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Subject: Political Science

Q: Critically analyze the salient features of Plato's Republic. Do you think that some of its features are valid, even today?

ANS: 1- INTRODUCTION:-

The "Republic" was a Socrates dialogue. It was authored <sup>in the form of</sup> by Plato in 375 BC later on. In "Republic" Plato displays an idealistic state. In this idealistic state, Plato tries to put forward his views, by writing that, this state must have functional specialization—shape by a proper education system, along with implementing Communism and Monarchical system—where philosopher king rule over. He put forward his view through the allegory of Cave. Plato favours collectivism than individualism, where people share and live together, thinking of overall rather than single individual. Many of Plato's ideas ~~for~~ For instance Communism, Functional Specialization and Monarchical continue to be relevant in contemporary political thoughts.



## 2- Critically Analyzing the Salient Features of Plato's "Republic"

In "The Republic" Plato pen down an idealistic state. According to Plato there are two types of worlds - one is world of being and other is world of becoming. The world of being is static and never change, which is in the form of ideas while the world of becoming is dynamic and always fluctuate. The real world is ideal world and the actual world is not real its a shadow or changing of it. As Plato says: - "Ideal is Real".

Some of salient features of Plato "The Republic" are of mention below: -

### 2-A) Platonic Idealistic State: -

Plato Idealistic State consists of following features.

2-A-i) Functional Specialization - Plato draw an analogy to show the relation between state and an individual through body and soul. He divides the body into



three parts :-

- (1) Head.
- (2) Heart
- (3) Abdomin.

Head is a rational part and the heart and abdomen relates to non-rational parts of the body.

- (1) Philosopher King - Critical thinker and rule over the state.
- (2) Army or Military - Show courage and defend the country/state.
- (3) Producers if they compete and help in economic elevation.

## 2.A.ii) Education System:-

To produce a philosopher king, artisans and producers, Plato makes design proper education system, which is shown below:-

1 year - 6 years:- They were taught moral stories to make them comprehend and differentiate between good or bad.

6 - 15 years:- Till 15 years boys were given gymnastic activities to make them physically able to handle any situation.

15 - 30 years:- Military forces



have been pick-out from here.  
30 - 35 years: - Auxiliaries and  
magicians have been selected  
at that age by giving  
the proper education of  
mathematics and tricky exercises.  
35 - 50 years: - Question / Answer  
sessions have been organized  
at this stage and philosopher-  
king have been selected  
or pass out.

### 2.A.iii) Rule of Philosophy:

Philosophy was considered  
as sacred ~~the~~ discipline at  
that time. Philosopher, rule over  
the Artisans and producers,  
because of high education  
and virtue. He never disobey  
or break law and is an  
expert.

### 2.A.iv) Monarchical System:

Only one ruler will rule  
in Plato's ideal states which  
will be a philosopher king.  
Plato was dissatisfied with  
Athens democratic system because  
it has a lot of trouble.  
Plato was in favour of



Spartan monarchical system because they have proper strategies and regulation.

2.A.v) JUSTICE System:-

For Plato, Justice is -  
"Providing a person, with what is due to him".

According to Plato, Justice is when Philosopher King, Military and producer do not interfere into each other works and perform their duty with honesty. The proper Federation system should form ~~in~~ which to which cities are attach and control by it. Sexual equality should be ensured and society ~~so~~ must think of collecting good and he was anti-individualist.

2.Avi) Communism in ideal State:-

Plato in his book "The Republic" states that the two classes - Guardians / King and soldiers will have nationalize property and wives while the to the producers private property and wife will be allowed. For soldiers excellent



woman should be selected and through mating a strong offspring will be produced. The child should be kept by state. This all is due to avoid political and economic integration and also to ensure non-competition among ruling class for power.

### (3) Validity of Plato's "The Republic" With Today's Era:-

Various aspects of "The Republic" is still valid and applicable in various countries, which are mentioned below:-

#### (3.1) Functional Specialization:-

Plato divides into classes of Philosopher King, soldiers and producers while in today's era persons were divided into skillful and unskillful.

(3.2) Communism: Plato communism was applied on private property and private wives while in modern communism or nationalization of means



of production. For instance - still  
mills, industries and enterprises  
etcetra. Communism is applicable  
in Russia and past China.

~~3.3)~~ Collectivism or Anti-Individualism.

Today's world new world  
order works on collective  
approach, rather than individual  
approach. Person self-emotions  
may sacrifice for the bene-  
fit of a state.

3.4) Monarchial System:-

Monarchial system of Plato  
is still applicable in various  
countries. For instance Belgium,  
Malaysia and others.

(4) Conclusion:-

Plato "The Republic" has  
various aspects through which  
he is trying to build a  
state having justice, communism  
and monarchy along with  
proper education system. Plato's  
"The Republic" various aspects



and features are still valid  
and applied in various  
countries along with some  
variations and modern version

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