

JOHN STUART MILL AND THE POLITICAL THEORY OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY



Okechukwu S. Amadi¹

Department of Political & Administrative
Studies
University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt,
Nigeria

Inyikalum Daniel B.²

Department of Political & Administrative
Studies
University of Port Harcourt, Port
Harcourt, Nigeria

www.arseam.com

Abstract

Political theory attempts to explore the intellectual content of the processes of resolving the conflicts that arise among human beings in their effort to live together within a political and economic arrangement in order that a certain minimum of justice for each member of the social group is assured. This involves a discovery of the classificatory principles, values concepts, and the underpinning philosophical foundation of the theorist. Here in this paper, we present to you J.S. Mill, one of the greatest political theorists of the politics of Liberal Democracy in the context of the Western intellectual tradition. We examined his profile and analyzed the contending issues and socio-economic conditions of his time and thus argued that his political theory and ideas on utilitarianism, on Liberty and Representative Government despite its pitfalls was an improvement on the liberal democratic ideas and its central problem of freedom and social justice of the individuals in society.

Keywords: *political theory, liberalism, democracy.*