

# SEVERAL BASIC OPINIONS OF ANTONIO GRAMSCI ON IDEOLOGY

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***Abstracts:** The purpose of this article is to present Antonio Gramsci's basic arguments on the question of ideology - a very important part of his political thought. To complete this task, the article has used the main method of analyzing documents based on documents related to Western Marxism, to the evaluation of Gramsci in general and the problem of the Gramsci's thought system in particular in the publications left by him as well as by different authors when dealing with the subject of Gramsci's ideology. Those are also important research data to bring objective science to this article. From the above research purposes, methods and data, the article has practical significance in clarifying as well as providing a lot of important information around points about ideology in political theory of Western Marxism, especially from Karl Marx to Antonio Gramsci.*

***Keywords:** Antonio Gramsci, ideology, theory, idea, opinion, conception.*

## **I. Introduction**

This is a political study that aims to clarify Antonio Gramsci's basic arguments about ideology. Because ideology is a topic that has been discussed a lot and has become the focus of the studies of Western Marxists since the time of Karl Marx. Clarifying these claims by Antonio Gramsci by delving into the complexity of the ideological problem will certainly highlight the need for research in the author's article in relation to other studies. Research by other authors on the subject of ideology in the theories of Western Marxist thinkers has been discussed previously.

Therefore, the research in this article will be valuable in explaining in detail the issues surrounding Antonio Gramsci's thought on concepts, the meaning of concepts, structure, and the role of ideology in general and in politics in particular. At the same time, the meaning of the article will show the great contribution of Antonio Gramsci to Marxism in the field of political thought in general and to the perfection of the theory of ideology - an important issue. It is important to reaffirm the role and position of Marxism in the face of the onslaught of hostile forces in history and in the present as well as in the future.

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## **II. Theoretical basis**

This article is based on the basic theoretical foundations of political thought and ideology. Specifically, the article is based on the theoretical basis from the studies of political thought and the ideology of Western Marxism, by Antonio Gramsci, based on theoretical studies on political thought and system ideas of different lines and political thinkers because these are fundamental and important data to serve as a basis for data analysis and to bring scientific research results to the article.

### ***2.1. Studies on political thought and ideology of Western Marxism***

Most of the research in the articles, notable works on political thought and ideology of Western Marxism, by Antonio Gramsci such as “Western Marxism” by Nguyen Chi Hieu and Do Minh Well suited; “Marxism and history” by Merrill. M and Wallace. M;” From Marx to Gramsci: A Reader in Revolutionary Marxist Politics (Second Edition) – (From Marx to Gramsci)” edited by Paul Le Blanc; “An Anthology of Western Marxism: From Lukács and Gramsci to Socialist-Feminism” by Roger S. Gottlieb; or “Theories of Ideology: The Powers of Alienation and Subjection (Historical Materialism)” by Jan Rehmann ... both show that the problem of ideology is a very important topic in the thought of Western Marxists, this is shown in Karl Marx’s view when discussing German ideology, later Antonio Gramsci himself inherited and turned the ideology into a development work, supplementing Marx’s theory in both theoretical and practical

aspects. network. The above studies have shown that ideology is a complex issue that belongs to the superstructure but plays an equally important role compared to the infrastructure in the development of society and politics.

### ***2.2. Studies on the ideology of Antonio Gramsci and various scholars***

From direct studies such as “Gramsci’s Political Thought: Hegemony, Consciousness, and the evolutionary Process” by Joseph V. Femia; “The Gramscian Challenge: Coercion and Consent in Marxist Political Theory” by John Hoffmann; or “Ideology: an introduction by Terry Eagleton; Hegemony and ideology in Gramsci” by Mouffe Chantal... These studies are the premise, the theoretical basis for discussing Antonio Gramsci’s important points on ideology. Specifically, these studies have given the concept, structure, role and pointed out the complex properties of ideology in various aspects in socio-political life, its recognition and practice. is not an easy thing. Because ideology is not a single, pre-determined issue.

## **III. Research methods**

- Due to research requirements, the article gives priority to data collection and synthesis methods. In addition, the article also uses other methods such as analysis, synthesis, logic, history.

- The article specifically uses the method of data collection and synthesis, because the collection and synthesis of documents is very important to provide basic and necessary information to carry out the research in this article. In order to have accurate data and information

for research, it is necessary to collect and synthesize data and data from many different sources. Information and data will be collected and synthesized from research works such as articles, journals, books, published and unpublished scientific topics.

#### **IV. Result and Discussion**

##### ***4.1. About the term wall system***

There is a lot of research and debate surrounding the question that Gramsci uses the term and concept of ideology or systems of ideas, which is the basis to explain this problem. Perhaps the most scientifically valid basis, which is the key to answer the above arguments, are the texts written and left by Gramsci, especially the “Prison Notebook” (Prison Notebook). It should be noted, however, that understanding and concluding Gramsci’s views on political issues is not simple. Because these works of his are not presented continuously and systematically, in addition, they are dominated by the turbulent historical context in Europe in the 19th - 20th centuries.

Evidence from data collection, analysis, and synthesis shows that Antonio Gramsci makes a very clear distinction between two interpretations of ideology. In the first way, he thinks of ideology as a science of ideas. In the second interpretation, he saw it as a system of ideas and the second meaning was much broader than the first because of its scope of existence in the social spheres. Gramsci also asserts the independence of ideology as a superstructure in relation to the infrastructure, which is an additional

argument for Marxist views on ideology, on this basis, he wanted to eliminate the false, hostile, distorted and distorted views of Marxism when he said that the ideology depends entirely on the infrastructure without independence and necessary decisions.

##### ***4.2. On the complexity of ideology***

Gramsci argued that ideology is not a simple matter, destined to become a tool, to become an ideology for leaders, people with authority, people with knowledge ... to cram into the minds of others, especially those who are led and dominated. Therefore, the first basic point that Gramsci wants to assert is that when studying ideology, ideology must be viewed as a complex form of the structural system that makes up a complete society. To understand that there is not always a single, one-dimensional class in society that specializes in “producing” ideology and that all the rest are crammed, dominated, in fact even those who “produce” ideology and stand in the ruling class also work against the ideology that they themselves produce or are dominated by other ideologies.

Ideology is a central and integral part of the “historical mass”, which exists organically in society - this is different from Marx’s call for superstructure ideology. Therefore, there are suggestions that Gramsci rejects Marx’s view of ideology. The fact is that Gramsci not only did not refute, but he also developed and added to the work of research that did not have much time to care when Marx was alive.

Ideology exists both consciously and unintentionally, existing and

systematically created by “a hegemonic force” with a clear purpose, but also exists in society in a fragmented and incoherent form. , exist in folklore to traditional knowledge, and especially have the ability to exist as a system even when the historical circumstances that gave birth to the ideology have ended, the forces that created or propagated it changed. According to Gramsci, this is an important issue that needs to be raised because from there, we will see the stratification of perception and stratification in the structure of the wall ideology..

According to Gramsci, ideology exists organically in relation to power, especially political power. It is this thesis that has turned Gramsci’s ideological theory into a revolutionary political theory, because it is the key to solving many problems in the revolutionary movement of the working class on the road to social construction. new association. From here it can also be explained why political thought can change society, why the working class of a developing or underdeveloped country can make a revolution, etc. And if the revolution is to be successful, a new social order is built that uses only power and will to control ideology is ineffective, rather it must be a process of creation, criticism, organic, transcending order, the force of “producing” outdated and conservative ideas.

## V. Conclusion

The article shows that the issue of ideology occupies a very important and privileged place in Antonio Gramsci’s political theory. The ideology in Gramsci’s view is not only considered in terms of

philosophy, sociological perspective but also considered in many aspects before becoming his central political theory issue. The clear distinction between the two ways of understanding ideology and the basic arguments about ideology as presented in the article has contributed to affirming Gramsci’s position and role in the Marxist school of political thought in the West. These basic arguments of Gramsci about ideology will be an important scientific research tool to help us better understand the nature of ideology as well as its role in human political society.

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