are the citizen of the world and they ought to have rights in global concern. The life of the human is valuable, it is the primary concern to be preserved in all matters. Consequently, the establishment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is one progress towards creating a harmonious and peaceful life. It serves as a rule of thumb for nations and state to oblige by the rule. Any activities and decision are ought to be in good faith.

This doctrine was not just a progress, it is a landmark solution towards achieving peace in the global domain, not just domestically. Being aware of individual as an actor in global politics, nations and states must observe and consider thoroughly an approach before putting the wheels in motion. The public opinion, the life of the peoples, the rights and privileges of a man and many others else regardless of the situation. People needs and life must be emphasized and prioritize. This progress combats the realism claim on war as inevitable.

Other than that, we can see the watershed event in the international politics were the application of liberalism into the creation of the first international organization, the League of Nation, founded by Woodrow Wilson. this is one of the remarkable implementations of institutionalism within the strands of liberalism, supporting by the idealism perspective. But despite that, something feels particularly distinct from the objective and the approach. The great power of totalitarianism allied with the idealist through an institution. The peace period after the first world war does not ground from the nature of good intention, but from the balance-of-terror among the atomic weapon-bearer to maintain stability. (Amos, 1997)

Unfortunately, the period does not last long, the war sparked again in 1945. An Armageddon of atomic disaster. Dropping the catastrophe on the civilian, losses, all to retain the ideology and the 'sovereignty' of a state. The review on the blueprint of the League of Nation been developed, to counterinsurgency of the second world war occurrence. The United Nation were rebranded as a new platform with the realistic approach by harnessing the essential value of liberalism as a subsequence.

THE ASSESSMENT

Indeed, liberalism aims to make a progress on the subject of war, contrary to the realism view on international relations that just a mere explanation of the phenomenon that occurs in the global domain. Progress towards achieving peace, the means is the basic construction of their fundamental value. The need to progress towards a goal. But does the aim been achieved?

One of the catastrophic failures of the idea is its incompetence to maintain peace, as war still happened to this day. The act to stabilize the power failed to reach the peace that they intended. That one of the profound consequences of the interdependent state. It will create a paradox of security. When the uni-polar world started to transition to a bipolar and multi-polar world, the balance of power generates the insecurity of a state. It will eventually create a bigger problem for the diplomacy of a state.

Although it is a comprehensive approach towards a better and more harmonic world to live in by making an institution to combat the illiteracy of the action of nations and provides a platform for diplomacy, it now seems to not serve its purpose to combat the global concerns. The recognition and the decision of the institution are not affecting any of the action done by the perpetrators of breaching any of the international order. For example, the situation in Israel and Palestine still become heated debates, the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflicts, the persuasive manner of China and many more conflicts and wars that do breach international laws and orders.

Indeed, it is an appalling situation, because the order itself is being manipulated in every possible way. United Nation with the domination of the veto power, liberal democracy with the influence on the vote, and the abuse of the state on individuals. The problem seems to be rooted in the very fundamental aspect of liberalism.

The Reason

On account of the war, the reason behind it is always rooted back in security and sovereignty. Insecurity of state become one of the major factors that triggered a war. For instance, in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, the cause of the war comes from the sense of insecurity between the states. The frozen conflict regarding the land in Europe and Eurasia region, Nagorno-Karabakh land. On this particular matter, the viewpoint of realism prevails, the struggle for power and security. The progress made through the

liberalism perspective does not effective, as the OSCE Minsk Group, an organization created to solve the ongoing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan did not stand a chance(*Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict*, n.d.). The embedded sense of security and struggle for power prevailing that war is inevitable. A utopian scheme to create a peaceful and harmonic environment was defined as a groundless idealist.

Resolution

One way to resolve the matter were already suggested by one of the strands in liberalism, the emphasis on individual rights and their privilege to live and free from man-made cruelty. The rational and reason must be adopted and been thrust to decision-maker to aim towards war-free worlds. The consequences and aftermath of the war are the most concerning matters that be known as the worst man-made disaster.

CONCLUSION

In the nutshell, liberalism cannot uphold its means and end goals, independently. How much the liberal refuses to follow others paradigm, they must admit, some of their perspectives have gaps. And to move forward, they must know and approach things realistically. Paradigm is only a matter of perspective, it is not a belief system. It is a tool to understand and perhaps, to have a solution in global political phenomenon and crises. Every perspective is not absolute, and for it to stay relevant with time, coexistence and influence from other paradigms cannot be refused. Liberalism is an idea, and an idea in international relations is a tool, not a stance.

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