

Political Programmes and Policies

Having spoken of principles and parties, let me say a word, and just a word, before I conclude, with respect to policies and programmes. As I have already said, in the organized life of a political party, Liberalism both on its constructive and defensive side means two things in its effort to develop and expand liberty in every sphere of national life; first, the supremacy of general interests over particular interests, and secondly, the subordination of class interests to the interests of the community. These two ideals have been and are the life-blood of the Liberal faith.

In seeking the supremacy of general interests over particular interests, and the subordination of class interests to the interests of the community, the particular programme or policies which Liberalism will adopt to further its ends will vary with the stage of evolution of a nation's freedom. Modern Liberalism had its birth in a revolt against the feudal system. Feudalism was essentially what may be described as an authoritarian system, a system of government from above. It was in protest against the restrictions of this order that Liberalism, as we know it, had its birth.

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