

Little government to big State: the liberal tragicomedy of L. T. Hobhouse

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Little government to big State

- Antoine Destutt de Tracy (1754-1836)
- Leonard Trelawny (L T) Hobhouse (1864-1929)

Little government to big State

- De Tracy:
 - “Ideology”

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 - Zoology!

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 - Utilitarian zoology

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 - Napoleon and Marx

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 - Utilitarian zoology
 - Napoleon and Marx
 - Mannheim

Little government to big State

- The appeal of total ideology
 - Pseudo-religion

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 - Simple path to progress

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- The appeal of total ideology
 - Pseudo-religion
 - Simple path to progress
 - One principle:
the progress of freedom, technocratic reason,
historical necessity, survival of the fittest,
the cult of the Leader or of the Party

Little government to big State

- The appeal of total ideology
 - Pseudo-religion
 - Simple path to progress
 - One principle
 - Too good to be true

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- The appeal of total ideology
 - Pseudo-religion
 - Simple path to progress
 - One principle
 - Too good to be true
 - Dangerous

Little government to big State

- Liberalism as ideology
 - Hobhouse, *Liberalism* (1911)
 - Intellectual: “Old Liberalism” to “New Liberalism”
 - Political: Working class Liberals
 - Political failure

Little government to big State

- Hobhouse explains (via Hadas)

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- Hobhouse explains
 - The consistency at “the heart of liberalism”
 - Equality and freedom

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 - Mystical transition

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 - Mystical transition
 - Kindly liberals

Little government to big State

- Personal freedom to government freedom

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- Personal freedom to government freedom
- Kindly liberal freedom:
 “a man may **for his own sake**...be
 compelled to do what **we** think right...”

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- Personal freedom to government freedom
- Kindly liberal freedom
- Liberal governments make moral judgments

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- History supports the Old liberal complaints
- The Hegelian state

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- The Hegelian state
- “there is no intrinsic and inevitable conflict between liberty and compulsion”: **wrong!**

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- What Old Liberals miss: liberal consistency
1. Pelagian

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- What Old Liberals miss: liberal consistency
 1. Pelagian
 2. Secular
 3. Egalitarian
 4. Undeserved self confidence
 5. Dislike of non-government authority

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- The consistent Liberal failure

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- Liberal ideology stands reality on its head

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- The consistent Liberal failure
- Liberal ideology stands reality on its head
- Lionel Trilling:
“[W}hen once we have made our fellow men the objects of our enlightened interest, [we] go on and make them the objects of our pity, then of our wisdom, ultimately of our coercion.”