"Discuss In Detail

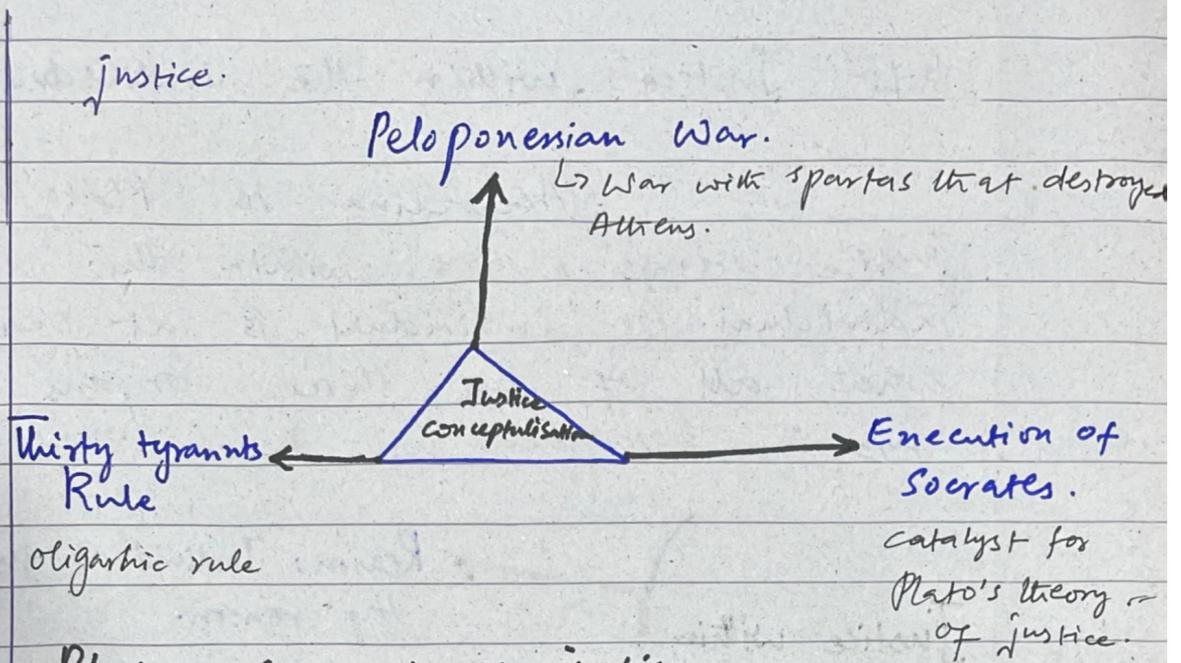## Plato's Concept Of

Justice"

1. ## Introduction:

   Plato, the great Greek philosopher, conceptualized justice because of the political and social conditions of Athens that disheartened him. Justice, according to Plato, is harmony. In a just state, everyone performs its own role. On the basis of justice, Plato divided state into three classes: Philosopher-kings, guardians, and workers.

2. ## Reasons for Plato's Proclaimation of theory of justice:

   Plato was disheartened by the decline of Athens due to its political and social disintegration and commoner's role in governing the city state. The following events were the reason for Plato's theory of

justice.

Peloponesian War.
↳ War with spartas that destroyed Athens.

Thirty tyrannts Rule
oligarchic rule

Justice conceptulisation

Execution of Socrates.
Catalyst for Plato's theory of justice.

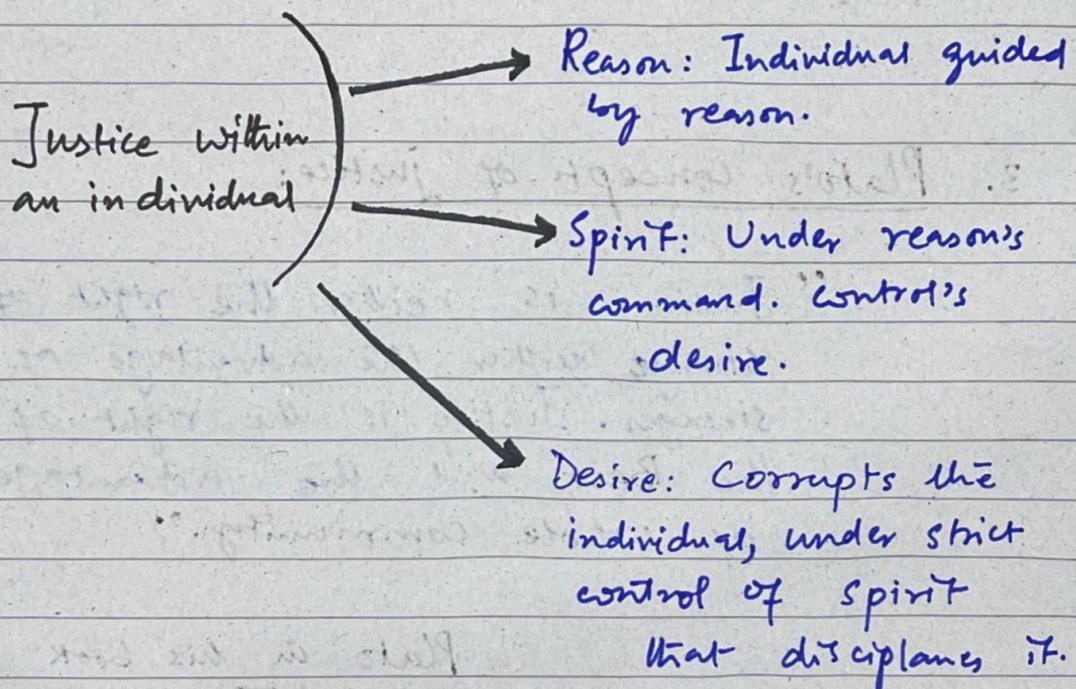## 3. Plato's Concept of justice:

" Justice is neither the right of stronge, neither the advantage of stronger. Justice is the right of the Best and the advantage of whole community."

Plato in his book "The Republic".

According to Plato, justice is harmony within the state and individual. With justice, everyone performs its own task without interferring in others task. According to plato, justice is the stability within the state and the common good of all residing within the state.

3.1:- Justice within the individual:

According to Plato, justice brings peace within the individual. An individual is at peace when all of his three organs are in harmony with each other.
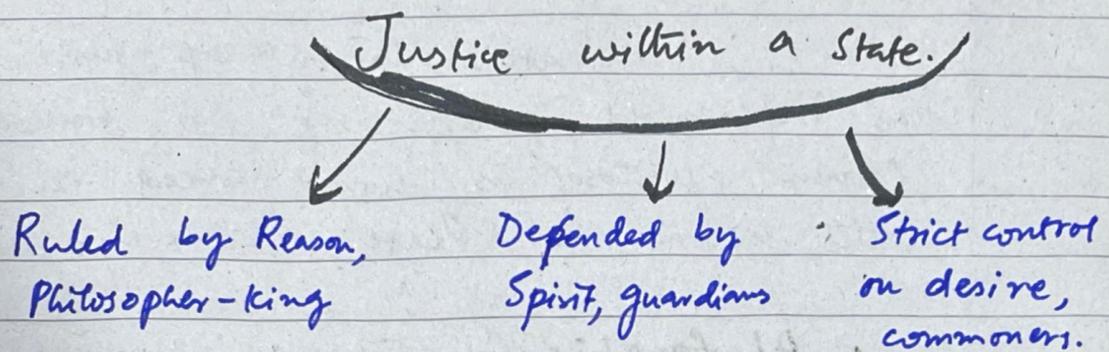
Justice within an individual →→ Reason: Individual guided by reason.

→ Spirit: Under reason's command. Control's desire.

→ Desire: Corrupts the individual, under strict control of spirit that disciplines it.

According to Plato, a just individual is guided by reason that in turn controls his spirit and desire.

3.2:- Justice within the state:

According to plato, a just state is a mere reflection of a just soul. Plato, like the individual,

divides a state into three categories on the basis of "tripartite model".

Justice within a State.

| Ruled by Reason, Philosopher-king | Defended by Spirit, guardians | Strict control on desire, commoners. |

Plato divides the state into three human body organs:

- Head (Reason): Rules the state.

- Chest (Guardians): Defends the state, under full control of head.

- Abdomen (Workers): Morally corrupt due to desire if left unchecked.

"Justice in a state is a reflection of justice within an individual."

3.2.1. Purpose of justice within the State:

- Common good of all.

- Harmony within the state.

4. **Influences of Plato's theory of justice:**

Plato's theory of justice has influenced people of all times. Many philosophers have worked on the theory of Plato, namely:

- **Al farabi:** AL-Farabi expanded Plato's theory and gave the concept of Platos Prophet-Imam.

- **Chanakya Acharya:** Chankya in his famous work "Arthshastra" discusses that justice is the soul of the body, entremely essential within a state.

- **St. Augustine:** St Augustine in his famous ~~book~~ work, "the City of God", has discussed a similar concept.

- **Imam Khomeni:** Imam Khomeni, the great Iranian revolutionist, has discussed the concept of just rulers during the occultation of 12th Imam.

"Imam Khomeni was highly ~~profi~~ influenced by Plato."

4.2: Plato's theory of justice in practice in the modern world:

- Iran: Iran systemises concept of Plato's state.

Iran ruled by **Supreme leader:** Equalent to Philosopher-King, with full authority on guardians, IRGC, Basij army, military. Which in turn, control all the functioning of the state and its people, workers.

- Vatican City: Vatican system also reflect Plato's state. Ruled by Pope, the philosopher-king of vatican.

5. Criticism of Plato's theory of justice:

Plato's theory has been significantly criticised also:

- Blueprint of authoritarian system: Karl popper in his book, "Open societies and its enemies" says that Plato's state reflect a blueprint of authoritarian system.

- Strict division of classes: Plato strictly divides the state into three classes with no method for of social movement between these classes.

- **Ideal System:** Plato's system is ideal with no historic or modern example that fully reflects Plato's system state.

- **Elite based:** Plato's system is elite based with philosopher-Kings having absolute power that can be corrupted.

- "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

  Lord Acton

- **Plato creates an "Intellectual Aristocracy":** According to Aristotle, plato creates a class of intellectual aristocrates that can be disconnected from the ground realities.

6. **Conclusion:**

Plato, the famous Greek philosopher, proposed his theory of justice that claimed, to live in peace, harmony of all the classes of state is necessary. Only this can increases the good of all the people.

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