

when to speak and when to be silent; he knows how to converse, he is able to listen; he is a pleasant companion and a comrade you can depend upon; he knows when to be serious and when to trifle and he has a sure tact which enables him to trifle with gracefulness and to be serious with effect. The art which tends to make a man all this is the object which it pursues as the art of wealth or the art of health, though it is less susceptible of method, less tangible, less certain, less complete in its results.

EXERCISE 11 ✓

Dictatorial governments distrust education which seeks to train the intelligence, precisely because it affords the mind of the ordinary man protection against those who would exploit it for their own purpose. Those whose function is to govern people for their alleged good do not desire that men and women should think for themselves, since those who think for themselves are liable to cause difficulties for the governors. Only the guardians as Plato would say, are to think, the rest are to follow their leaders like a flock of sheep. Thus it is not surprising that those who profit most by the sheepishness of the public should desire to deprive the public of opportunities for that kind of education which, aiming primarily at the creation of intelligence, would train the mind in the capacity for independent thinking. While a critical informed public opinion is a pre-requisite of democracy, a docile and uncritically minded public is the tool of dictatorship. A government based upon force and maintaining itself through fear has every incentive to keep its citizens uneducated and because uneducated, uncritical. Hence education under dictatorship aims at substituting readiness to accept the ideas of others for a capacity for forming one's own. Its object is to manufacture an outlook, not to develop a mind.

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Title :

Education under Dictatorial Regimes

Dictatorial governments frequently avoid the idea of education because it hinders their purpose. Moreover, to keep away men and women from education, these governors attain their means without any hurdles. However, critical thinkers consider education the foundation stone of democracy while uncritical minds nourish the dictatorship. Therefore, a dictatorial patronage education only preaches the ideas of a dictator and never allow to develop one intellectually.

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