

Q Brief overview of Plato's life, his works and his theory of justice?

Introduction

Overview of Plato's life:

Plato, a famous Greek philosopher born in 428 B.C.E. He is famous for his fascinating philosophy and works specially, Republics.

At the young age his father died and his mother married to his Uncle, Pyxilames - who was greek philosopher and ambassador.

In most of his writings, we can find that Plato gave a lot of importance to his family lineage by mentioning about his family.

Two most important events:

Plato faced two most amazing and important events which affected him a lot and shaped him.

First - he met Socrates in his life.

Plato got influenced by his way of talking and from his work.

In this way, Plato stepped into the world of philosophy.

Second - Peloponnesian war between

Athens and Sparta. Athens defeated by Sparta, who replaced oligarchy in Athens. This affected plato's work a lot.

Plato's Legacy :

Diverse area of Study:

① After Socrates death, Plato travelled for 10 years in Mediterranean Sea, studying geology, Mathematics (from pythagoreans), Statistics, Religion etc.

Founder of Academy:

② He founded his "Academy", a place of learning. He believed that it is place of learning for greek future leaders, who could learn how to govern State.

His masterpieces:

Plato amazing books which is still read across the world.

It includes: Republic (concerning Justice)

↓
Statesman

Laws

Plato's Theory Of Justice:

Plato's work Republic, subtitled as "Concerning Justice" is the prominent work which focuses mainly on justice.

As J. Borker mentioned, Justice is the hinge of Plato's thoughts. While proposing his own theory of justice, he rejected many others. Those rejected theories are the following:

Plato Rejected Three Theories of Justice

Traditional Theory Radical Theory Pragmatic Theory

Traditional Theory

Proposed by Cephalous, Polymarchus

According to them, justice is all about speaking truth, and doing what is due of god and man.

It is all about doing good to friend and bad to enemies.

Plato's Criticism:

- ① Plato criticized them by saying, justice is a universal concept and principle. It cannot be only to ~~enem~~ individuals, but it is a part of society.
- ② Secondly, we cannot differentiate between enemies and friends, but we need to be good to everyone - a moral principle.

Radical Theory

Proposed by Thrasymachus.

- ① He Said, ~~But~~ Justice is the means of only favoring the stronger ones. It is actually the interest of the rulers.
- ② Injustice is better than justice, and Unwise is good than Wise man.

Plato's Criticism:

- ① Plato criticized him and said that Government is a form of art, and rulers are there for governing States rather than searching for their truthlessness.

Secondly, injustice can never be good bcz it creates chaos and wise good than Unwise because he knows how to handle government or state.

Root

Pragmatic Theory

Proposed by Glaucon

He said justice is a kind of agreement if in a state, in order to avoid chaos in the society.

Justice is only the necessity of weak society.

Plato Criticism:

Plato criticised him by saying that justice is deep rooted in human nature. It is a part of society. So, it can never be parted off the state.

Plato Own View About Justice:

Plato's Justice

- A part of society
- Principle of Non-interference
- Justice create harmony
- Functional Specialisation
- Three Constituents of human mind

Date: _____

M T W T F S

① Plato said that justice is a part of Society cannot be separated from it. A state must high

② Justice in a state must be highlighted in a greater number.

③ Justice is a source which creates unity among members of state. It eliminates social chaos & evilness.

④ He presented three constituents of human mind; Reason, Spirit, Appetite, which are represented by rulers, soldiers and farmers respectively. Each one makes great contribution to the welfare of society.

Reason ← Wisdom → Rulers

Spirit ← Courage → Soldiers

Appetite ← Temperance → Farmers

⑤ Plato said, justice can only be implemented in any society when every one is given task on the basis of capabilities and cannot do much more.

is working for it devoutly.

⑥ He said every faculty should work for their own area. They are not responsible for other faculty or area.

Criticism of Plato's Idea:

① For Plato's idea about justice is only applicable to state because it strictly divide the labour among labours and expect that no one will interfere in another faculty. Which is not possible in real world.

② His whole focus on justice shows his lack of moral sanctions means resistance to corruption, resistance to injustice is not the only way of creating morally good state. Sanctions and punishments are also required.

According to Popper, Plato's concept of justice is the only principle for totalitarianism, which ignores the humanization principles like equality, freedom etc.

discuss this part in a bit more detail.

end the answer with conclusion