

Critically analyze the salient features of Plato's "republic". Do you think that some of its features are valid, even, today

**Solution:** Start with the summary of the answer as introduction

Plato was one of the most influential philosopher of the Greece proposed a comprehensive and complex concept of justice in his book "The Republic" - some of its features are valid, even, today, while others are contradictory to contemporary world.

### Features of Plato's The Republic

The features of Plato's republic are discussed below.

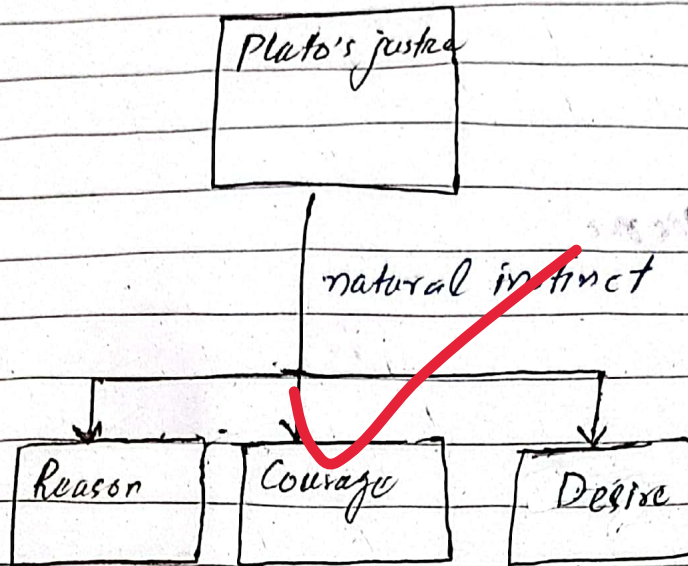
(i) Plato's concept of Justice:

Plato believes that justice can be delivered to an individual according to their natural instinct i.e. desire, courage and reason. The individuals are driven by these factors. They work should be assigned to their ability so, they can do justice themselves and society.

(ii) Division of society:

Plato divides the society into three classes i.e. Philosopher, military and Farmer/Worker





1- Reason: Philosophers rule on the country on the basis of their natural instinct i.e. reasoning.

2- Courage: Military men are responsible for the defense of the country, because they have courage in domination over other natural instincts.

3- Desire: This class is responsible to generate wealth. This wealth is required to run the affairs of the country.

(iii) Specialization of function:

The purpose of division of society into three class was to specialize the function. According to Plato, everyone must be expert in his field. So, he can fulfill the responsibility in a better way. Moreover, they

Use marker for headings

Discuss this part in more detail



must not interfere in each others' work.

(iv) Philosopher/King - Absolute Ruler.

In order to maintain justice in society, Plato suggested that king must have absolute authority. He should not be accountable before anyone, whatever, he says, it must be the law of land.

(v) Concept of Meritocracy:

Plato proposed the concept of meritocracy in order to keep alive justice in society. According to him, people should get jobs according to their capabilities. This leads to a just society.

(vii) Concept of Education:

Plato introduced the concept of education to make a differentiation between capable and incapable persons. In order to assign jobs according to their natural instincts. This rigorous selection process based on merit and intellectual ability, aiming to identify individuals with innate philosophical attitude.



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Communism of property and wives:  
Plato's the Rep,  
public feature is unique and  
novel, i.e. the upper two classes  
of society i.e. ruler and military  
men neither allow to marry,  
nor allow to buy. Plato thought  
that they might be ignorant  
of their duties. By doing so,  
they concentrate their focus  
on state rather than their children  
and their property.

**features which are valid,  
even today:**

There are some  
features, which are valid, are  
discussed below.

(i) Concept of meritocracy:

Plato propo-  
sed the "concept of meritocracy."  
According to him, various post  
are created in every walks of  
life. These should be given to  
competent men according to  
their capabilities. This concept  
of meritocracy is valid  
in even today's world.

(ii) Concept of Exam:

This concept  
is also valid in contemporary  
world. Most of the countries



establish their exam taking agencies. For instance, Pakistan has established Federal public service commission in order to conduct exam for their created jobs. Hence, it is also valid in modern times.

(iii) Gender Equality

Plato's one of the feature is gender equality which has also relevance in today's world. Many countries are thriving for gender equality.

**Features which are not valid in modern world:**

Following features are not valid according to contemporary world.

(i) Absolute rule of the king.

According to Plato, king must be authorized with full authority. It means, he holds legislative, executive and judicial power. The power makes corrupt the absolute power make absolutely corrupt.

(ii) Check and balance is missing in Plato's justice:

Today,



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most of the countries political system operate under the separation of power i.e. legislative, executive and judiciary have their domain, and they work in their domain, but they keep check and balance on each other. Without check and balance justice cannot deliver in society.

(iii) Communism in wives and property is against human nature:

Plato <sup>was</sup> altogether ignorant of this fact that these two are the drivers which compels men to do work.

(iv) lengthy and incomplete education process:

Plato proposed a lengthy and incomplete education process which was based more than 50 years. Moreover, Plato ignores very important subjects like, Political science, sociology, economics. When the rulers do not about these subject. How do they run the affair of the country? Therefore, it is lengthy and incomplete education process.

Conclusion:

The features of the Plato's book - "The Republic"



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are seem impractical and incomplete with contemporary values.

While some of its features are valid, which contribute to the subject of philosophical and political discourse.