

Q 2: Critically analyze the salient features of Plato's Republic. Do you think that some of its features are valid, even today?

→ Plato was considered as the father of the idealist school and as he really was. Plato portrays an ideal state in his widely known work "Republic". His concept of the ideal state was recognized as Utopian One. He wanted to realize the idea of good in his ideal state.

These eight features of Plato's Republic are:

- 1- Philosopher king: A ruler should be a Philosopher.
- 2- Education assumes important for the creation of the best ruler.
- 3- The spirit of Justice is supreme.
- 4- The complete ban on art and poetry.
- 5- Society was divided into three classes.
- 6- The rulers and soldier should live under the system of communism of property.
- 7- There should be gender equality.
- 8- The women of the Rulers and Soldiers are held in common.

1- Philosopher King:

A ruler or king should be a philosopher.

In Plato's "The Republic", the philosopher king is a central feature of his ideal state. This concept refers to the idea that the ideal ruler of a state would be philosopher, someone who has a deep understanding of the nature of reality and the human soul.

Plato believed that the ideal state would be ruled by individuals who possess both wisdom and virtue, and who have a deep understanding of the nature of reality. He believed that only a philosopher can truly understand the nature of justice and the good life, and therefore, only a philosopher is capable of ruling justly.

2- Education:

Education assumes importance in the ideal state of Plato. It should be directly under the control of rulers. For the creation of good rulers, a good education system should be built up.

In Plato's ideal state, as outlined in his work "The Republic", education plays a crucial role in the formation of the individual and the health of the state as a whole. Plato believed that the goal of education was to produce virtuous and wise citizens who would be able to govern the state justly and effectively.

In Plato's ideal state, education would begin in childhood and would be divided into three stages. The first stage, from birth to age six, would focus on physical education and training, with an emphasis on gymnastics and music. The second stage, from age six to age twelve, would focus on basic education in mathematics and reading, as well as music and poetry. The final stage, from age twelve to eighteen, would focus on higher education in philosophy, mathematics and the natural sciences.

3- Justice.

The spirit of Justice is Supreme in the ideal state. Justice in the state means the due performance by each individual of the functions for which he is best fitted by aptitude and training.

" Injustice causes civil war, hatred, and fighting, while justice brings friendship and a sense of common purpose."

4- Ban on Art and Poetry:

There is a complete ban on art and poetry, as they appeal to baser instincts. Nothing goes to the youth without the approval and supervision of rulers.

He was against poetry because he believed that poetry deals with the unreal.

5- Three Classes - Rulers, Soldiers and peasants:

Society was divided into three classes - rulers, soldiers and peasants - all performing their functions most dutifully. There should be a strict division of labor. This was the fifth most important feature of Plato's Ideal state.

There is a principle of functional specialization that prevails in the ideal state. Every person performs only those functions for which he is fitted and gets training to perform his functions efficiently. No class interferes with the sphere of other classes.

6- Communism of Property:

The ruler and soldiers should live under a system of communism of property. They should not own any private property at all.

In Plato's "The Republic" he presents an ideal state in which property is held in common by the citizens. This is known as the communism of property feature. Plato argues that in order for the state to function properly, all property should be held in common, rather than being privately owned by individuals.

In addition, the communism of property feature would also provide an opportunity for the philosopher-kings to have control over the resources and wealth of the state, and in turn use it for the betterment of the society, without the fear of greed and self-interest.

7- Gender equality:

Gender equality is another important feature of the ideal state.

In Plato's "Republic", he presents the idea of an ideal state in which there is gender equality. He suggests that both men and women should have the same opportunities for education and participation in politics and government. Plato argues that both men and women have the same natural abilities and should be able to develop them to their full potential.

Furthermore, Plato's ideal state also features a merit-based system for assigning roles and responsibilities. He suggests that people should be selected

for roles and responsibilities based on their natural abilities, regardless of their gender, and that everyone should have the opportunity to develop their abilities to the fullest.

8. System of Temporary Marriage:

The women of the Rulers and soldiers are held in common by men belonging to these two classes. According to a system of temporary marriage one fit woman is married to one fit male for one year. After the birth of a child, the two are separated and joined to a different person of opposite sex provided he or she is healthy and fulfills the age qualification.

women in the ideal state are fit for procuring children between the age of 20 and 40 and men between the age of 30 and 55.

The children so born of temporary unions between the best of men and the best of women are reared up under state control and educated according to their aptitudes. These children when they grow up are put into the service of state.

Features of Plato's Republic that are still valid today:

Many of the ideas and concepts presented in Plato's Republic are still relevant today, for example ideal of a just society and the concept of ruling philosopher kings are the ideas that are still debated and discussed today.

Additionally, Plato's discussion of the nature of knowledge and reality, as well as his belief in the importance of education, are also concepts that are still important today. However it's worth noting that some of the specific political and social recommendations that Plato makes in the Republic may not be applicable to our current society.