

In reviewing the policies of Liberalism in the past and in other lands, I shall not attempt to explore times or regions that are remote. I should, however, like to recall that when our thoughts turn to the ancient civilizations we are reminded of absolutism and despotism in matters of government, and when we think of the Middle Ages we call to mind the Feudal System as characterising the political and social order then existing. It was essentially what may be described as an authoritarian order, a system of government from above. It was in the protests against the restrictions of this order that Liberalism, as we have come to know it, had its birth. In political, economic, social and ethical fields of human activity, the principle of the future wrestled with the principle of the past; the principle of the future finding its expression in liberal policies which served to extend the bounds of human freedom, to subordinate special to general interests, and the interests of class to the interests of the community.

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