

This paper will cover why liberal states shouldn't promote their values abroad. It will look into repeating themes in classic liberalism, some critiques of classic liberalism, and some examples of where liberal ideologies have affected countries that do not traditionally embody liberalism. Thinking about liberalistic countries, Canada, the United States of America, the UK and Germany are a few of the countries that come to mind. Although these ideologies work in these first world countries, liberalism is not the strongest ideal to promote abroad.

Some main themes of liberalism include enlightenment and revolution, social compact and majoritarianism, and attack on mercantilism. Majoritarianism is a rule by majority and typically favors a certain religion, language, social class, or some other identifying factor. Depending on the country, liberalism influence, which is pushed onto the country, will dictate which direction to take majoritarianism in. "We know the characteristics of a liberal democracy — protection of private property, protection of civil rights, protection of political rights, the rule of law, constraints on political actors, and so forth. But we know much less about how to go about getting those characteristics where the foundations are not already in place" (Coyne, 2008). Although liberalism is a great ideology for established countries, there are some problems adapting it to promote abroad. "First, successful liberal orders depend on a lot more than a written constitution or elections: They usually require an effective legal system, a broad commitment to pluralism, a decent level of income and education, and widespread confidence that political groups, which lose out in a particular election, have a decent chance of doing better in the future and, thus, an incentive to keep working within the system" (Walt, 2016).

Enlightenment and revolution, and social compact work in an existing established country. The themes of liberalism excel if executed correctly in a first world country, but developing countries are not as established. Third world countries need a more inclusive ideology over an ideology that promotes individuality and the lower classes. Liberalism also incorporates the social contract theory that is not a strong ideology in developing countries abroad, as hard work and labor do not meet equally with a payoff.

Many countries abroad have not adopted liberalism for a reason. Liberalism is not a strong fit for all nations, as it excels in countries with existing structure and government with no disconnect to the people.

Although liberalism does present some strengths, the ideology also presents many critiques. The idea around the division of labor implies that the working class of the society is not as academically inclined as the other classes in the society. This is a challenging idea to overcome, as in many third world countries the working class is larger than the educated class. Liberalistic views of restructuring effect the most vulnerable people in the society, as this lets capitalist structures exploit the working class. Capitalism favors capital accumulation, wage labor. Capitalism favors the middle and upper classes of society, it helps the rich get richer. The division of labor in liberalism leads to the lower class being deemed as having lower intelligence. The *laissez-faire* ideology is a theme in liberalism which leads to a disconnect between political parties, people in power, and responsibility. “Yesterday, Cambodians were pushed to participate in an electoral process that has nothing to do with democracy or with the Cambodian constitution. We saw increased intimidation and harassment of anyone expressing opinions different from the ones of the Cambodian regime”, said LI President Juli Minoves commenting on the elections (Liberal international, 2018). In Cambodia, the liberal government has removed politic responsibility from the government. The Cambodian government repeatedly abuses power. Liberalism is very gender biased. “This partisan gender gap is also reflected in other Westminster parliamentary democracies such as the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Ireland” (Gauja, A., Buckley, F., & Curtin, J.,2018,). Another critique of liberalism is the social contract theory. The social contract theory is an unspoken theory that is one of the themes of liberalism. The social contract theory does not present any concrete evidence that it exists. “Humans are social will work together in the state of nature” (Locke, 1689). Locke speaks explicitly about the social contract theory. “His labor hath taken it out of the hands of nature, where it was common, and belonged equally to all her children, and hath thereby appropriated it to himself (McCullough & Depner, 2013)”. Locke talks about the social contract theory and how what you take/produce is immediately your possession, as a product of your labor. Most things or possessions cannot be obtained

through this ideology. Asserting something as your property through a unspoken theory does not make it yours. Majority of countries abroad that are not liberal, are developing countries. Developing countries will not thrive under unspoken contracts or theories as they lack proper governing and structure.

Countries such as Canada, United States of America, the UK and Germany embrace liberalism. Although liberalism is a working ideology for these first world countries, the themes for liberalism do not fit into developing countries. “If the United States is sincerely committed to helping the poorest countries in the world, the easiest way to accomplish this is not foreign aid, it's not money, it's not sending humanitarian assistance abroad” (Coyne, 2008). If the countries that embody liberalism are not confident in promoting it abroad then it should stay at home. The people of liberal nations are not expressing a desire to promote this ideology abroad. “Those who criticize the president's convictions call on him to stop making impractical pledges to sponsor unrealistic reform abroad, commitments that serve no vital interests while requiring substantial outlays of power and prestige without clear promise of success” (Smith, 2009). Nations who have liberalism as an existing ideology, are not in support of promoting it abroad. If the people of liberal nations are poking holes in promoting it abroad, then countries should think twice before attempting to push this ideology to other nations. “This doesn't stop the US from continuing to push the tired and failing economic model of low paying textile factories to fill the stores of its own country; after decades of advocating the same ideas, without success, it shows the weakness of the Haiti state that its leaders continue to agree to it” (Loewenstein, 2014). The United States has a reputation for pushing into other countries, creating stigma around the true nature of the United States. Even with problems and red flags the United States continually pushed idealistic liberal projects into Haiti. “The United States has attempted to export liberal democratic institutions through military occupation and reconstruction throughout its history, with mixed results. For every West Germany or Japan, there is a Cuba, Haiti, Somalia, or Vietnam” (Wittes, 2016). Liberalism took off in developed countries abroad such as West Germany, and Japan, but in Cuba Haiti, Somalia, and Vietnam liberalism has ended getting twisted into a manipulative, selfish, disconnected government regime.

The themes of liberalism highlight some great aspects of the ideology, although they struggle to thrive in developing countries. Developing countries need an ideology that focuses on all classes instead of catering to specific classes. The critiques of liberalism outshine the strengths when thinking about promoting liberalism abroad, as the ideology does not provide the structure that most countries abroad need. Liberal nations have devolved and molded liberalism to fit their countries over the years. Liberalism is an ideology with many possibilities that needs time and structure to develop into something fitting for the nation. Most countries abroad are developing countries that will not take on the ideology on as easily. Liberalism is a strong ideology for certain nations. Liberalism should not be promoted abroad as it is a complex ideology with many ways to spiral into other ideals.

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