

Liberty

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Meaning of Liberty

- The word “Liberty” is derived from the Latin noun ‘**Liber**’ which means ‘**free**’
- Liberty means freedom from restraints and the freedom to act as one likes.
- Above this meaning of Liberty in civil society taken to be negative and harmful.

Liberty : Definition

- **G.D.H. Cole, “Liberty is the freedom of individual to express, without external hindrances, his personality. ”**
- **Prof. Seely, “Liberty means the absence of restraints”**
- **McKenzie, “Liberty is not the absence of all restraints but rather the substitution of rational ones for the irrational.”**

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- **Laski**, “Liberty is the existence of those conditions of social life without which no one can in general be at his best self”

“Liberty is the eager maintenance of that atmosphere in which men have the opportunities to be their best-selves.”

Features of Liberty

- **Liberty is the essential condition for the enjoyment of rights. It is not absence of restraints. It is the positive condition for the enjoyment of rights**
- **Liberty does not mean the absence of all restraints.**
- **It admits the presence of rational restraints and the absence of irrational restraints.**

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- **Liberty develop such conditions enable to the people to enjoy their rights and develop their personalities.**
 - **Liberty means to do only those things which are considered worth doing or worth enjoying**
 - **It is possible only in a civil society and not in state of anarchy.**

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- **It is the presence of adequate opportunities for all as can enable them to use their rights.**
- **It maintains conditions which are essential for the enjoyment of liberty by all the people of the state.**
- **It is the most fundamental of all the rights. Such as the right to life.**

Types of Liberty

- **Natural Liberty**
- **Civil Liberty**
- **Political Liberty**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Economic Liberty**
- **National Liberty**
- **Religious Liberty**
- **Moral Liberty**

Natural Liberty

- **It is mean the enjoyment of unrestrained natural freedom. It is justified on the ground that man is born free, he is to enjoy freedom as he wills.**
- **The social contractualist writer such as Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau are supported natural liberty.**
- **It is imaginary concept because in state of nature or jungle society no real meaning of liberty.**
- **It can be a living based on lawlessness. i.e. rule of might is right.**

Civil Liberty

- **It means each member of society enjoys this as individual. It is equally available to all the individuals.**
- **It is enjoyed only under some rational restrictions imposed by state and society.**
- **State guarantees civil liberty.**
- **It also stands for the protection of Rights and Freedom from undue interferences.**

Political Liberty

- **It means people have an adequate opportunities for using political rights.**
- **People have the freedom of political participation.**
- **It involves the freedom to exercise right to vote, right to contest elections, right to criticize and oppose the policies of the government, right to form political parties , pressure groups etc..**
- **In the words of Laski, “Political liberty means the power to be active in the affairs of the state.”**
- **It is possible in only Democracy**

Individual or personal Liberty

- **It means the freedom to pursue one's desires and interests as a person, but which do not clash with the interests or desires of others.**
- **List of individual liberty---The freedom of speech and expression, Freedom of movement, freedom of conscience, freedom of tastes and pursuits, freedom to choose any profession or trade or occupation, freedom to enjoy the fruits of one's labour, the right to private property, freedom to profess or not to profess any religion or ideology etc....**

Economic Liberty

- **It means freedom from the wants of tomorrow and availability of adequate opportunities for earning the livelihood.**
- **It stands for freedom from poverty, unemployment and the ability to enjoy at least three basic needs—food, clothing, shelter.**
- **Laski writes, “Economic liberty means security and opportunity to find reasonable significance in the earning of one’s daily bread”.**
- **It can be enjoyed only when there is freedom from hunger, starvation, destitution, and unemployment.**

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- **The grant of economic liberty to the people demands the grant of right to work, right to reasonable wages, adequate opportunities for livelihood, right to rest and leisure, and right to economic security in the old age.**

National Liberty

- **It is also called freedom of the nation.**
- **It stands to have a constitution of their own**
- **To freely organize their own government**
- **To freely adopt their policies and programmes**
- **Freedom from external control**

Religious Liberty

- **It means freedom to profess or not to profess any religion.**
- **Freedom of faith and worship and non intervention of state in religious matters of people.**
- **Equal status of all religions to freely carry out their activities in society.**
- **Secularism**

Moral Liberty

- **It means freedom to act according to one's conscience.**
- **It stands for the liberty to work for securing moral self-perfection.**
- **Freedom to pursue moral values is moral freedom.**

Isaiah Berlin

- **Two Concepts of Liberty—Negative and positive Liberty.**
- **Negative Liberty— Free from something**
- **Positive Liberty— Freedom to do something**
- **It stands on Role of state in individual matters i.e. Negative and Positive**