

Lockean Notion of Negative Freedom:

The concept of negative freedom is most closely associated with the English philosopher John Locke, one of the most influential thinkers of the Enlightenment period. Locke's understanding of freedom laid the foundation for classical liberalism and modern democratic thought. His idea of liberty is often described as "negative freedom" because it emphasizes the absence of external interference, especially by the state. For Locke, freedom does not mean the absence of all restraints, but rather the absence of arbitrary or unjustified interference with an individual's natural rights.

Locke begins his theory with the concept of the "state of nature." In this pre-political condition, individuals are naturally free and equal. Freedom in the state of nature means that a person is not subject to the will or authority of any other person. However, this freedom is not unlimited. It is governed by the law of nature, which teaches that no one ought to harm another in their life, liberty, or property. Thus, even in the state of nature, freedom is limited by moral law and reason.

For Locke, the most important natural rights are life, liberty, and property. Liberty, in his view, means the freedom to act according to one's own will within the boundaries of natural law. It is not a license to do whatever one desires. Instead, it is freedom from being under the arbitrary power of others. A person is free when he is not forced to obey another's will without consent. Therefore, freedom is closely connected with the idea of consent and limited government.

Locke's notion of negative freedom becomes clearer in his theory of political society. According to him, people leave the state of nature and form a political community through a social contract. They do so not to give up their freedom, but to protect it more effectively. In the state of nature, although individuals are free, their rights are insecure because there is no impartial authority to enforce the law of nature. To avoid conflicts and insecurity, individuals consent to establish a government.

Locke's idea of law is also important in understanding his concept of freedom. He argues that "where there is no law, there is no freedom." At first glance, this statement may appear contradictory to the idea of negative freedom. But Locke clarifies that laws made by a legitimate and representative legislature do not reduce freedom. Instead, they secure it. Law is not an enemy of freedom if it is made with

the consent of the governed and aims at the common good. Law prevents individuals from being subject to the unpredictable and arbitrary will of others.

However, Locke's theory has also been criticized. Some critics argue that his emphasis on property rights may justify economic inequality. Since he allows individuals to accumulate property through labor, it may lead to unequal distribution of wealth. Others argue that his concept of freedom is too narrow because it focuses only on non-interference and does not consider social and economic conditions that may limit real freedom. Despite these criticisms, Locke's notion of negative freedom remains highly significant.

Amartya Sen's Notion of Development as Freedom:

The concept of "Development as Freedom" is most closely associated with the Indian economist and philosopher Amartya Sen. In his famous book *Development as Freedom* (1999), Sen presents a new and comprehensive understanding of development. He challenges the traditional view that development is merely economic growth or increase in national income. Instead, he argues that development should be understood as the expansion of human freedoms.

According to Sen, freedom is both the primary end and the principal means of development. This means that freedom is not only the goal of development but also the tool through which development is achieved. Sen's approach is known as the "capability approach." He focuses on what people are actually able to do and to be. Development, therefore, is about expanding people's capabilities and choices.

Sen identifies different types of freedoms that are essential for development. These include political freedoms, economic facilities, social opportunities, transparency guarantees, and protective security. Political freedoms refer to civil rights such as freedom of speech, voting rights, and participation in public discussion. Economic facilities involve access to resources, employment opportunities, and markets. Social opportunities include access to education and healthcare. Transparency guarantees refer to openness and trust in public dealings, and protective security involves social safety nets to protect the vulnerable.