

Q#1 Critically analyse the salient features of Plato's Republic. Do you think that some of its features are valid, even today?

(C85-2018)

## Philosopher Overview

In context	
Ideology	
• Ideal state	
Focus	
• Philosopher King	
Key works	
• The Republic	
• The Politics	
• The Law	
Influenced by	
• Socrates, Pythagoras	
Protagoras, Heraclitus	
Influenced	
Aristotle, Marx,	
Hegel, Russell,	
Mill, Augustine,	
Descartes, Hobbes	
and many others	

• Greek philosopher

At times influenced by

- Athen - Greek democracy
- Athen - Sparta war
- Socrates learn

## Introduction:

Plato's "Republic" is one of the most influential works of ancient Greek philosophy in western history. It represents a comprehensive view of an ideal state covering wide range of topics and theories including concept of justice, education, communism, and principles such as principle of specialisation. There are some salient features of Plato's Republic and their critical analysis of their significance:

### ① Philosopher-Kings: One of the central ideas of

Plato's philosophy of ideal state is comprised of Philosopher Kings, His advocacy for philosophers to rule the state. According to Plato philosopher poses ~~essence~~ necessary wisdom and knowledge to govern effectively. Furthermore he portrays the idea of philosopher king who belongs to a particular class ~~of~~ ~~with~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~, which ~~represents~~ ~~as~~ "Guardian" class.

However, this notion raises questions about the practicality of pure concentration in a selected king or selected groups. Friedrich argues

Thus Plato's ideal state of philosopher-king is an oppressive system that values the reason and control over individual ~~ent~~ creativity by confining them to the in classes. ~~and through principles of~~

② The Allegory of the Cave: Plato's famous allegory of the cave illustrates

the journey from ignorance to enlightenment. It highlights the role of education and knowledge in transforming individuals and society. Allegory serves as a powerful metaphor for social structure and the pursuit of truth. However, it also raises concerns about determining who possesses knowledge.

③ Justice and Ideal State: Plato argues

that justice in an ideal state corresponds to the harmony of the segments of society. Plato classifies the society of in three segments based on three forces i.e Appetite, Spiritual part, Reasonability individuals with one force predominant are ~~not~~ categorized in one section.

- Guardians - have predominant Rational part.
- Auxiliaries - have predominant Spiritual part.
- Producers - have predominant Appetite part.

On basis of his segregation roles are assigned. ~~For instance~~ In Producers selection ~~the~~ included farmers, Craftsmen, artisans, Auxiliary selection included military, soldiers, sailors, and lastly Guardians included Philosopher. Plato idea of justice comprised on the idea that ~~everyone~~ ~~school~~ ~~be~~ ~~perform~~ individuals belonging to a segment should specialize in his work/role and not meddle with other segments roles in this way confining them to the specific roles ~~exist~~ by birth. It raises the questions about individuals freedom and equality. It overlooks the importance of equal rights and opportunities.

④ Theory of education: Plato emphasized the

importance of education ~~not~~ for both sexes. His structure of education was ~~called~~ as the finest educational treaty by Russell. His theory of education is based on a well structured system leading to the selection of Philosopher kings. ~~In the theory of~~ ~~the~~ ~~theory~~ ~~is~~ In the theory of education Plato divides the structure into elementary and higher education, elementary education was open to all. In his ~~theory~~ system tests were conducted in between ~~after~~ ~~2~~ twenty years and thirty five years. ~~after~~ ~~the~~ ~~philosopher~~ ~~king~~ ~~being~~.

Characteristics View highlights Plato's theory of

Education primarily focuses on philosophy, mathematics and neglect the development of practical skills. ~~only~~ His approach neglects the potential of individuals from diverse backgrounds and abilities who may take and contribute society but are excluded based on predetermined criteria.

⑤ Critique of Democracy: Plato criticises democracy as an inherently flawed form of government. He argues that democracy leads to anarchy, as it prioritises the pleasure of the individuals rather than the pursuit. His ideal state concept represents the idea of philosopher king rational in thinking and with wisdom and knowledge runs the state and knows ~~what the best~~ and acts according to the interest of state. His idea of democracy has been challenged by many modern philosophers and democratic theorists' major argument highlights power concentration in Plato's philosopher king idea ~~and~~ while democracy can provide objective governance while protecting the rights of individuals.

⑥ Theory of Communism: Plato's theory of Communism was certainly a corollary of his concept of justice. ~~the~~ without communism, there would be a clash of interest between reason and appetite. Based on the

Promotes that "Purpity", Family creates private interests that would displace man's relation from his obligations to the community. ~~the~~ In Plato's concept to care the good among males is to deny them <sup>any</sup> right ~~of~~ to call anything their own. Commission of wives could lead to the disruption of family units. Children will never have a lot of this union, ~~would be the~~ according to Plato, would be the property of state. It can be <sup>be</sup> overlooked on the notion that child of everyone will be loved by no one as it diminishes the potential for meaningful bonds between the ~~foreign~~ individuals. Additionally the commission of wives practiced implementation will be highly problematic as this idea potentially degrades and devalues women and treats women as as a common property, ~~if~~ nearly reducing women to objects for reproduction. His overall idea of common significantly impacts individual freedom and ~~disrupts~~ disrupts the family system that is the basic unit of Society.

Plato's ideas relevancy with Modern world:

① Role of Education — <sup>emphasis on</sup> Plato's ~~idea~~ ~~of~~ education and its importance in shaping individuals and society is still highly relevant today. Education plays a crucial role in ethical development. In Plato's Education system test was ~~conducted~~ to judge the

criticiser of candidates on basis of past  
finally emerges the philosopher king. This  
idea resonates with the modern world  
education system.

② Concept of Supreme leader — It is interpreted  
that here, with Supreme leader in mind, even  
though it is based on concept of "Vrajat  
Figh" i.e. a Sha theological concept. In which  
the Fajri, must move in religious feelings and  
against he should rule the country. which  
is very similar to in secular terms what  
Pleb has argued in his term of philosopher  
king. Also, Arjant — Uth-Kohmani was very well  
versed in Philosophy. The idea of leaders to  
have knowledge and wisdom is applicable till today.

③ Allergy of caves — Plot's allegory serves  
as a metaphor for Cahal thinking, enlightenment  
and pursuit of truth. His allegory of  
caves raises questions about the societal  
structure, biases and the pursuit of objective  
truth and the assessment of truth in  
digital age.

(9) Idea of Justice - Plato's Idea of  
distributive justice focuses on  
the fair distribution of resources, opportunities  
and benefits across the society. The concept  
remains highly relevant today. The concept  
of - Welfare and Just leaders for good  
governance remain relevant today.

Conclusion:

Though Plato's concept of Ideal state  
is ~~not~~ for Idealist and utopian it is  
Practically impossible to be implemented. ~~through~~  
His concept may not be applicable but  
his exploration of education, justice,  
- ~~ethical thinking~~ - his principles and  
allegory of cars continues to inspire  
discussions on the foundations of just  
society, and the quest for the fairness  
and equity.