

In A Continuous Way

I. Predictability

The function of law in a society is more or less universal. It acts as a deterrent to control the evil and treacherous behavior of humans, to maintain discipline and imposes restrictions on some freedom. We live in a chaotic and uncertain world. Without an orderly environment based on and backed by law, the normal activities of life would be lacerated with chaos. For law to have such function, it needs predictability and order. Law and the predictability it provides cannot guarantee us a totally safe world, but it can create a climate in which people believe it is worthwhile to produce, venture forth, and to live for the better tomorrow. It prevents the state of nature, which would be total anarchy had there been no laws. Also in a capitalistic nation, such predictability would give assurance to the capitalists to invest and not worry about. Details on relationship between society and law will be discussed later.

Predictability is discussed as one of the characteristics of 'rule of law.' For an ideal nation arbitrary government power needs to be checked, liberty needs be protected, and substantive justice must be preserved in the long term. Thus, procedural justice in rule of law is emphasized. Procedural justice results in consistency, predictability and calculability that are desirable aspects of economic and social life. This second value of procedural justice is independent of any value we place on substantive justice and strengthens the argument for the western tradition of emphasizing procedural justice.

II. Why This Fundamental In Society?

III. Bourgeoisie

Definition

According to the socioeconomic theory, the bourgeoisie is the social order that is dominated by the middle class.

The term arose in medieval France, where it referred to the inhabitants of walled towns. These townspeople practiced arts and crafts and occupied an intermediate position in the economic and social scale between the rural landlords and peasantry. With the introduction of mechanical power into urban industry and the growth of the factory system, the medieval craftsmen began to separate into two classes--employers and employees--and the growth of a new kind of class-consciousness tended to *restrict the idea of bourgeois to the employers.*

* *the employees were called the proletariat*

Political Significance

The distinction between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat became politically important in the early 19th century in the course of the reaction against the indiscriminating democratic idealism that flourished during the French Revolution.

Even in modern times, the class distinction of bourgeoisie and proletariat is important because the capitalist economy still relies on Aristotle's system of class distinction among three classes: the upper, the middle, and the lower. Aristotle's system stressed the importance of the middle class in a well-ordered state, and that middle class is the bourgeoisie.

Historical Significance

The bourgeoisie (the owners of the means of production) and the proletariat (the workers) always are opposing each other in the capitalist system. This was the main reason for many social revolutions that occurred in history, such as the French Revolution and the Communist take over of Russia. Social clashes occurred as these two groups tried to control the means and the modes of production.

Current Use/Meaning

In recent times, the word bourgeoisie is used to characterize a concern for material interests and respectability, with a tendency toward mediocrity.