

THE SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION IN OUR WORLD TO- DAY

Socio - Political Analysis

PART ONE

Important Note;

The prevalent socio-political –cultural - religious and economical structures of our world as they have crystallized over the passage of centenaries of human history, into a “status quo” which ‘de facto’ is an unjust, oppressive and exploitative world order.

INTRODUCTION.

A) A succinct historical overview of the socio-political-economic structures of our world.

- To make human life livable and predictable men, through centuries, created socio, political, cultural, religious and economical institutions and frameworks which we call structures and institutions.
- In turn, down the centuries, generation after generation, those very institutional structures created by men, influenced, fashioned and shaped modern man, his ways of thinking, attitudes and value system. In other words, what we call our culture.
- With the passage of time, one after the others, many of those structures turned to be oppressive, exploitative and unjust, such as slavery, imperialism, colonialism, serfdom, capitalism, communism, globalization, etc.
- Unfortunately, for government and those holding the reins of power the end-all and be-all of their governance has always” been to keep peace: peace, understood as the upholding of the “status quo”.
- The main concern of those at the top has been to save the structures, just or unjust, as they might be! Their motto might be labeled “**Don’t rock to the boat!**”
- Without their being aware of it, their main concern was not precisely the ministrations of ‘justice’, but to keep things going.
- At any point of history, there has been a very powerful interaction between the prevalent structures and the actual style and quality of human life.
- They are inter-dependent. Bad and unjust structures brought and still bring misery to a large majority of citizens. Fair and just structures would bring peace and contentment to one and all.
- History teaches us that a small minority in society - the ruling classes - by using all the structural means of power in their hands, **the political, economic, social, religious, cultural, juridical and repressive apparatuses** tend to ‘preserve’ and

perpetuate the “status quo”: – even if its an unjust one - for the benefit of their class group or political affiliation.

- Institutions, structures, and laws are supposed to be created for the benefit the common man, not as means to benefit just a few privileged ones.
- However, in the passage of time, too often, things have been reversed. The common man has been sacrificed to sustain the institutions in existence. We have to give back to human institutions, structures and laws their original value of means.
- That was the struggle Jesus had to face, for which, he paid with his life! He taught **‘Sabbath is for man, not man for the Sabbath!’**
- Today, to a large extent in all spheres of life, - *political, social, economical, cultural and even religious ones*, - we live in a world of ‘legalized’ injustice and juridical’ oppression.
- It is a known fact that in theory, all the citizens in any democratic country have an equality of rights and privileges, opportunities, yet in reality they have not..
- When they claim for their rights they we brand them as ‘communists’, ‘revolutionaries’, disturbers’ of peace and enemies of the establishment, and the ‘status quo’ Are we really honest?
- The 75% of the Indian population lives, slogs and dies to maintain a wealthy 25% of the ‘educated’, ‘ honorable’, ‘progressive’, ‘cultured’, ‘elitist’, ‘ patriotic’, ‘civilized’, ‘refined’ minority that controls all the power apparatuses of the country.
 - All over the world, - in democratic and not democratic regimes - this is what, in practice, governance turned to be. Is this justice and equity?

***B)* A Radical Reform is Wanted.**

- If we ‘love’ our brothers, we have to struggle and strife for ‘justice’ and equality for all citizens, even if we and the in the upper classes, have to lose much of wealth and privileges.
- We have to be ready not just to give, but much more, to share at our own cost!
- The transform our present unjust ‘social’ structures we require the efforts and cooperation of all men and women of good will..
- To begin with, the masses at the grassroots have to be conscientized both to their human and civil rights as well as to their duties.
- We have to help them to stand on their feet until they regain their ‘humanity’.
- In this process of conscientization, we should not be subversive; yet, we should be firm and not close our eyes to the wrongs done to our suppressed brothers and sisters.
- Not because there are dangers in the process of updating our socio-political structures, should we connive at and close our eyes to injustice and exploitation.
- Conscientization should not be done in a ‘demagogic’ way, arousing the passions of the crowds and spurring them to irresponsible action
- Conscientization should not be sort of ‘brain washing’ and ‘manipulation’ of the crowds for some ulterior political or personal motives or gains.

- People should not be bluffed into social action by party politics, stale slogans and empty promises, but by true concern and love for the neighbor.
- Conscientization has to aim first at building-up the man that is in every human-being, help him grow to assert himself and encourage him to claim his rights. In a word to give him a new birth.
- .Conscientization should not lead, nor does it necessarily lead to violence. It should lead to a peaceful yet ‘radical’ change of man and his structures. A change wanted at all levels, physical, psychological, social, cultural, moral and spiritual.

C) We have to Promote a ‘Non-violent’ Transformation at the following levels:

Ideological: A new concept of man and society, with equal rights and duties for all.

Social A ‘radical’ change in social structures, social relationships, social duties and obligations.

Economical: New patterns of ownership, of production and distribution, arrest of consumerism, globalization and ecological destruction

Political: New forms of government and of the exercise of law and power, reliable safeguards of individual human freedom and liberty of conscience.

Moral ; Respect for life at all levels. Honesty in all spheres of life. Love for the neighbor, Upholding Human and moral values.

Religious: Brotherhood of man. Fatherhood of God. Dialogue, stress on essentials, Respect for all religions.

D) GOSPEL TEXTS SUITABLE FOR REFLECTION

New Testament Texts appropriate for a Prayer Service and Reflection to touch the minds and hearts of our audience and motivate them to strive towards ameliorating the socio-economical condition of our downtrodden brothers and sisters in the world.

Read them, comment on them and pray with them.

The Sermon on the Mount,	Mt. 5/3-12; 6/1-4; 24-34.
1 st Letter of John.	Jo. 3/11-18
St. James.Letter	James 2/1-26; 5/1-6
James Letter	James5/1-6 (Warnings to the Rich).
The Good Samaritan.	Lk. 10/25-37
The Last Judgment	Mt. 25/31-46.
Rich man and Lazarus.	Lk. 16/19-31.
James	2/1-13 (Prejudice)

APPENDIX: AN ATTEMPT AT A SOCIO-POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIETY TO EXPLAIN THE EXISTING ECONOMICAL INEQUALITIES

DOWN ON THE-

MAJORITY
A SKETCH OF A SOCIAL ANALYSIS
OF TODAY'S SOCIETY OBTAINED

ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH

DISTINCTION OF POLITICAL

Capitalist – Communist – Socialist
Democratic – Dictatorial – etc...
EVEN IN RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES !

POWER APPARATUS

- Police
- Army
- Law making.
- Judiciary
- Economy
- Industry
- Banking/Finance
- Government
- Politics

WEIGHTS



1) SUPPRESSES – CRUSHES INTO SUBMISSION THE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.

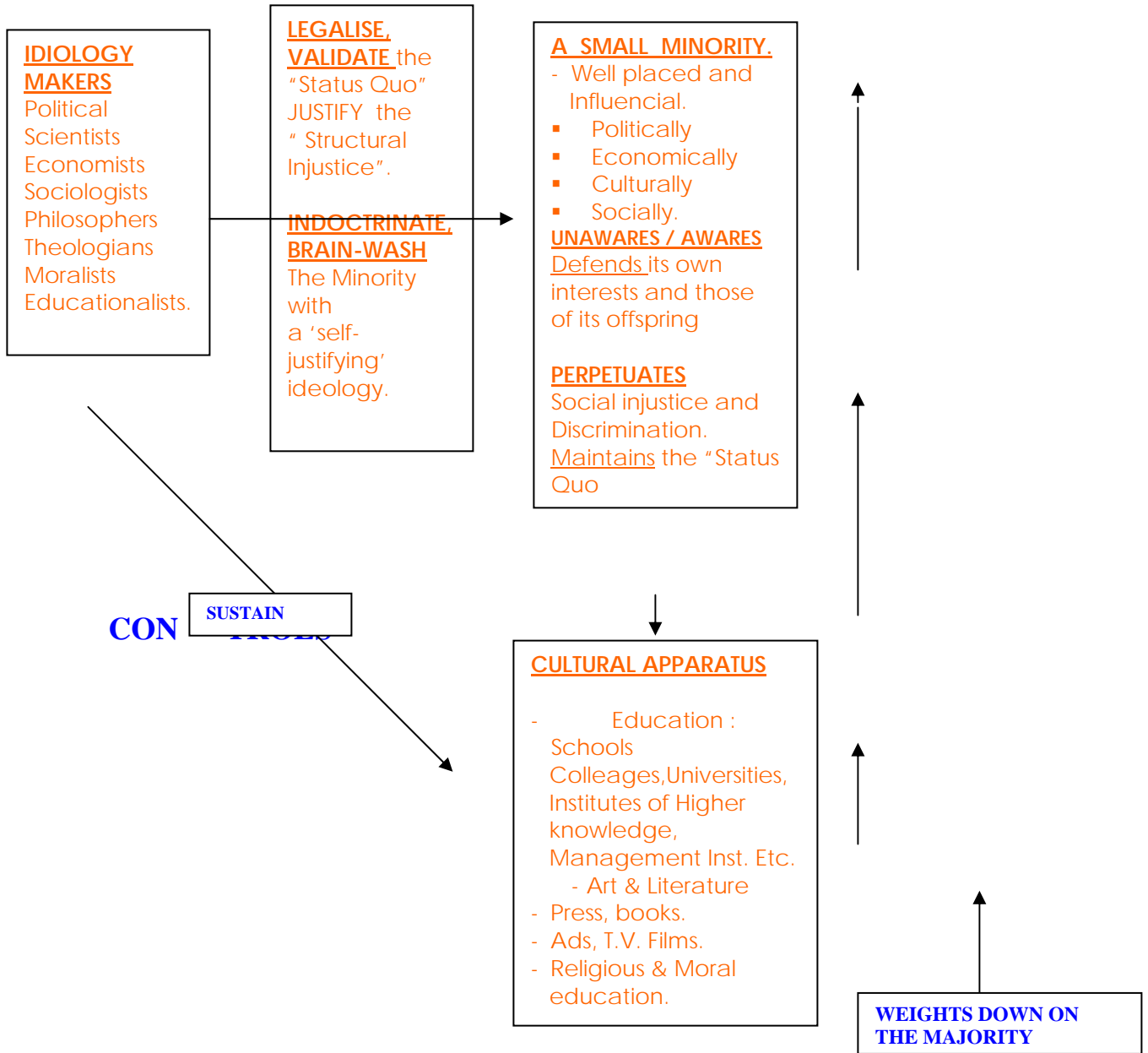
2) KEEPING IT: DESTITUTE POWERLESS SPEECHLESS DEFENCELESS EXPLOITED HELPLESS

3) FINALLY, THE MAJORITY ACCEPTS THE SOCIETAL VALUES OF THE MINORITY.

ACQUIESCES IN THE (STATUS QUO)

STRENGTHEN THE

CON↑TROLS.



WEIGHTS DOWN ON THE MAJORITY

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- ACQUIESCES IN THE 'STATUS QUO'
- 2) UNAWARES, THE MAJOIRTY BUILDS A POOR COLELCTIVE SELF-IMAGE'
- IT LOSES THE POWER TO THINK, TO SPEAK AND TO ACT.

STRENGTHEN THE

**↑
CONTROLS.**

- IDEOLOGY MAKERS**
- Political
 - Scientists
 - Economists
 - Sociologists
 - Philosophers
 - Theologians
 - Moralists
 - Educationalists.

LEGALISE, VALIDATE the "Status Quo"
JUSTIFY the " Structural Injustice".

INDOCTRINATE, BRAIN-WASH
The Minority with a 'self-justifying'

A SMALL MINORITY.

- Well placed and Influential.
- Politically
- Economically
- Culturally
- Socially.

UNAWARES / AWARES
Defends its own interests and those of its offspring

PERPETUATES

