Paper 1

Section A

Political Theory

Ideologies

Political thought

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PSIR Paper 2

Paper 2

Comparative politics

Theory of International relations

World Political issues (Current)

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Introduction to Western Political Thought
Meaning of west

• The “Western World” has changed in definition since its first inception in Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome.

• [1] Ancient Greece and Rome
• In the first millennia, it mostly referred to Christian Europe in contrast to the Near East (Egypt, Israel, Babylonia, Persia, Ottomans).
• At this point, it was mostly Greece and Italy.
Definition Of west
Later, as Christianity spread, this came to include:

- **Germanic regions in the 4th century (Germany, Switzerland)**
- **Iberia (Spain, Portugal), Ireland, and France in the 5th century**
- **Britain in the 6th century**
- **Netherlands in the 7th century**
- **Bohemia (Czech Republic) and Balkans in the 9th century (Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria)**
- **Kievan Rus’ in the 10th century (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus) along with Poland and Hungary**
- **Scandinavia in the 12th century (Denmark, Norway, Sweden)**
- **Baltics in the 14th century (Lithuania, Latvia)**

- Upon the **15th century**, the Western world generally referred to **Europe** in contrast to areas around the world subject to **colonization**, such as **Africa**, the Americas, and the Asia.
European-aligned Nations

- Only until the 18th and 19th centuries, when many of these colonies would become independent, did the Western world expand to include countries like the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
In the mid 20th century, the definition of Western world became especially prominent, as it pitted democratic capitalist Western Europe and North America against authoritarian socialist nations like the Soviet Union and China.

This was expanded into the First (NATO) / Second (Soviet) / Third World (unaligned) stratification.
Democratic and Advanced Economies

• Most common uses of “Western World” today build upon that Cold War-era definition with modern alignments.

• This includes the US, Canada, all of the European Union (including former Soviet states), Australia, and New Zealand.

• Countries like Russia and India are typically excluded, on the basis of economic development and alignment.
List of western countries

- This general pool includes: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.
Political thought

• Broadly speaking, Political thought refers to an **account of Ideas** of Prominent political thinkers about the **problems of Politics**, particularly **about the nature and purpose of state** and govt. and proposed measures for this.
Interpreting the Political thinkers

1. Reading a social and political philosopher through his or her is a serious business.
2. It is different from the ordinary way of reading a newspaper, a magazine or a book of fiction which conveys its content in a simple and direct Style.
3. On the contrary, Reading political philosophy involves an intricate problem of interpretation, technically called hermeneutics
4. So in order to proceed further, we must understand what is meant by hermeneutics.
What are classics?

• The evolution of human civilization is marked by a long tradition of the study of literature, history and Philosophy, etc.

• Some works concerning these subjects are ‘masterpiece’.

• These are timeless.

• These great works are known as classics.

CLASSICS

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Hermeneutics

• Hermeneutics refers to the task of interpretation of the text of the classics on social and political philosophy in order to grasp its real and hidden meaning and to determine its relevance for our self.
Textual approach

• textual approach exemplifies the application of hermeneutics to the interpretation of classics.
• It implies that we should focus on the language of the given text in order to understand its real meaning.
• It is based on the belief that the text of classics contains the expression of eternal truth.
• The text should not be treated as an occasional response to author's experiences or to the historical or sociological circumstances of his Times.
Contextual approach

• Contextual approach to the interpretation of classics as distinguished by textual approach insists on reading a classic with reference to full context in which it was produced.
# Strategy for Interpretation of Classics

## Strategy For Interpretation Of Classics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textual Approach</td>
<td>Read the author in his own words: What he actually said? What he intended to say? What is his message?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contextual Approach</td>
<td>Why the author said so? What he saw and felt? What he wanted to achieve or accomplish? Different interpretations might have been offered by different commentators. Some distortions might have crept into the available interpretations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Recommended Strategy      | • Select the problem to be addressed.  
• Read the relevant text and try to follow the author's line of argument.  
• Read at least two diverse interpretations of the text.  
• Compare these interpretations with the text and the underlying line of argument.  
• Draw your own conclusion. |

(He = he or she)
POLITICAL SCIENCE

2nd Lecture
A Brief Biography

Plato was born around the year 428 BCE in Athens. Plato's birth name was Aristocles, and he gained the nickname Platon, meaning broad, because of his broad build. His family had a history in politics, and Plato was destined to a life in keeping with this history.
1. The republic

- Most Important work of Plato
- constitutional work of Plato's ideal state:
- rule of philosophers
- book of young Plato.
- Young Plato is idealistic.

2. The laws

- Book of mature Plato
- Rule of law
Influence on Plato

His Mentor

Socrates

Pythagoras

Heraclitus

Parmenides

His understanding of Geometry.
Theory of Soils

Concepts of change

Concepts of Permanence

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Main Ideas of Plato

- Theory of justice
- Theory of education
- Theory of communism
- Theory of Philosopher king
- Theory of ideal state
Critique of Plato

Aristotle

Karl popper

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Socrates
469–399 B.C.
Socrates was one of the most powerful thinkers in history. He encouraged his students to examine their beliefs. Socrates asked them a series of leading questions to show that people hold many contradictory opinions. This method of teaching by a question-and-answer approach is known as the Socratic method. He devoted his life to gaining self-knowledge and once wrote, “There is only one good, knowledge; and one evil, ignorance.”

Plato
427–347 B.C.
Born into a wealthy Athenian family, Plato had careers as a wrestler and a poet before he became a philosopher. He studied with Socrates. After his teacher died in 399 B.C., Plato left Greece and traveled to North Africa and Italy. He later returned to Athens and founded a school called The Academy in 387 B.C. The school lasted for approximately 900 years. It was Plato who once stated, “Philosophy begins in wonder.”

Aristotle
384–322 B.C.
Aristotle, the son of a physician, was one of the brightest students at Plato’s academy. He came there as a young man and stayed for 20 years until Plato’s death. In 335 B.C., Aristotle opened his own school in Athens called the Lyceum. The school eventually rivaled the Academy. Aristotle once argued, “He who studies how things originated and came into being . . . will achieve the clearest view of them.”
Plato

Known as Father of Political Philosophy
Peloponnesian war.
• City state
• Athens versus Sparta.
• Defeat pushed Plato to write on reformation of Athenian society.
• Influence on him ==＞ write to make Athens a perfect state.

Purpose of writing
1. He wanted to investigate the cause of defeat and suggest the remedies.
2. He wanted to make Athen an ideal state.
What are circumstances in which Plato wrote?

City state

Peloponnesian war.

Why we got defeated?
The Peloponnesian War

- In 431 B.C.E., Sparta declared war on Athens
- This conflict was called the Peloponnesian War
- After 27 years of fighting, Sparta finally won.
- Meanwhile, a new danger was growing to the north, in Macedonia.
Way of life in Greece at that time.

Agrarian society

Slavery

Inequalities

Patriarchal
Q1. Comment on knowledge is virtue
Q2. Unexamined life is not worth living comment
Q3. all that is Platonic is socratic comment
Example of the Dialectic Method

Euthanasia.

Claim: Euthanasia is wrong
Reason for claim:

Test claim in a variety of cases:

Test claim in different types of cases:

Modify claim:
You need to know about two terms for knowing Plato methodology:

- Dialectic
- Deductive
A \rightarrow S \leftarrow \sim A

THESIS \rightarrow SYNTHESIS \leftarrow ANTI-THESIS
The Dialectic

Thesis

Antithesis

Synthesis (Thesis)

Antithesis

Antithesis

Synthesis (Thesis)

Synthesis
• By ➔ method of dialectic.
• Dialectic represent logical reasoning.
• According to socrates the Introspect your soul through Dialectics.
**Inductive Research**

Inductive Research begin with a research question and the collection of empirical data, which are used to generate hypotheses and theory.

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**Deductive Research**

Deductive Research approaches usually begin with a theory-driven hypothesis, which guide data collection and analysis.
Who is Socrates?

- Born around 470 B.C.
- Lived in Athens at the height of its civilisation
- Described as a very ugly man, who often walked barefoot and wore the same kind of clothes whatever the weather
- Excellent soldier – he had great physical power and could endure a lot
- He was a very disciplined person
- He was interested in the development of a person’s moral character
- He lived a virtuous life
➢ Virtue means excellence of happiness
➢ Great but accepted ignorance that he does not know everything he was wisest man.
Socrates is known as father of ethics/philosophy.

Thinkers before socrates were categorised as physicist.

Why?

- As they tried to understand physical properties of the universe for example some of these scholars explain that fire, water, air is fundamental element of universe.
- Socrates suggest that it is more important to understand the purpose of life rather than elements of life.
- He believed that it is important to understand how we ought to live thus he is regarded as the father of ethics.
To Know about things there are three schools of thought.

Religion
Philosophy
Science

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Socrates is known as the father of ethics/philosophy.

- it is important to understand how we ought to live thus he is regarded as the father of ethics.

According to Socrates

"knowledge is virtue".

- Shift was from what is to how
Socrates is known as **father of ethics/philosophy.**

Thinkers before Socrates were **categorised as physicist.**

Why?

- How we ought to live
- what is to how

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Essence of Socrates and his thought -

- Purpose of life.
- Knowledge of good life.
- How we ought to live?

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SOCRATIC THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE
Socrates

Right? — Wrong?
Good? — Evil?

Learn how to sort these out.

Ethics

primary concern in philosophy was, “How should we live?”

3 Questions

- What is good?
- What is right?
- What is just (justice)?
Knowledge is virtue or excellence.

Socrates ➔ Purpose of life is happiness.

Virtue or excellence is a source of happiness.

Example - When a Shoe maker makes nice shoes his creation is a source of happiness.

Similarly when we lead a good life it will be a source of happiness for us.
How to lead the good life.

• We must first have the knowledge of what constitutes a good life
• Thus he establishes the connection between knowledge and happiness.

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## Dialectic v/s Rhetoric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIALECTIC</th>
<th>RHETORIC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-on-one discussion</td>
<td>One person addressing many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search for truth</td>
<td>Demonstrate truth that’s been found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers general philosophical questions</td>
<td>Addresses specific and practical questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deals with certainty</td>
<td>Deals with probability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Dialectics is a process by which we can translate our opinion into ultimate knowledge.
# The Sophists v. Socrates

**Sophists:**
- Believed in paid teaching
- Taught Rhetoric
- Sought to mold opinion
- Favored democracy

**Socrates:**
- Believed in free instruction
- Taught dialectic
- Sought knowledge
- Suspicious of democracy (preferred aristocracy)

Not doing justice with their Responsibility.
Only tech what students, what students wants to hear
How to gain knowledge of good life.

• Knowledge- soul -guide (dialectics logic)

• Socrates ➔ Person need not anywhere to gain knowledge.
• The source of Ultimate knowledge of is in the soul.
• A person need to understand the direction of his soul.
• Role of the teacher is not to tell what constitutes a good life but help the person in understanding the voice of the soul.
• Teacher should engage the student in the process of dialectics.
How to understand voice of soul

• By ➔ method of dialectic.
• Dialectic represent logical reasoning.
• According to socrates the Introspect your soul through Dialectics.

The Socratic Method: The Dialectic

Step 1: Pose a question.
• “What is piety? (Euthyphro)
• “What is virtue?” (Meno)
• “What is meaning?” (Sophist)
• “What is love?” (Symposium)
• “What is justice?” (Republic)

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The Socratic method & the Dialectic

- The Socratic method and the Dialectic:
  - Starts with some question. For example, “What is piety?”
  - An answer is put forward.
    - This is some proposal: some definition.
    - For example...
  - The proposal is examined through a series of questions.
    - Socrates is looking for a refutation of the answer in virtue of some counterexample or inconsistency.
  - A new proposal is brought up.
    - The new proposal is one which escapes the difficulties of the first.
    - The process is then repeated...
  - Socrates is usually left without an unproblematic proposal or definition.
How did Socrates use the dialectic?

He would begin with a discussion of the obvious aspects of any problem. Socrates believed that through the process of dialogue, where all parties to the conversation were forced to clarify their ideas, the final outcome of the conversation would be a clear statement of what was meant. The technique appears simple but it is intensely rigorous. Socrates would feign ignorance about a subject and try to draw out from the other person his fullest possible knowledge about it. His assumption was that by progressively correcting incomplete or inaccurate notions, one could coax the truth out of anyone. The basis for this assumption was an individual's capacity for recognizing lurking contradictions. If the human mind was incapable of knowing something, Socrates wanted to demonstrate that, too. Some dialogues, therefore, end inconclusively.
The Trial of Socrates

• An Athenian Democrat, Anytus, who suffered under Spartan control of Athens (when a puppet government of ‘30 tyrants’ led by a former student of Socrates was in charge.) brought charges against Socrates....

• “Socrates is guilty of not believing in the gods in which the state believes, but brings in other new divinities; he also wrongs by corrupting the youth.”

a) Impiety
b) Corruption of the minds of the youth
Death of Socrates

In the end, Socrates was executed by one of customary Athenian methods, poisonous draft of hemlock. By the words of his Apology, (Plato) condemnation of the Athenian democracy put to death the best man of that age, whole life had been a search for wisdom.
Plato and Democracy

• Plato **HATES** Democracy
  – Sees it as **Mob Rule**: uneducated people make emotional and stupid decisions
  – The people don’t use their REASON!

• **Trial of Socrates**
  – Plato’s mentor wrongly executed by **Athenian Democracy**
What is first society or Self Interest?

• we feel that self interest is prior to the interest of the society, man can live on its own ➔ It is nothing but ignorance
• Men by nature is social animal
• Man cannot live without society.
• if we harm society ultimately we are harming ourself.
PLATO AS A THINKERS/ PERSPECTIVES OF PLATO
Plato is considered as idealistic

- Plato gave **priority to the society over self.**
- Plato gave **more importance to values over matter (honesty over wealth).**
Who is idealist?

- Idealist are those who are concerned more with what ought to be rather than what is.
- E.G In politics giving primacy to common/collective interest are over self interest.

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Plato is radical in his Ideas

- E.g He says women does not have any natural disability, they can hold the public offices also.
- Communism of Family
- Solution Plato is looking for are far reaching and very radical.
Plato is utopian/impracticable

• Plato ideas cannot be implemented on the ground.
Plato’s Theory of idea:
Athens was not a single city.

It was the city of rich and city of poor.

Ruling class are accumulating wealth at the cost of common man.

This has resulted into internal disunity, disharmony making Athens vulnerable to external threats.

Hence the real problems lies in ignorance of ruling class.

Wrong techniques of the sophists led to further consolidation of the rich class and ignorance of ruling class.
Athens to be an ideal state.

People are happy, lead the good life.

How to create the ideal State.

Must have Idea of the ideal state.

How to get the idea use of reason.
Plato’s theory of Ideas

• Hence only a philosopher king who is a man of reason can create the ideal state.

Source of influence:
• Plato build his theory of idea on the basis of Socrates theory of knowledge.
Plato's theory of Ideas

Reality is the shadow of ideas
### Metaphysical Spectrum of Philosophy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Idealism</th>
<th>Materialism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All things are constituted by mind and ideas</td>
<td>All things are constituted by matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is more to the world than material objects</td>
<td>There is no higher existence beyond the material world</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are two major school of thought

Materialistic:
- Matter is primary and all physical world is real
- only materialistic reality is reality
  - karl marx

Idealistic
- idea is real and matter or the physical world is the illusion of reality.
- Plato belongs to the school of idealism and is known as father of political idealism.
Plato’s Cave

- The fire
- Prisoners
- Shadows cast on wall
- Roadway where puppeteers perform
ALLEGORY OF CAVE

- He explains his view on the basis of division and symbol of ignorance.
- Some people are sitting with hands tight, front towards wall of cave and back towards the mouth of cave.
- When they look at the wall of cave they considered the figures as real however when one of them is Pushed out of the cave forceably he realises they were observing was just the shadow/appearance or illusion of reality.
- They were considering it as real because of their ignorance.
- When he returns to cave, other prisoners don’t believe him as they were still engulfed in ignorance.
- Hence he established that if we are ignorant, we will consider the material world as world of reality however when we get true knowledge we can comprehend the ultimate reality.
Plato ➔ Primacy of idea over matter, Primacy of spiritual world over the physical world.

- Plato ➔ Idea is eternal beyond time and space and perfect manifestation of physical object
- Idea is essence concept beyond this physical appearance exist the word of ideas.
- Idea can be understood through dialectics or reasons insights.
  - Reality is the shadow of ideas.
  - Reality is the shadow reality.
• Reality is vast and complex it is human mind to comprehend the reality.
• Plato's theory can be considered as Plato's point of view.
• Rather than ultimate description of reality
Plato Theory of Souls
The Republic

Plato tries to show that individual justice mirrors political justice.

THREE PART STRUCTURE ANALOGOUS TO THE THREE CLASSES OF SOCIETY

- **Appetite Part of the Soul**
  - PRODUCERS (craftsmen, farmers, artisans, etc.)
  - Best suited for production.

- **Spirited Part of the Soul**
  - AUXILIARIES (warriors)
  - Man of copper

- **Rational Part of the Soul**
  - GUARDIANS (rulers)
  - Man of silver

Courage best suited for protection.

Reason best suited for rule.

Creates the myth of metals to show that inequalities are natural.
As per Plato - Soul is constituted of 3 parts which is Reason, Courage and Appetite.

- Reasons - gold 1st class - best suited for rule.
- Courage - silver 2nd class - best suited for protection.
- Appetite - copper 3rd class - best suited for production.

According to Plato every person has a soul.

- Every soul has three elements viz. Reason, courage and appetite.
- Though every soul has same element but not in equal proportion.
- In some persons reasons dominate in some persons courage and in some appetite.
- It means all souls are not equal.
- He categorises people into three types on the basis of spiritual quality.
a) Man of gold
b) Man of silver
c) Man of copper

- The myth of metals. He creates the myth of metals to show that inequalities are natural as we cannot convert copper into gold.

- According to Plato, Reason should dominates over courage and appetite, such persons are just and lives in peace and harmony with others.
Plato – Myth of Metal

• Plato ➔ Reason should dominates over courage and appetite,
• Such persons are just and lives in peace and harmony with others.
Plato uses theory of soul in his theory of justice./Significance of Plato's theory of souls

- He divides the population of ideal state into three classes rulers, soldiers and producers
- The man of reason and courage are together called as guardians.
- He use theory of soul in his theory of idea to justify the institution of philosopher king.
As per Plato our personality has two parts
1. Physical 2. Spiritual
• **Physical body ends, but soul is permanent.**
• Once soul leaves the body it goes to the kingdom of god where it looks at the perfect manifestation of different thing in kingdom of god.
• When soul comes back and look at the worldly things it recollects it is for this reason we make distinction between perfect and imperfect forms.
Plato uses theory of soul in his theory of justice.

- Every soul is not equally capable to recollect. Those who are men of reason are able to recollect than men of appetite.
- Hence if want to create an ideal state we have to make man of reason the ruler
Theory of Justice
Importance of the theory of justice in political philosophy:

Theory of justice is the core normative concern of the political philosopher, since the time of Plato to the present time.
Plato theory of justice

The title of Plato's work “The Republic” is concerning justice.

Objective of Plato

• He want to make a Athens an ideal state hence he want things to be in sync with the idea of justice.
• Plato aims to give the ultimate or god's idea of justice
In Republic - Plato uses dialectics to arrive at a conclusive Idea of Justice. There is a dialogue among Socrates (who voices Plato’s argument) and four other members of Athens.

Participants are:

- Socrates- (Plato)
  - Cephalous
  - Polemarchus
  - Thrasymachus
  - Glaucan
HERMOCRATES:
In shame I hereby do recant the time and place whereof Critias spoke. In rendering Egyptian into Greek he made a tenfold error. Instead of lying 3,000 miles hence, Atlantis may well have been 30,000 miles away. Or perhaps it was less than 300 miles from our own shores.

Likewise, it may be that the Lost Kingdom held sway as many as 100,000 years ago, or as few as 1,000.

SOCRATES:
If a kingdom arose on Earth beyond anywhere men might travel, then we would never hear of it. We ought to accept the lesser figure.
• Justice is doing one duties
• Justice is paying one’s dues.

• Fine with argument of duty.
• whether it would be right to return a weapon to person who has turned mad.
Arguments of Polemarchus (son of Cephalous)

- Paying one’s dues means being good to the friend and bad to the enemy.
- Do good to friend
- Harm to enemy
Plato’s Response

Plato Does not accept that justice can harm anyone.
Plato suggests that it is not easy to know who is our enemy in the wrong situation.
He questions whether one’s knows who is true friend and who is not.
Plato refutes Polemarchus by pointing out that Justice is virtue so how can a virtue be harmful to someone.
How does anyone knows who is enemy and who is not.
Socrates

- State is prior to man,
- Ethics and spiritual satisfaction

Thrasymachus

Socrates

- State is prior to man,
- Ethics and spiritual satisfaction

Sophist

- Man is prior to state
- Material pleasure
Thrasymachus
• what is

Plato
• what ought to be.

• These two ideas are complimentary

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Thrasymachus

1. Justice is the interest of the strong
2. Might is the right
   • Argument of power is always greater power of argument.
Thrasymachus

- realistic view about state, law and justice
- means means might is right on survival of the fittest.
• those who are strong which means those who are in power whatever they decide becomes the yardstick of right and wrong.
• In any govt. who are in government are the strongest whatever they decide becomes law.
• Ruling class make laws in their own interest.
• Hence when we observe laws we are advancing the interest of the ruling class.
• Hence whenever possible we can serve our interest by evading the law.
• In Thrasymachus we see the earliest expression of civil disobedience.
Plato does not have a very convincing counter argument against Thrasymachus.

Still Plato suggest that it is wrong to think that a state and laws are only in the interest of ruling class and it is our duty to observe the laws.
Example From the example of Socratic life.

• Socrates knew that he was right.
• Socrates had the opportunity to escape from the prison.
• Socrates preferred to observe the dictates of the state on the belief that state laws are in the interest of the citizens.
• Plato points out that rightful rulers don't rule for themselves they rule for the benefits of citizens.
• Sometimes they make laws which are not in their favour E.g. - A physician cures a patient not only for money but also for the duty of his profession. (curing someone also ends in his lose)
• From this dialogue Plato's philosopher king idea comes into forefront.
• Ruling for the sake of ruling- true justice means doing it for real.

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• Justice is the interest of the weak
• those who are weak and are unable to protect themselves came together to form the state.
• State is a contract between strong and weak.
• Weak get security from the strong. And in return agreed to act by the dictates of the strong.
Plato’s response

• It is wrong to think that state is product of contract.
• State is natural.
• It is also wrong to think that law of state are only in interest of weak.
Plato’s own ideas/Plato’s view on the state.

➢ State is the individual writ large.
➢ Sophists suggest that state is conventional or efficient Plato suggest that state is natural
Origin of the state

➢ State originates in the natural needs of man
➢ **Man is social by nature, as no person is self-sufficient.**
➢ State represents interdependence or division of labour.
  • men of reason are dependent on men of courage and appetite.
  • similarly man of appetite is dependent on other classes.
  • each task is important and hence that should be on mutual respect towards each other.
✓ State is the individual writ large.
• **Meaning:** state is magnified version of individual.
• **If individual is small letter then state is capital letter**

Implication of the statement. - State abstract concept -- it is people living in the state ultimately form the state
STATE IS INDIVIDUAL WRIT LARGE

a) State does not come out of oak tree or rock it incurs in the mind of the people who live in the state.

b) It implies that state is a idea which is present in the mind of the people living in the state.

c) It implies that nature of state will be shaped by mind of those who lived in the state.

d) If people are corrupt then state will be corrupt
Plato’s theory of Justice

Link the previous concept

How He gives the theory of Justice?

- He suggests that state is individual writ large
- It is easy to understand in capital letters rather than in small letters

Hence he first explains theory of justice at the level of state

What is justice at level of state?

• What is the purpose of justice?
• Peace + harmony + excellence
Plato’s Ideal State

- Slaves
- Handicraftsmen are below the free citizens (kings & soldiers)
- Philosophers-rulers govern
- Guardians (soldiers) watch over the state

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Functional specialization.

• Each person is performing the task according to his natural aptitude
• In this way he is achieving excellence and everyone is benefitted.
• Plato also gives the principle of non interference,
• No one intervene in task of other resulting in the harmony peace.
Plato tries to show that individual justice mirrors political justice.

**THREE PART STRUCTURE ANALOGOUS TO THE THREE CLASSES OF SOCIETY**

- **Appetite Part of the Soul**
  - PRODUCERS (craftsmen, farmers, artisans, etc)

- **Spirited Part of the Soul**
  - AUXILIARIES (warriors)

- **Rational Part of the Soul**
  - GUARDIANS (rulers)
Functional specialisation + non interference = excellence + harmony + peace
What is justice according to Plato
- functional specialisation
- non interference
- Plato looks at god’s idea of justice, Perfect idea of Justice.
- On what basis, Plato says it is god idea of Justice.
- where he looks into composition of the soul. Just means is one in which reason dominates over courage and appetite.
He tries to understand the principle of justice at the level of human soul by use of dialectics.

On the basis of dialectics he understand that man is just in whom reason dominates over courage and appetite.

such person is just because he can do in peace and harmony with others.
Plato ➔ State is individual writ large, State is the magnified version of individual.

Hence the principle of justice which exist at the level of the individual can also be applied at level of the state.

• Hence the state is just where society is divided into three classes, In accordance to spiritual quality of the soul.

• Each performing the task according to the aptitude and without interfering in the task of the others contributing to peace and excellence
We may disagree with his scheme of ideal state stratified into three classes.

but we should acknowledge the importance of Plato's view that nature of the state is shaped by the quality of people living in the state.

Plato is quite correct when he suggest that state does not come out of tree/rock.

There is also an inherent message that principles governing the conduct of Individual and Principles governing the state are not separate.

this shows continuity between ethics and politics
Main Points of Plato’s Justice

1. Idea of justice has to be universal and not contextual.
2. For Plato justice is duty
3. Justice is virtue as it leads to excellence and so it is a source of happiness
4. Justice does not harm anyone rather it is good for all
5. Justices functional specialisation + non interference

➢ Theory of justice at level of individual is correct but not correct at level of state
• We can criticise Plato's theory of justice at level of state where he divides the population into 3 classes on basis of arbitrary qualities of soul.

• It is neither a good politics nor good psychology more than excellence freedom of choice is important.

• In Plato's ideal state no one has any freedom and citizens sacrificed for the sake of state.
Plato's THEORY OF EDUCATION
But why theory of Education?

- There is a connection between his theory of ideal state and theory of education because education is the primary means through which Plato suggest we can find qualities of soul.
Sources of influence

• His theory is influenced by the system of education prevalent in Sparta and Athens, but primarily Sparta.
Some good Features of Athenian system According to Plato

• Focus on developing the analytical and critical abilities of mind, Dialectics & Mathematics.

• Some Bad Features of Athenian system According to Plato
  – Absence of compulsory military education.
  – Women were not given equal opportunity.
  – In Athens education was in private hands
  – there was no monitoring by the state and opportunity to get educated was dependent on will and capacity of the parent or guardians.

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Some good features of spartan education system

- Public education (state sponsored)
- State control/censorship
- Compulsory military education for all including women.
He divides the system of education with a span of 50 years.

A. 0-6 years --- gymnastics, music, moral stories for character building
B. 6-18 years --- basic knowledge (geo, sci, math, etc.)
C. 18-20 years military education
D. I screening test --- age of 20 --- fail --- copper class
E. 20-30 years --- higher education (military, literature, etc.)
F. II screening test --- age of 30 --- fail -- soldier class
   • pass --- go ahead
G. 30-50 years
   30-35 dialectics
   35-50 practical application

Thus at the age of 50, a persona becomes eligible to be known as philosophers and to take responsibility as philosopher king.
Plato's the republic as the best look ever written in the field of education.
Significance of Plato’s theory of education

• How to select philosopher kind

• Those states are best governed where rulers are reluctant to govern rather than eager to govern.

• Since philosophers have true love for knowledge and no lust for power.

• They will accept the responsibility as their duty towards the state.

• Those states are best governed where rulers are reluctant to govern rather than eager to govern.
• However logically consistent Plato is but we cannot accept the view that the person who is reluctant to govern can be a good ruler.
• In order to perform any job in a better way person should have interest in the task he performs.
• One of the major problems of Plato’s philosophy is that he overlooks Human Psychology.
Plato and his communism
Meaning of communism

Communism means absence of private ownership.

• It means common ownership
Plato’s Communism

Communism of property

Communism of family
COMMUNISM OF PROPERTY

• only for the guardian class (the ruling class, soldier)
• in power they can misuse their authority
• Plato does not want to take any chance.
• Education ➔ know the spiritual qualities. Communism of Property ➔ Check Corruption.
• Why not for producer classes ➔ cannot control appetite, not in power so cannot corruption.
COMMUNISM OF FAMILY

• Meant for the Guardian class
• Neither possible nor required for the producer class.
• bigger problem than property. because of family that person wants to accumulate wealth.
• Family leads to nepotism
• State will determine who will marry whom.
• Ablest men and ablest women could be allowed to marry.
• The purpose of Plato is perfection and he wants to have the race of perfect people.

The purpose of marriage is just for the procreation, once child is formed. Child is given in the custody of the state. According to Plato there are 2 benefits

a. It will tackle nepotism. Since a state takes away a child, ruling class will not be able to identify who are their own children and will not make discriminate among children.

b. It will liberate women from the responsibility of child bearing and other domestic works. There talent can be utilised in the service of the state.

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• True that corruption happens due to family and property
• But method wrong.
• Treatment should not be more harmful than the disease.
• Aristotle criticized Plato for his theory of communism.
ARISTOTLE’S VIEW on Plato’s concept of communism of Property

Plato

- believe in “the best
- suggest radical solution Aristotelian
- looks for perfection

Aristotle

- should not deprive ourselves from benefits
- best practical.
Benefits of private property

- source of motivation.
- motivates person to work hard.
- Gives sense of self worth.
- man of property are men of reason.
- would contribute to the stability.
- can contribute to charity.
- property is a source of virtue.
critical of Plato's view on family and marriage. Family and marriage is not just for procreation. Family is a source of emotional stability.

Family, Marriage and Property are time tested in institution. The system of commune of wives is actually taking us back to Barbaric ages.

Hence for Aristotle, remedy should not be worse than the disease.
Plato's theory of philosopher kings

- For no law of ordinance is mighter than knowledge.

- Why Philosopher King?

- to make Athens an ideal state or virtuous state

- What is philosophical justification of institution of philosopher king?
- Socrates view that “knowledge is virtue” For ideal state knowledge rule.
- “Until philosophers are the rulers or rulers turn philosophers there is no end to predicament”
Characteristics of a philosopher king

• He should have a proven capacity of reason.
• He should have gone through rigorous system of education.
• He should not have private property or family.
• philosopher king is a symbol of knowledge and sacrifice.
Powers of philosopher king

Philosopher king would have absolute power.

• Because he has absolute knowledge. As he holds the true knowledge of ideas. Only he can make Athens an ideal state

• His decision will not be limited by
  o Public opinion
  o Customs or traditions
  o Ordinary law book
“it is foolish to limit the expert practitioner of medicine to the book of medicine”
• It is never advisable to give absolute power in the hands of one person because power has corrupting influence ("Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely" - Lord Acton).

• Aristotle who is not only the greatest disciple of Plato but also greatest critique of Plato has criticized the institution of philosopher king and has advocated the importance of rule of law.

• According to Aristotle we cannot find philosopher king in this world, the practical form of philosopher king will be a dictator and hence rule of law is better.
For no law or ordinance is mighter than knowledge

In above statement Plato has justified the absolute power of philosopher king. Context of institution of PK

• If Athens has to become a virtuous state there has to be rule of knowledge because knowledge is virtue in the words of Plato “until philosophers rule which is never going to be materialised.”

Who is philosopher?

• Philosopher is a symbol of knowledge and Sacrifice.
• He has proven knowledge and no lust for power property family.
• Only philosopher can do justice with his responsibility as a ruler.
• **Power**- Plato gives absolute power to philosophers with the single exception that *philosopher cannot change the constitution or the republic.*

• According to Plato philosopher has absolute knowledge, public opinion or book of law cannot be the match to the wisdom of the philosopher king.

• If we try to limit the powers of the *philosopher king*. it sound as foolish as limiting the expert practitioner of medicine.
It is not advisable to give power to any person because power has corrupting influence in the words of Lord Acton “power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Aristotle has criticised Plato for his utopianism and belief that practical institutions will be tyranny.

Aristotle has justified the rule of law as our rule of person.


It is in this context, it is said that Aristotle’s ideal state is Plato’s second best state.
Life cycle of an ideal state/stages in the decline of Ideal state.

- Since this is a world of change so even ideal state will change (i.e Decline)
- Stages of ideal state
  - 1. Monarchy (rule of one person i.e. philosopher king.)
  - 2. Timocracy (rule of soldiers)
  - 3. Aristocracy (rule of Producers Class)
  - 4. Oligarchy
  - 5. Democracy

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Plato as Feminist
Feminism

• Feminism aims to spread equality and end discrimination against all women.
Why we say that plato was feminist?

- Ancient Greece was a patriarchal society
- Even at that time Plato could suggest that women do not suffer from any natural disabilities in Public life.
- He gives equality of opportunity to women in field of education.
- In his ideal state even women were qualified to become philosopher queens.
- His theory of communism indirectly liberates women from the domestic responsibilities.
- Hence we can say that Plato was a Feminist.
- It is to be noted that political theory is one of the most masculinist discipline.
- First among the classical philosopher who wrote about women,
- Even after Plato, it was after long time, when some philopher gave such views after plato
Plato as feminist

• However according to other school of thought it is not appropriate to regard Plato as feminist.
• Primary objective was not the liberation of women.
• Rather to utilise the talent of half of human race in the service of state.
Plato as communist
Q ==> Compare the Plato's Communism with modern communism. What is communism?

- Communism is associated with theory of Karl Marx.
- Communism is a stateless and a classless society, Western liberal scholars consider communism as a form of totalitarianism.
- They have traced the origins of totalitarianism/communism to the works of Plato.
- Scholars like Karl Popper consider Plato/Hegel and Karl Marx together as enemies of open society.
What is communism?

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Karl Popper

• Plato/Hegal and karl Marx together as enemies of open society.
why Plato is called as communist?

• First person who considered private property as a source of evil
• Proposed the system of communism for the guardian class.
Difference between Plato’s communism and modern communism given by Karl Marx

Marx
- Materialistic
- State as an instrument of exploitation.
- Stateless and classless society
- Classes on economic basis
- Relations between classes are antagonistic.
- Through violent revolution.
- Critique of intellectual class

Plato
- Idealist.
- State as a source of virtue
- An ideal state which is divided into 3 classes
- Classes on basis of quality of soul
- Scope of peace and harmony
- Mental revolution or through system of education
- Intellectual class the ruling class.

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Plato as first Fascist (Karl Popper)
Karl Popper

Plato’s political program is far from being morally superior to fascism it is actually identical to fascism - said by Karl Popper

Plato as first Fascist
Fascism or Nazism

• Associated with the political doctrine which emerged in Europe during interwar period.

• In the western world fascism is criticised as anti humanity, anti freedom, anti democratic anti reason philosophy.

• In order to find out roots of fascism or anti democratic thinking western scholars trade the roots of these ideas in the works of Plato.
• state enjoy absolute powers people do not have any freedom of choice.
• no rights only duties towards the state
• Similarity b/w Plato’s hatred towards democracy and mussolini's criticism of democracy
• complete control of the state over life of citizen.
• censorship on the education system.
• Fascist theory of superman, absolute powers in the hands of the leaders
• myth of racial superiority and natural inequalities.

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• Fascist ➔ based on violence and coercion
• Plato never advocated violence.
• Plato's intention was not exploitation of the people of the state.
• He actually wanted to give them a life of virtue.
• Plato ➔ school of rationalism
• fascist ➔ justified irrationalism.
For these reasons Plato is often called as a fascist.

• Karl popper in his book open society and its enemies has called Plato as a first fascist.

• Levinson has defended Plato against Popper’s criticism.

• It is like comparing the non comparables

• Levinson ➔ comparing Plato and fascism is incorrect.

• huge gap of time and difference of space between these two doctrines.

• There may be some superficial similarities yet it would be not be justified to call Plato there is huge difference between Platonism and fascism
Plato as TOTALITARIANISM

• Western scholars have used the term totalitarianism as antithesis of liberal democracy.

• Some of the prominent scholars analysing the nature of totalitarianism are Karl Popper and Hannah Arendt.
Plato as TOTALITARIANISM

• Popper considered totalitarianism as closed society where people are deprived basic liberties while Hannah Arendt describe a totalitarianism as a rule of terror.

• The term is used by western scholars to describe the nature of state found in former USSR, Communist China, North Korea and a times Iran.
Karl popper in his book the open society and its enemies, volume has described Plato as father of totalitarianism on following grounds

Plato as totalitarian

A) No freedom to w.r.t Profession, Family
B) State powers were absolute
C) wisdom of philosopher king could not be questioned.
D) sacrifice freedom of choice for the sake of achieving the ideal state
• In words of popper republic is a totalitarian assault on open democracy and Plato was an evil genius.
• According to popper if scholars differs from popper understanding it is because they have been astonished by Plato greatness and style.
• Plato was victim of its own vanity as he himself wanted to be the philosopher king.
• Plato defended lies and suppressed the truth.
• Plato Perhaps even betrayed Socrates who was actually democratic.
• In Plato we find dangerous tendencies of towards totalitarian.
According to **Sidney Hook**, Popper reads Plato too literally.

- **Questions that how come** Popper is too sure when there is lot of disclarity about Plato’s ambition.
- **According to rajiv bhargava karl poppers interpretation of Plato** is it self motivated by ideological consideration and it is based on abstract premises.
Plato is considered as one of the greatest philosopher. It is said that the entire western political thought is nothing but footnote to Plato and Aristotle.

Emerson ➔ “Plato is philosophy, philosophy is Plato”

Because in the sphere of political thinking Plato has established that it is more important to know “What should be rather than what is”:

How state governance can be improved.

He established that the study of philosophy is superior to the study of physics.

He said that World of ideas (essence) is more important than the World of matter (existance),

As he has given theory of ideas, theory of ideal state he is known as father of Political philosophy along with that because he believes in continuity of Politics and Ethics.
Plato as Father of political philosophy

- Plato never separated the question of good life and good political life.
- He believes in continuity of Politics and Ethics.
- Plato ➔ purpose of philosophy is not just for betterment of person.
- The responsibility of the philosopher is to make world of matter a better place
- Plato has given a social purpose of the emancipation to philosophy.
- Plato has also develop idea of dialectics further.
- Hence it is appropriate to call Plato as father of political philosophy.
- There is a huge influence of Plato which is a ever recognised by even Plato’s critics.
- Karl Popper (known as one of the major critic of Plato) ➔ “One can be either Platonic or anti Platonic but can never be non Platonic.”

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One can be either **Platonic** or Anti **Platonic**

shows the importance of Plato in history of western political philosophy.

• one of the greatest political philosopher.

• White ➔ “the history of entire western political philosophy is nothing but footnotes of philosophy of Plato.”

• Even Emerson said that Plato is philosophy

• Karl popper is considered as among the greatest critics of Plato.

• no one can remain indifferent to Plato.

• The importance of statement lights in the even his critics has acknowledge that impact by his ideas.
One can be either Platonic or Anti Platonic

- Plato is recognized as father of Political philosophy.
- Plato has suggested that the purpose of philosophy is to make human lives better.
- He has given the theory of ideas, developed concept of dialectics.
- In his theory we see the beginning of ideas of political idealism, communism.
- He is the reference point for all political philosopher in the later ages.
- Hence Karl Popper is quit correct when he says one can be either Platonic.
Influences of Socrates on Plato/ Relationship b/w Socrates and Plato

Which are the factors due to which Socrates influenced Plato

a) Life of Socrates
b) Method of Socrates dialectics
c) Ideas of Socrates (knowledge of virtue as foundation of Plato's political philosophy)
d) Plato's theory of idea based on Socrates theory of knowledge

Both share similar assumptions as far as purpose of life and nature of state is considered as both are critical of sophism.

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Despite the huge influence of Socrates it will not be appropriate to suggest all that is Platonic is socratic for following reasons.

• Besides Socrates, Plato was influenced by other scholars also.

• Many ideas of Plato like Philosopher king and Communism are Plato’s own inventions.

• According to critics the Karl Popper, Plato actually retired his master Socrates who was democratic in orientation.

• Socrates was an advocate of dialectics where as Plato ends scope of dialectics as he gives unquestioned power to Philosopher King.

• Hence Above statement is politcally incorrect.

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