

Q2) Discuss in detail the Plato's concept of justice. [20]

1) Introduction:

Plato was one of the greatest philosophers to ever step on the face of the earth. Plato was born in Greece in 428 BC. There were two events in his life that completely changed his views and developed his political beliefs. The first was when he met Socrates, the greatest Greek philosopher at the time. Meeting him inspired Plato to the point that he became a close associate and dedicated his life to the question of virtue. The other event was the war between Sparta and Athens, which Athens lost and consequently the democracy of Athens was replaced by an oligarchy that stripped the people of Athens from their basic rights. These two events had a lasting impact on Plato and ~~develop~~ shaped many of his views.

2) Prevailing concepts of Justice that Plato Rejected:

Plato contributed a great deal of work in the dimensions of justice. He wrote Republic which extensively covers the contours of justice. However, before we discuss Plato's theory of justice, it is essential we understand the popular theory's about justice that were repudiated by Plato.

2.1) Theory of Traditionalism:

The famous theory of Traditionalism was put forward by Cyphalous. Cyphalous praised the concept of equality. He was of the view that every man should be given his due irrespective of whether the person needs it or if the situation allows it. Plato rejected this on the basis that this could not be applied universally. This was akin to giving mad man weapons that he could use to wreak havoc.

2.2) Theory of Radicalism:

The Theory of Radicalism was proposed by Thrasymachus. This theory was the reincarnation of the critical views prevalent in the 5th century. The theory of Radicalism held that unconventional immorality and selfishness was the true achievement. It defines justice as the interest of the stronger and teaches that injustice is better than justice.

2.3) Theory of Pragmatism:

This theory was put forward by Claron. It observes that justice is an artificial thing and a product of convention. He was of the view that humans face unbridled injustice, and that inflicting injustice is better than suffering from it.

3) Characteristics of Plato's Theory of Justice:

3.1) Non-Interference :

According to Plato's theory of justice, a perfect state is that where classes do not meddle in other's business. Each ~~has~~ class has their own expertise and hence should not interfere with other classes.

3.2) Functional Specialization :

Another important element of Plato's theory on justice was functional specialization. Plato believed that an ideal state should be perfectly organised with each component working in cohesion.

3.3) Mutual Cooperation :

Plato's theory of justice revolved around the central concept of mutual cooperation. He was of the view that different classes and individuals should cooperate with each other and live harmoniously. However, it is noteworthy to mention that

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cooperation does not mean blind interference. Accentuating the significance of cooperation, Plato states "Justice is the harmonious balancing and the operation of life among the three classes in the state".

3.4) No Room for Individualism:

Plato held that justice goes against individualism. This means that individuals should not look at themselves as isolated units but as harmonious who. At this way many would shun their own selfish desires for the greater good of the state.

3.5) Universal Justice:

Plato's justice was not confined to solely legal matters but extensively covered all aspects of life. He was of the view that justice encompasses whole duty of man in all domains of life and should not be circumscribed to a few

matters -

3.6) External Justice :

Plato's justice is external. It connotes the idea of social whole to which service is rendered. This implies that justice is the service provided to entire state and ~~is~~ not just few individuals.

4) Analysis :

Although Plato's theory is considered as a landmark, critics still point out many flaws. Firstly the population of the world is too vast and cannot be segregated in 3 classes. Moreover, circumscribing individual to certain tasks prevent their proper development. Plato's theory of justice is based upon self-renunciation of individuals but in reality people will always be inclined towards self interest.

5) Conclusion :

To sum up, Plato is one of the greatest philosophers to ever step

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on the face of the earth. His theory of justice, much like most of his other work, is a piece of excellency. However, despite being one of the earliest and meticulously designed theories, it has courted much criticism

Q) Describe in detail Karl Marx views on class, state and religion. [20].

1) Introduction

Karl Marx, also known as "The Father of Communism", was one of the greatest philosophers and the originator of Communism. He was born in 1818 as a Jew. However, despite being born in a strong family, he was a victim of perpetual poverty, misfortunes and sufferings. He was moved by the dire and exploitative conditions of the working class by the feudalists. He developed a serious disliking towards economic disparity and class stratification from a young age. One factor that left a lasting impact on him and shaped much of his views was his friendship with Friedrich Engel. Among his countless works, Communism Manifesto is a notable one which attracted much attention.

2) Marx's views on state, class and Religion

2.1) Marx's Views of state:

2.1.1) A tool for Minority

Marx was a staunch critique of state. He held that states served as a means for minority to impose their will on the majority. He was of the view that states did not in any way aimed at induring welfare of common people or cared about their rights. He also observed that states coerce people into class-coercion.

2.1.2) Protecting the interests of the Privileged:

Marx was of the view that states were not necessary for the well-being of people. The primitive societies did not needed it, but when the society began to bifurcate into rich and working class, it is then when the concept of state was considered necessary in order to protect the # privileges of the privileged. He aptly describes

state in his Communist Manifesto in the following words: "The state is nothing more than the form of organization which bourgeoisie necessarily adopt both for internal and external purposes for the mutual guarantee of their property and interest"

2.1.3) Maintain status quo:

The laws in a state are specially designed to preclude any revolts. The idea is to keep the ruling class in power and nip any revolts by the proletariat in the bud.

2.1.4) Repressive Institutions:

The state apparatus is at the disposal of bourgeoisie. They employ armed men as well as repressive institutions to induce fear and intimidation into ordinary people, subduing them into obedience.

2.1.5) Eventual Dwindling of the state:

Marx was of the view that

the state will begin to wither away when society has realised the value of their ability and the value of their needs - He thought that this would lead to a revolution with a proletariat getting the reins of power and that would mark the end of the state and class stratification.

2.2) Marx's views on class:

2.2.1) Capitalist Exploitation:

Marx repudiates the class struggle. He held that the bourgeoisie have the working class at their mercy and will continue to exploit them.

2.2.2) Economic Determinism:

Marx argued that capitalist societies revolved around the economic edifice. He observed that political and legal superstructures are based upon economic structure, particularly the means of distribution. In simpler words, the economic structure

determined the social and political relationship.

2.2.3) Revolution to end class struggle:

Marx believed that the class struggle will cease to exist when a bloody revolution takes place. He argued that a proletarian movement will take the reins of power from bourgeoisie. Once he gains the control he will abolish this class struggle and bring all the ~~pub~~ private companies under state ownership.

2.3) Marx's Views of Religion:

2.3.1) Critique of Religion:

Aptly describes Religion as "Opium of people". He criticised religion as it served as a form of ideological control, providing comfort and distraction to the oppressed masses. It also provided ~~st~~ satisfaction to people, depriving people from the ability to resist.

2.3.2) Reflecting social conditions:

He argued that religion was a reflection of social and economic conditions. He said in a capitalist society, religion could be used as a means to justify and perpetuate class inequality.

2.3.3) Call for Liberation:

While critical of organized religion, Marx did not dismiss the potential for individuals to find solace or meaning in religious beliefs. He called for emancipation of individuals from the conditions that led them to seek refuge in religion.

3) Analysis:

Marx's views on class and society were accurate to a certain point, but the fact that some of the most flourishing societies are capital in nature point out the flaws in his theories. He argued that capitalist societies were characterise d by

bourgeoisie's exploitation of proletarians, but what he failed to take into account the effort and hard work needed to establish and regulate industries. He also argued that state would wither away following a revolution, however we see today that the concept of state has permeated to all parts of the world. He held that the bourgeoisie would always rule the state, which contradicts many democratic states where middle class or low middle class have risen up the ranks and have the reins of the country.

4) Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Karl Marx was one of the most influential philosophers whose communistic views are still the basic ideologies of many states today. He was an adamant critique of state, class and religion and was of the view that capitalistic societies were doomed to wither away. However, contrary to his beliefs, capitalistic societies are present hitherto and some of the most thriving nations have capitalistic ideologies as their cardinal pillar.