

Discuss the Gramsci's theory of Hegemony.

→ Antonio Gramsci was the most prominent figure of Italy's Socialist party and he was at the forefront of socialist movement in Italy. Like other Marxists of Italy and some other countries of Europe, Gramsci believed that capitalism one day would be defeated by the class struggle of the proletariat. But at the beginning of 1930s he posed a question which was very much debatable and explosive. The question may be put in the words of a critic: "Why capitalism survived when the objective conditions existed for a transition to communism?"

In the observation of Gramsci the answer lay in the superstructure of social organisation and according to Gramsci this superstructure can be divided into two parts. Let ~~rep~~ us quote a passage from Gramsci's 'Prison Notebooks'.

"One that can be called civil society that is ensemble of organisms commonly called private and that of the political society or the state. These two levels correspond on the one hand to the function of hegemony which the dominant group exercises throughout society and on the other to that of the direct domination or command exercised through the state and judicial apparatus."

government"

Thus according to Antonio Gramsci, it is the civil society which is the chief instrument in the act of survival of state, that is political society.