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Topic → Herbert Spencer's view about social control

Herbert Spencer has justified the need for social control. According to Herbert Spencer for progress and preservation, it is necessary that the individual members of society must follow the discipline, rules and regulations of the society. Members of the society have to accept the social control in the same manner as the members of a particular society have in order to acquire its membership, accept the discipline of that society. According to Herbert Spencer, there are 4 means of social control:

- (A) Government
- (B) Religion
- (C) Social Customs
- (D) Morality

According to Herbert Spencer, all these means of social control are based on natural instincts and tendencies. Either they are based on force or fear, through force and fear, the society brings about the human welfare and the welfare of society.

According to Herbert Spencer

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man lives in society. self-preservation of his individual self and race is the main aim of social life. According to Spencer, if the man does not live in society, he shall not be able to face the struggle for survival. That is why there is need for social control. The society exercises its control through its four agencies, Government, Religion, Social Custom and morality.

Nature of social control: →

According to Herbert Spencer, the individual in the society continues to make progress. As a result of this development, he is equipped with better means. ~~As a result of this development, he is~~ of self-preservation and his morality develops constantly.

According to Spencer, a stage shall be reached when man shall have achieved the highest goal of morality and then there shall be no need for external control over him. His internal checks and restrictions shall be enough to keep him under control. In order to prove this point, Herbert Spencer has taken help of Darwin's theory of Evolution.

According to Darwin, man first needed tail. As the development

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took place, the tail lost its utility and it automatically vanished. Similarly, when man shall have reached the highest stage of morality, he shall not need any external control.

According to Spencer, the external checks and restrictions are required much. No doubt, man is preserved through religion, customs, morality and state, but these means of control are required so long as the external control does not grow.

In his theory of development and social control, Spencer has accepted that man is a conscious being and he understands his welfare. He is individualist in nature and that is why, Spencer does not recognise the need for having checks and controls over the individuals. There is no need to have external checks and control. That is why, Spencer has advocated the existence of external control so long as the morality remains underdeveloped.

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