

Discuss in detail Plato's theory of Justice.

DETAIL ON THE PLATO'S THEORY OF JUSTICE:

INTRODUCTION:

Plato, who was a great philosopher, presented his theory of state and justice in his book "Republic". Plato's theory of justice is derived from a series of cross-questioning and dialogue between him and his students. At the end of discussion, he gives his ^{own} theory of justice. Main features of his theory of justice encompass functional specialisation, division of labour, compensation, sexual equality, anti-individualism, geographical distribution, non-intervention and others. His theory of justice is corollary of his ideal state.

1. BACKGROUND OF ^{THE} THEORY:

Plato's theory of justice

DAWN

Imported

RAILWAY ROAD

is influenced by the content of Plato's era. Some of the notable features include:

- i. Greek city-state and Plato's dissatisfaction with the prevailing injustice.
- ii. Unjust death of his teacher, Socrates.

2. PLATO'S THEORY OF JUSTICE :

2a. PLATO'S THEORY OF JUSTICE AS A RESPONSE TO THE SOPHIST CONCEPTION OF JUSTICE:

Traditional Theory of Justice	Radical Theory of Justice	Pragmatic Theory of Justice
⇒ <u>Proponents</u>		
i. Cephalus	i. Thrasymachus	i. Glaucon
ii. Polymarchus		
⇒ <u>Cephalus's Definition of</u>	⇒ <u>Thrasymachus's Def of</u>	⇒ <u>Glaucon's Def of</u>

Justice:

"Speaking truth and paying one's debt"

Polymachus's Definition:

"Doing what is due, helping friends and harming enemies".

Justice:

"Justice is the interest of stronger".

"Might is right" is justice

Justice:

"Justice is the ^{child} of the enemy of fear and the need of a weaker one".

Avoid using tables for comparison. Write paragraphs instead

Response of Plato:

Rejected both of them

Rejected this theory

Rejected Pragmatic Theory as well

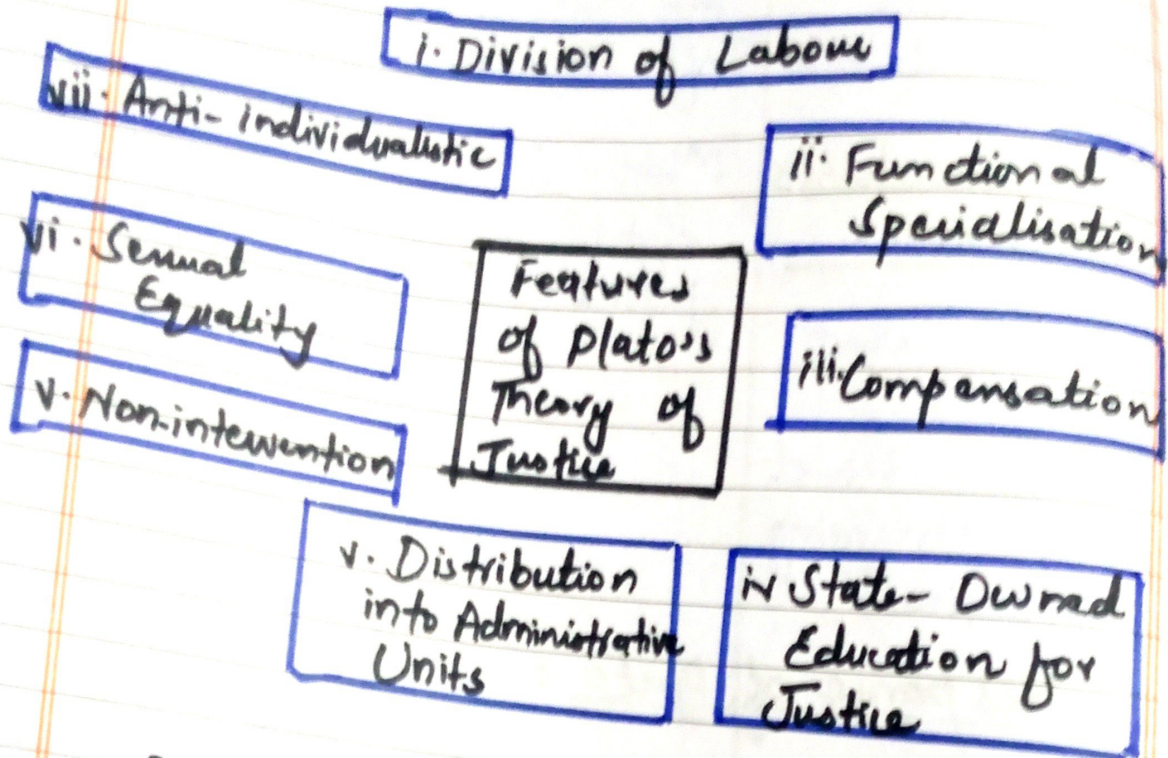
26. DETAIL DISCUSSION ON PLATO'S THEORY OF JUSTICE:

After rejecting all the claims made by his students on justice, Plato presented his own theory of justice.

(Turn Ahead)

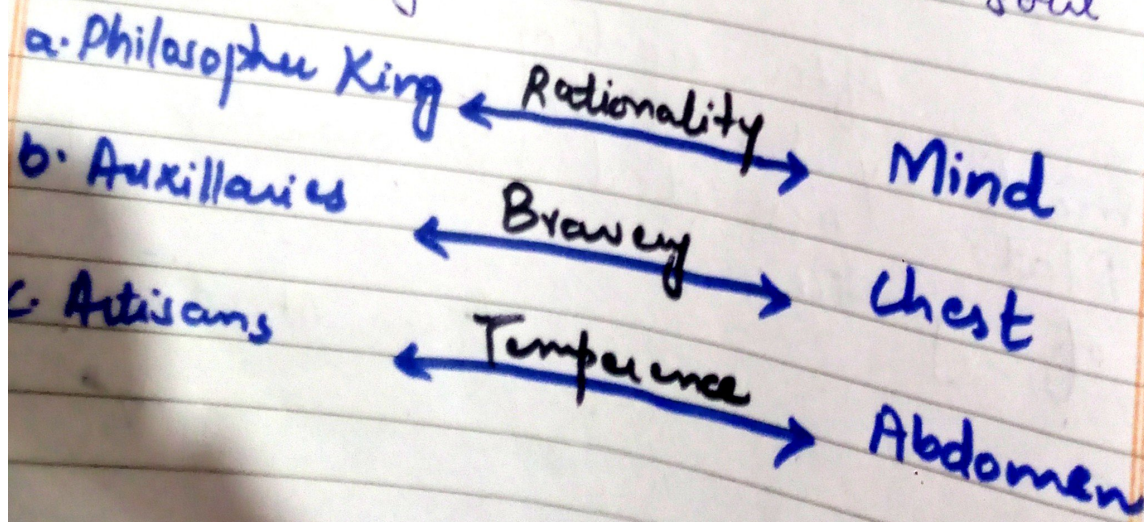
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2c. FEATURES OF PLATO'S THEORY OF JUSTICE:



i. Division of Labour:

According to Plato, the division of people into 3 classes based on their abilities and dominant aspect of their soul constitute justice.



ii. Functional Specialization

For Plato's justice to materialise, his three classes in society should perform their own function.

- a. Philosopher King $\Rightarrow$ Rule
- b. Auxiliaries/Soldiers $\Rightarrow$ Defense
- c. Artisans $\Rightarrow$ Craft/Labour

iii. Non-Intervention:

According to Plato:

"Justice is meddling
your own affairs
and not meddling
in the affairs of
other people".

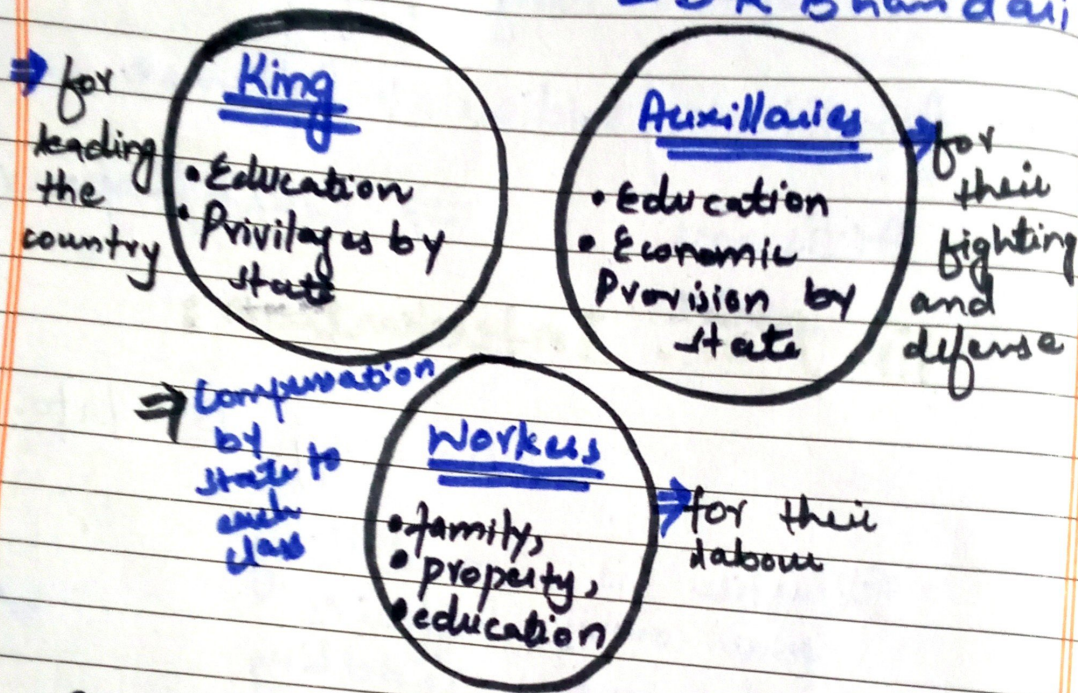
It means that a philosopher king should only rule, auxiliaries should fight and defend and not interfere in the matters of administration. Likewise, artisans should perform their function of labour only.

iii. Compensation:

State should compensate for the services of individuals to establish justice as:

"For Plato, justice is giving man his due"

- D.R Bhandari



iv. State-Owned Education for Justice:

For Plato, justice can be turned into a reality by functional classification of people. For that, he places education at a highest pedestal in order to choose and allot their class as per their abilities.

V. Distribution of State into Geographical Units for the Administration of Justice:

Plato distributes the state into geographical units so that justice can be ^{easily} established in a society by the ~~seamless~~ division of population into 3 classes (rulers, guards and artisans).

VI. Sexual Equality:

Plato advocates for the education and equality of women in a society for the true justice to prevail.

Plato says ✓

“A society which does not educate its women is like a man who only trains his right arm”.

Plato's Justice ⇒ Education +
Division of
Women into
classes as
per their
abilities

Sexual Equality

Vii. Anti-individualistic:

- State as End and justice as mean
- Related to ^{social} classes and their functions
- Maintenance by state

Viii. Mutual Cooperation:

Plato says:

"Justice is harmonious balancing and ^{the} operation life among all the classes".

Hence, all classes cooperate with one another to fulfill their needs and perform their duties. Therefore, the reciprocal and interdependent sharing of services, labour, mind and strength constitute justice, & demonstrating mutual cooperation.

3. CRITICISM ON PLATO'S THEORY OF JUSTICE:

3a. Ideal and Utopian:
Plato's

functional division

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is ideal and impossible to actualise as
Leacock says that Plato's theory is
outdated and utopian.

3b. Water tight compartmentalisation is impossible:

Morality or legality?

There are ^{other} classes and associated jobs in the society so the 3-tier division of society is unlikely. Hence, Plato's justice theory has weak foundations.

3c. Class-System as Basis of Inequality:

In Plato's theory of justice, a clear contradiction can be traced as the class-system itself is the root cause of inequality and oppression in society.

CONCLUSION:

In short, Plato's theory of justice comprises of division of society into three distinct social groups as per the faculties of their mind and soul. Afterwards, they are assigned tasks to perform for which they are fit for and

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not to intervene in the work of others. Moreover, geographical distribution, sexual equality and mutual cooperation are other notable attributes of plato's theory of justice. Plato's theory of justice is commensurate with his ideal state.

14/10