

THE CHOICE IN POLITICAL THEORY?

Absolutism

The Nation lives and has a soul.

What we call an individual man is what he is only by virtue of his place in society.

Society is not a mere **name**, but something possessing a higher reality than its units. It incarnates the Divine Idea upon earth.

The State cannot commit theft or murder in the sense in which these are moral offenses. The State is the superior power, ultimate and beyond appeal, absolutely independent.

The individual should look upon the State as his absolute final aim, and **this aim is determined for him by the Ruler or by a democratic majority.**

Individuals should serve the State and Nation, and if need be, die for it. For the State is the general substance, whereof individuals are but accidents.

Individual Liberty

Only individuals live, and only persons have souls.

Each individual is an end in himself, but he realizes his potentials by participating in the voluntary arrangements he makes with his fellows.

Society is simply the name we give to the cooperative arrangements men devise for the greater satisfaction of their physical, mental and spiritual needs.

Subject and ruler are alike under the Law. **Moral** responsibility centers in persons; and things which are wrong for individuals to do are also wrong when done by people in concert acting through legal channels as government.

Each person has a destiny which transcends the State, even when the State is democratically constituted. Majorities cannot repeal the moral law.

Each individual has a right to life which exists prior to the State or the nation. If he has a right to life he has a right to defend that life. As a matter of convenience, individuals severally, turn over this function of rightful defense to an agent. When this agent fails to serve the need for which his services were contracted, he is rightly turned in for an agent who will.