Function of Ideologies and Various Ideologies

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1. Explain the ways in which ideology can control people's behavior, and describe what function ideologies serve in general.

Ideology is a platform that allows individuals to acknowledge their perspectives of the world. In sociology, ideology is a person’s beliefs, values, expectations and assumptions. It shapes individual thoughts, interactions and actions alongside what is happening in the world. Ideology is a collective system of beliefs or ideas that provide the society and its members with a guide to evaluate the ‘wrongness’ and ‘rightness’ in their daily life (Harrison, 2017). Ideologies influence a person’s perception of what they find or see around them. It plays a vital role in shaping the society in terms of its functions and how it is organized. Ideology determines how we understand and make things reasonable. It is, therefore, necessary to the human experience and people cling to it to develop the conscience of their actions. Since ideology emerges as a result of social order and social structure, it expresses the social interests of individuals.

**Responses**

**Student 1**

Ideology is indeed a combined system that entails the beliefs and ideas that members of society rely on to justify their actions. I also agree with the notion that ideologies impact perceptions since they dictate how an individual sees the world around them. Further, ideologies provide the freedom to make choices regarding what is right or wrong. The idea that ideologies motivate political and social actions is justifiable since people depend on their perceptions to make the next move.

**Student 2**

Ideology defines how power is exercised since it is influential. People’s behavior is controlled through perceptions and decisions to engage in social and political initiatives. Ideologies are indeed a label as they define an individual’s perception towards their surroundings. However, I disagree with the contribution of ideology to bullying and violence. I think ideologies help to determine what is right and wrong and then make the right choice before taking any action.

1. Explain the ideologies of classical liberalism, modern liberalism, conservatism, communism, socialism, and fascism, and describe how they compare and contrast with each other.

Classical liberalism is a political ideology that is characterized by equal opportunities, limited government and social contracts for individuals to safeguard their rights (Harrison, 2017). Modern liberalism depicts the government’s role in a mixed economy by acknowledging people’s rights to own property though with economic and social obligations. Conservatism requires the government to have limited control over people’s lives and the needy in society should be prioritized. Communism entails common ownership, and the government lacks purpose since the main rule will be the distribution based on each one’s ability and hard work. Socialism relates to conservatism and classical liberalism as individuals have a right to the public ownership of production, distribution and service delivery. Fascism asserts that people’s needs are of less importance and the supremacy is only evident in their perspectives. A nation’s sovereignty is prioritized other than the needs of people. Classical liberalism relates to communism owing to the inability of government planning initiatives to deal with societal concerns (Harrison, 2017). Socialism and conservatism consider society’s opportunities to resolve its issues and oppose efforts by government and past historical elites. However, modern liberalism acknowledges the intervention of government to solve people’s problems by addressing their needs and alleviating poverty. Overall, the ideologies are connected to society, government, and people as well as their influence on policies and politics.

**Responses**

**Student 1**

Ideologies such as classical liberalism, conservatism, communism and modern liberalism depict policy issues within politics and the duty of government towards its citizens. Classical liberalism and conservatism challenge a government’s commitment to its citizens. However, modern liberalism acknowledges governmental power in solving people’s problems. Communism and socialism advocate for evolution to achieve progress in enterprise systems, either private or public. I agree that fascism suppresses societal needs and pays attention to supremacy. I further agree with the notion that these ideologies highlight the role of government and the duty of society and people in policies and politics.

**Student 2**

I agree that classical liberalism is more accommodating of all the ideologies. It emphasizes not only equal opportunity but also government protection of human rights and gives individuals social contracts to safeguard their rights. Modern liberalism is meant to solve the concerns of the needy while conservatism, an economic theory requires government involvement in security and law enforcement. I think conservatism curtails the governmental approach towards human rights but considers the necessity to help the needy in society. Socialism, fascism and communism contradict liberalism by focusing on individual needs and do not require governmental involvement in their strategies. They are solving the needs of workers, enterprise systems and the general public in terms of their duty to achieve government proposals of political and economic goals.

Reference

Harrison, B. C. (2017). *Power and Society: An Introduction to the Social Sciences*. Cengage Learning.