

Hindu Political Thought (Benoy Kumar Sarkar)

Indian Political Thought

- The idea that rulers are not all men elevated to high position in order that they may protect the interests of the people;
- The idea that it is the duty of rulers to consult the people, keep in touch with their affairs, and consider matters brought forward by them;
- The idea that it is the duty of the people to cooperate in the administration of government, obey the laws, and lend aid in their enforcement;
- The idea that the ruler should be guided and controlled by the advice of ministers and counselors
- The idea that the proper functions of government include any activity which may be expedient according to social needs;
- The idea that the kingship is a secular institution, subject to constitutional limitations and checks imposed through the ministry and people;
- The idea that the governed have a right to resist and overthrow tyrannical government;
- The idea that military service and valor are of supreme importance in regulating and controlling the process of government;
- The idea that warfare should be conducted in as humane and chivalrous manner as possible;
- The idea that the first acquisition of man through the state, and therefore perhaps the primary object of government;
- The idea that the second acquisition of man through state is dharma, a comprehensive Sanskrit term embracing the concepts of law, justice, duty, and virtue rolled into one.

Maxey, Chester C (1950), *Political Philosophy*. Revised ed. New York, The Macmillan Company, pp.24