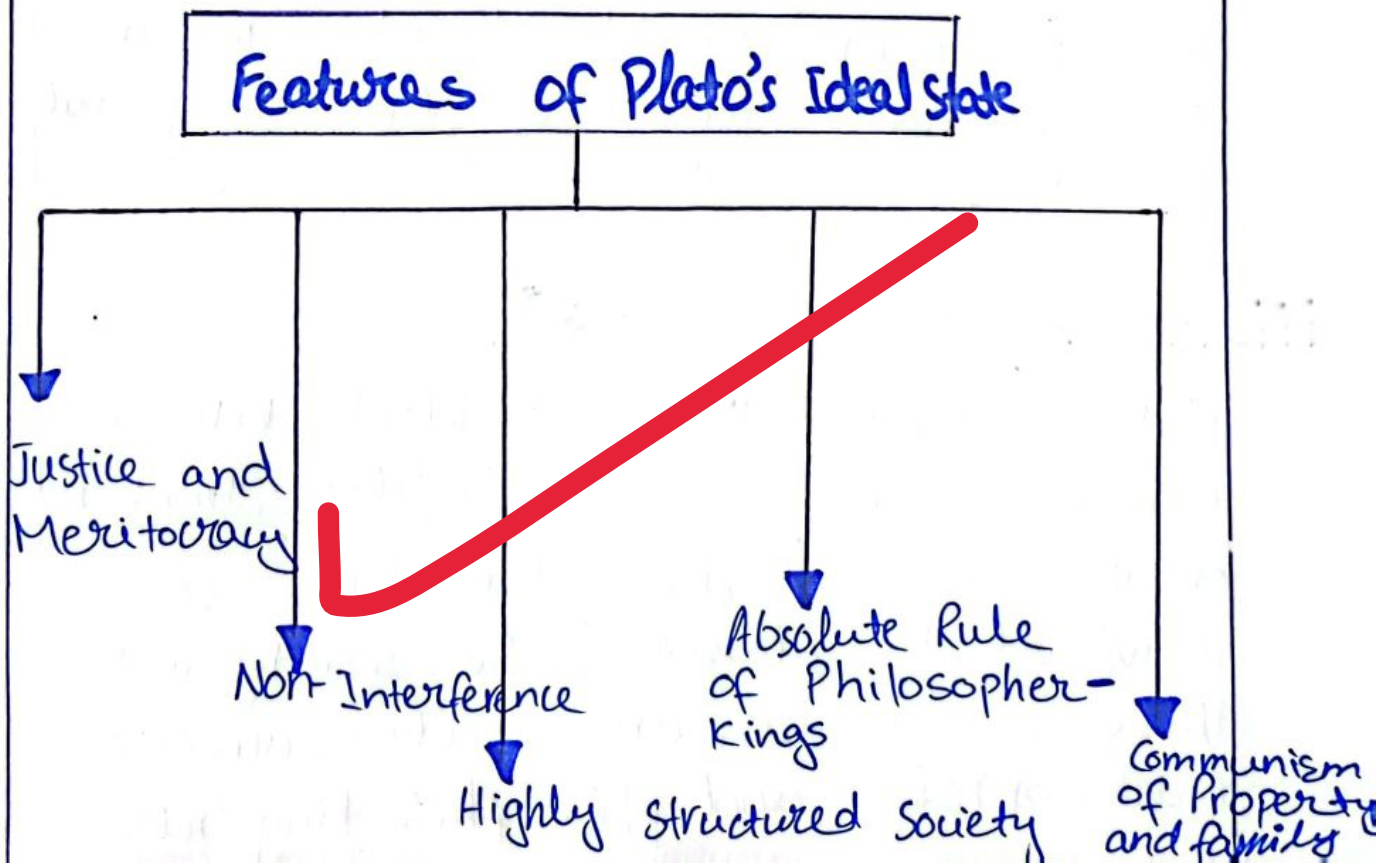


Q: Discuss Plato's Concept of Ideal State.

1. Plato's Concept of Ideal State

In "The Republic" Plato expressed his concept of ideal state. According to him, an ideal state is that which is established on the principles of functional specialization, meritocracy, non-interference and justice and equality, which is possible when every individual performs his role according to his own nature and dominating force that is desire and hunger, courage and wisdom.

2. Salient Features of Plato's Ideal State



i- Justice and Meritocracy

In Plato's ideal state, there would be prevalence of justice, equality and meritocracy. He contended that for justice, every individual needs to perform his role according to his own nature and dominating force. And for meritocracy, he gave a long education system full of screening tests to make sure right person for the right job.

Use elaborate and self explanatory headings

ii- Non-interference

Another salient feature of Plato's ideal state is functional specialization and non-interference. Plato argued that in an ideal state an individual would perform only that task for which ^{he} is specialized. For instance, artisan class (producers) would not interfere in the defense matters of state. They would (no) only provide state with basic necessities of life.

iii- Highly Structured Society

Plato contended that an ideal state is formed when society is highly structured on the basis of dominating force of each individual. He classified the society into three classes i.e. artisan class, auxiliaries (warrior) class and philosopher-kings (rulers)

class). Plato argued in an ideal state the artisan class (producers) would have desire and hunger as dominating force, warriors class would have courage while philosopher-kings would have wisdom as dominating force.

iv. Absolute Rule of Philosopher-kings

Plato's ideal state is characterized by absolute rule of philosopher-kings. Because he considered them the wisest persons of the state. So, in an ideal state they would be the only decision makers of state. The military guardian class and producers would not be allowed to intervene in decision-making process of the state.

v. Communism of Property and Family

^{concept of} Plato's ideal state advocated communism of property and family for auxiliaries (warriors) and philosopher-kings. The ideal state of Plato challenged the traditional parenting and family structure in both these classes. Moreover, in his ideal state their right to own private property would be abolished.

3. Critical Analysis of Plato's Ideal State

Plato's ideal state is impracticable due to following reasons.

i. Anti-democratic Nature of Plato's Concept of Justice

Plato's ideal state is impracticable as his concept of justice that favors absolute rule of philosopher-kings is like Hobbesian concept of absolute rule of Leviathan.

ii. Static Mode of Life

Plato's ideal state is incompatible with this ^{concept} of 21st century of entrepreneurship because his ideal state advocated that an individual would perform single task for his whole life. This could lead to an incompetent society.

iii. Exhaustive Education System

Plato's ideal state is impracticable in this contemporary era due to lengthy education system of 35 to 50 years which Plato had proposed for an ideal state.

iv. Impracticable Concept of Communism of Family and Property

Plato's ideal state is impracticable due to his ^{concept of} communism of property and family.

Aristotle criticized communism of family and property while questioning the practicality of Plato's communism. Because a human can not survive without warmth of family.

4. Criticism On Plato's Ideal State in the Light of Theories of Philosophers

i. Critique of Karl Marx

Karl Marx was in favor of classless and stateless society. His idea contradicts with Plato's ideal state because Marx argued that structured society leads to oppression of proletariat and dominance of ~~riches~~.

ii. Critique of John Locke

John Locke advocated that "people have right to overthrow the government if it fails to protect their rights." His theory contradicts with Plato's ideal state which favors absolute rule of philosopher-kings.

iii. Critique of Rousseau

Rousseau's concept of "General Will" favor wider participation of public in decision-making of state while Plato's ideal state advocates for absolute rule of philosopher-kings.

iv. Critique of Confucius

Confucius, a Chinese philosopher, critiqued Plato's ideal state due to his concept of communism of family. He stated that "The strength of a nation is determined by integrity of the home."

Short answer..... Add more arguments

Concluding Thoughts

Plato's ideal state is highly criticized by other great philosophers due to various shortcomings in the principles that he had proposed for an ideal state. But his efforts in (Plato's) political philosophy can not be ignored as his concept of ideal state greatly advocated justice, equality and meritocracy.