# LIBERTARIANISM

#### **KEY-DEFINITION**

Libertarianism is a political and economic movement that advocates the total freedom of individuals to enjoy all their rights. It is a movement distinguished by its desire to abolish a central state that regulates and intervenes in the actions of individuals.

# **I-ORIGINS AND HISTORICAL DISTINCTION OF THE LIBERTARIAN MOVEMENT**

# A) <u>The birth of libertariansim among the first settlers</u>

- Libertarian ideology dating back to the colonisation of America by the British
- Development of the idea of self-sufficiency, the need for private property and a gradual shift away from the central state
- Anti-state movement supported by the founding fathers: Thomas Jefferson, Henry David Thoreau

## B) The development and distinction of the movement in the 20th century

- A desire to distinguish libertarians from liberals as early as 1930 (importance of the Great Depression in this separation )
- Distinguished libertarian positions on various conflicts (ex : the Vietnam War)
- An ideological evolution with the creation of the Libertarian Party in 1971

#### **II- CONTEMPORARY LIBERTARIANISM IN POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

### A) Libertarianism in the contemporary political landscape

- A party that is asserting itself as a third force in the American binary political landscape
- Radicalisation of the party after defeat to Donald Trump in the 2016 Republican primaries.
- Extending the movement to politics in other countries: the example of Argentinian President Javier Milei

### **B)** The reception and incarnation of ideology in today's society

- The development of ideology in society through university studies and institutions (Cato Institute)
- A libertarian group with heterogeneous demands but similar social profiles\_
- The incarnation of libertarianism through very popular figures (the example of Elon Musk)