

Critically examine plato's concept of Justice?

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## INTRODUCTION

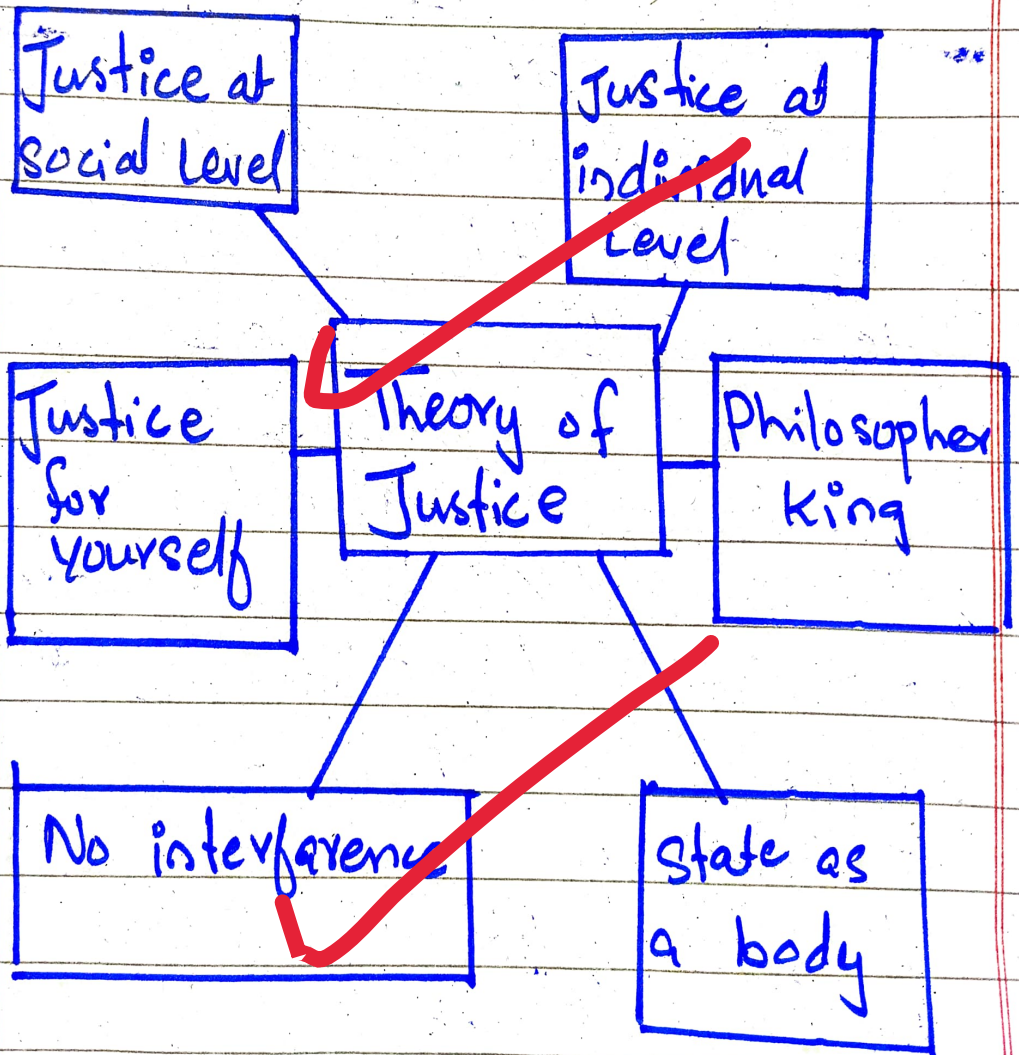
"Justice is the distribution of what is due to each according to his worth"  
- Plato

Plato wanted to make ideal state in 'Athens'. He gave the theory of justice which determined who rule and how rule. He also provided various reasons to understand theory of justice. This theory determines the profession of life accordance with his natural attributes. He also categorized to people in three class including man of gold,

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Silver and copper. So this answer will cover whole aspect of this theory and also criticized its weak points.

## 2 WHAT IS PLATO'S THEORY OF JUSTICE



Also discuss the premise he used to reach to his theory of justice

(i)

## JUSTICE AT INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

According to Plato every soul has three dominant elements like reason, courage and appetite. In every person one element will be dominant and it will define class and work.

MEN OF	DOMINANT TRAIT	SOCIAL CLASS	WORK
GOLD	Reason	Ruler	Rule, make laws
SILVER	Courage	Soldier	Security
COPPER	Appetite	Producers	Productivity

So as per above chart, men of gold will rule over silver and copper. Silver will ensure security and copper class will produce do the task of productivity.

(ii)

## JUSTICE AT SOCIAL LEVEL

The theory of justice advocated that every person will do his duty accordance with his naturally fitness. No one will interfere with other function because he stressed that interference with other is a cause of chaos and reprehensible. Therefore, plato's justice system advocated that every citizen of state will fulfil his duty according to his training and fitness.

(iii)

## STATE AS A BODY

Plato's consider state as a body and its people are its organs. When people will be just so state will be

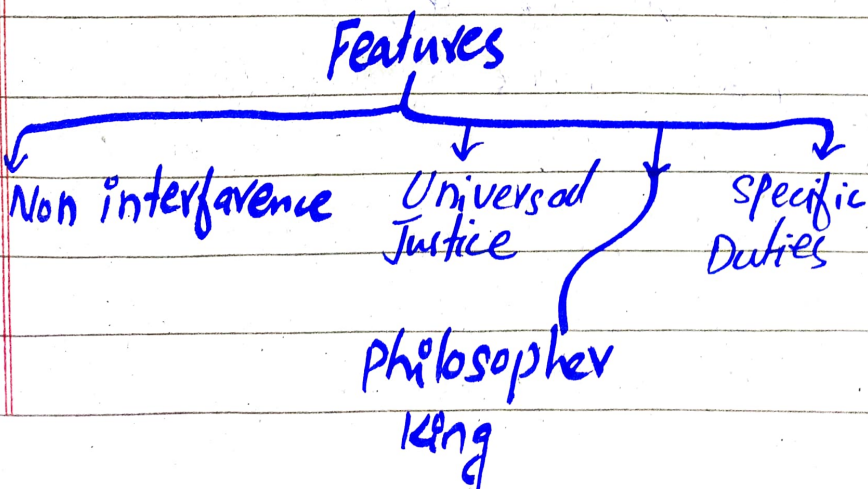
Justice. State is connected with every actions of people.

"State is a bond which holds society together in harmonious union of individual, each of whom has found his work-life in accordance with natural attributes and fitness."

- Prof G.H. Sabine A history of Political science

Thus, plato argues that citizens are organs of state which name a body.

### 3 WHAT IS THE FEATURES OF THE THEORY OF JUSTICE?



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(i) No-interference

Everyone will do his task. Never one can interfere with other's work. It is must for an ideal state.

(ii) Specific Duties

He argued that everyone will do his duty for life and he also will progress in his specific work which attract him.

(iii) Philosopher King

To explore the importance of philosopher king he also gave theory soul and Allegory. According to Plato's justice system that who will rule only in which element of 'season' will dominant. Philosopher will be rule over soldier and producer.

Use elaborate, self explanatory and specific headings

# 4 CRITICISM ON PLATO'S THEORY OF JUSTICE

## (i) Aristotle's criticism

"Plato's idea of justice is too vague, it does not account for particular circumstances" - Aristotle

Aristotle criticized Plato's justice system because of unrealistic. Further, he argued that Plato's specifications of work are against of human psychology. Therefore, Aristotle consider Plato's justice system too unrealistic.

## (ii) Karl Marx's Criticism

"Plato's justice system serves the interest of ruling class"  
Marx

Marx also criticized by arguing that this theory is more inclined towards ruling class rather producer class. In conclusion, due to the more ~~interests~~ inclination towards ruler class, Marx criticized this theory.

## 5 Merits and Demerits

(i) Holistic Approach: (i) Impracticable: Towards politics, ethics education and thinking too much difficult skill to apply.



(ii) Unanimity

(ii) Less emphasize on individual development

(iii) Non-interference

(iii) Lack of checks and balance

(iv) Thinking skills through reason and wisdom

(iv) Only 15 years education practicable remain is difficult

- Attempt this part by giving subheadings

## 6 Conclusion:

We never deny completely with Plato's theory of justice because he was visionary in this theory. There are numerous good things which can support a state like politics, ethics and educational skills.

