

# EVOLUTIONARY/HISTORICAL THEORY

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# Introduction:

- Old speculative theories failed to explain the origin of the state adequately.
- Modern political researchers proved that these old speculative theories are incomplete and inadequate as they lay emphasis on one or two factors that contribute to the origin of the state.
- Evolutionary theory of the origin of the state says that the state is the result of a long process of evolution or growth.
- This theory is also known as the Historical

# Statement of the theory:

- ▣ Evolutionary theory of the origin of the state says that the state is the result of a long process of evolution or growth.
- ▣ The theory simply states that the state is a historical growth and not a make.
- ▣ The state is a product of slow but continuous historical growth.
- ▣ It grew out of crude institutions of primitive man to a highly complex political organization.
- ▣ According to Garner, the state is neither the

# Factors in the evolution of the State:

- The advocates of this theory takes various factors in the evolution of the state.
- Like all other social institutions the state has come from the remote past and it is because of the result of evolution.
- The combined effect of a number of factors responsible for the creation of the state. They are -
  - 1. Kinship,
  - 2. Religion,
  - 3. Force,

# 1. Kinship:

- Kinship or Blood-relationship was an important factor which helped in the development of qualities like unity and obedience.
- The members of the family bound to each other by blood, developed the quality of obedience to the orders of the head of the family.
- It is this relationship of command and obedience, developed in the family ultimately provided the basis for the authority of the

## 2. Religion:

- Religion also played a vital role in the evolution of the state.
- In the early societies religion and kinship were intimately connected.
- For example, the common worship of the same ancestors helped in strengthening the family and tribe bonds.
- The head of the family or the tribal chief also acted as the religious head, he naturally became an important link between various members of the family and tribe.

# 3. Force:

- Force also played an important role in the origin and development of the state.
- It is said that 'war begot the king' or 'might is right' or 'the strong subjugated the weak one' are the testimonials of force in the evolution of the state.
- Similarly, the tribe which was better organized, subjugated the neighboring tribes and annexed their territory.
- The members of the defeated tribe were kept under subjugation with the help of force.

## 4. Economic activities:

- The economic activities of the primitive people also contributed its share in the evolution of the state.
- With the application of the art of agriculture, people stopped wandering from one place to another in search of food and they began to settle down at one place.
- Side by side with agriculture trade and commerce also flourished and the institution of property also emerged.
- This idea of private property led to different



# 5. Political Consciousness:

- Probably the most important factor in the origin of the state was the development of political consciousness.
- Political consciousness means an awareness among the people of common purposes and ends to be realized through political organization.
- People thought that common problems should be solved by the cooperation of all.
- Political organization is absolutely essential to satisfy the human needs and to promote

# Political consciousness.....

- Initially the need of political organization was felt only by the enlightened members of the society but gradually other sections of society came to realize its significance and it assumed general character.
- Among all the elements of state formation political consciousness is the supreme element says Gilchrist.
- There cannot be a state unless people desired and unless prepared to obey the order of the state.

# Conclusion:

- Thus, we find that the state originated due to combination of a number of factors like kinship, religion, force, economic activities and political consciousness.
- It is wrong to say that a particular factor is only responsible for the origin of the state.
- State is a complex organization and its origin lies in a combination of various factors.
- As the evolutionary theory takes into consideration of all these factors, it is considered to be the best theory of the origin