

rich and ordinary citizen would check the aristocracy from exceeding their power by ratifying their ~~arguably~~ decision. In modern times, Aristotle formula is arguably referred to as constitution Democracy.

Plato's theory of Communism.

Back Backgrounds-

- 1) Plato wanted to make Athens' Ideal state.
- Plato = To establish ideal state, Just state should be established.
- To establish just state, Plato gave "Theory of Justice" in his book the Republic.
- According to Plato Theory of Justice: Everyone should choose profession according to their dominant trait. Society would be divided into 3 classes: Ruler class, Soldier class, Tradesman class.

• Plato & Aristotle Philosophers (Rulers) and Soldiers together and described them as Guardian class.

• Problem: In Guardian class, appetite may dominate sometimes and they may turn corrupt.

• Solution: Plato prescribed particular style of living for them, etc called Communism of property and wives.

⇒ Communism proposed by Plato:-

• Communism of property

• Communism of wives (family).

(i) Communism of property:-

⇒ According to Plato, personal property and wives were the sources of corruption. Therefore, he considered

Communism of personal property, wives and wealth apt for the two upper classes. That means that the two upper classes of his ideal state will not have personal

property and wives in order to devote their full time to the welfare of the state.

⇒ The ^{union of} Political and economic was fatal to political unity.

The Guardian class shall have no property. They shall receive fixed salaries which may meet their natural desires. They shall not have bank balance. This would avoid political

competition for power among the ruling class.

⇒ Communism of wives (family).

⇒ In terms of family, neither marriages nor any monogamous union shall be allowed among men and women in the ruling class. Breeding shall be regulated to have best

offspring from the stock. Excellent women shall be given to the guardians. They will have periodic mating and intercourse. The offspring shall be reared by the state.

Plato wanted to maintain the population of his state at favourable size having the best offspring. He allows abortion, infanticides and neglect of chronically ill order to maintain size and quality of the community.

⇒ Aristotle: Criticism Plato theory of Communism-

i) Criticism of Communism of property-

⇒ Property leads to Corruption but it also has many constructive implications- property is a source of motivation.

b) Gives sense of achievement.

c) Those who own property are men of reason (owning property is a virtue).

d) Those having property prefer stability (no revolution, protests, etc, poor have nothing to lose so do protests)

e) Property is a source of charity.

ii) Criticism of Communism of family / wives

a) As an institution, family has lots of importance in society.

b) For a person, it is a source of emotional stability

c) Aristotle criticised Plato's suggestion, considering the remedies as worse than the disease.

⇒ Features of Plato's Communism-

- ⇒ Half Communism- His Communism is only applicable to the two classes, Guardian Kings and warriors.
- ⇒ Free-Trade- he allows free trade in the state because it boosts state's economy. He therefore favours trade competition.
- ⇒ Statistcy- For the sake of stability, Plato nationalizes property and wives of the guardian class their ~~ownership~~ brings instability in the state by corrupting the ruling class.
- ⇒ Guarantee of justice- He wanted to insure equal distribution of wealth in the society by nationalizing means of production.
- ⇒ Eng to selfishness- He wanted his Communism ends the selfish motives and self aggrandizement of ruling class.
- ⇒ End to inter-conflict- According to Plato, personal property brings inter conflicts, therefore, Communism of personal shall end them.
- ⇒ Separation of politics and economy- According to Plato politics are affected by economic setup, therefore, setup shall be separated from politics.

⇒ Comparison of Plato's and Modern Communism-

Identical Features-

- ⇒ Both stresses unity of the state - Plato by renunciation of family and property by guardian class while modern by bringing all means of production under state control.
- ⇒ Specialization of functions - Plato achieved it by the division of society into classes while the modern Communism by merely dividing the people into skilled and unskilled. Each department is under a technocrat who is responsible to the Communist party.
- ⇒ Both focus on collective interests than individuals.
- ⇒ Both strive to eliminate economic competition in society but Plato's in only for the guardian class while modern is for the entire society.
- ⇒ Both regard state a supreme entity which embraces the individual. Both stresses self-abomination on part of individual.

⇒ Difference:- Plato Communism and Modern Communism -

- ⇒ Plato's Communism stands for renunciation of property and family by the guardian class.
- ⇒ In Modern:- Modern Communism stands for ownership of the means of production like, land, banks, insurance, factories and mills etc. It is based on equal division and enjoyment of material goods.
- ⇒ Plato's Communism ~~is~~ is limited to the ruling class.

In Modernism is applicable to the entire society.

⇒ Plato's Communism affects family property both,

In Modernism - Modern Communism applies to property only.

⇒ Plato Communism is ethical and political while,

In Modernism - Modern Communism is purely economic.

⇒ Plato Communism does not stress the material well-being of the guardians of people, rather it stress the unity of the state while.

In Modern Communism is concerned with material well-being of the people.

⇒ Plato Communism is ideal while.

Modern Communism is being practiced.

⇒ Plato's Communism believed in separation of economic and politics while.

Modern Communism - Combined both in the hand so Proletariat class.

⇒ Plato Communism is not concerned with nationalization of means of production while.

In Modern Communism - Modern is the vice versa.

Plato Communism does not affect the working class individualistic system.

Modern Communism is against economic individual and advocates state monopoly over means of production.

Comparison b/w Plato's Communism and Communism of Karl Marx.

⇒ Plato's Communism.

- a) Applies to guardian class only.
- b) Can be achieved through an elaborate educational system.
- c) Implicit sharing of common property and wives.
- d) Implicit satisfaction of minimum material needs of guardian class accustomed to "plain living & high thinking".
- e) Primacy of moral values.
- f) Authority would be vested in philosopher kings.
- g) Plato wants to create an ideal state.
- h) Plato expects citizens to sacrifice their interest for state.

⇒ Marx Communism.

- a) Applies to the whole society.
- b) Can be achieved through revolution.
- c) Insists on common ownership of property, particularly means of social production.
- d) Implicit satisfaction of all material needs of people.
- e) Primacy of material satisfaction.
- f) Authority would be vested in the working class.
- g) Marx considers state as an instrument of exploitation & wants to end state.
- h) Marx calls for revolution against state.