PLATO

Circa: 428 BCE - 348 BCE
Disciple of: Socrates
Famous Disciple: Aristotle
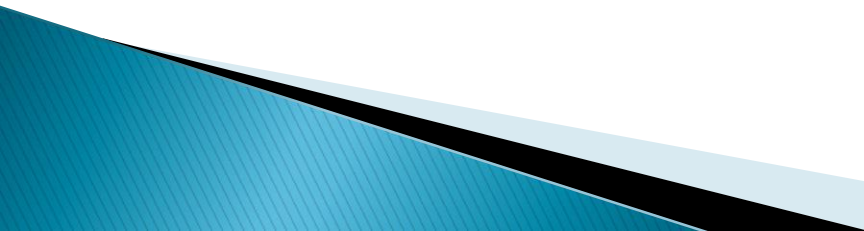Founder of: The Academy in Athens

Presented By:
Dr. Tripti Sharma.

Objective:

- **To Revise Our first Western Political Thinker.**
- **To understand the Philosophy Of Plato.**

Introduction

- One of the world's best
- Widely read and studied philosophers.
- Student of Socrates and the teacher of Aristotle
- Wrote in the middle of the fourth century B.C.E. in ancient Greece.
- Was born in 428-7 B.C.E
- Died at the age of eighty or eighty-one at 348-7 B.C.E.

Influences

- Plato's Teacher
- Dialectical Method
- Virtue is Knowledge
- Theory of Knowledge
- Theory of Reality
- Dislike for Athenian Democracy
- Politics is an art
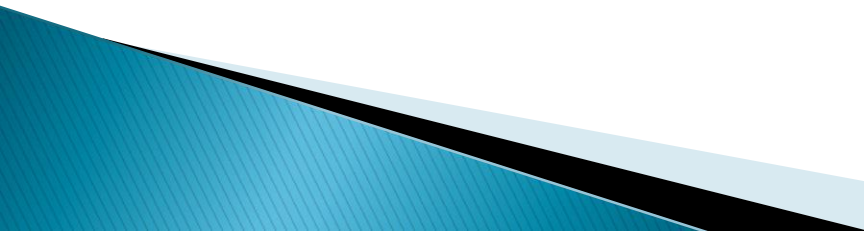- Contemporary Situations
  - Ignorance
  - Political Selfishness

Theory of Justice

- Centre of 'The Republic'.
- Main topic- 'Dikaiosune' which means 'concerning justice'
- "what is justice?"
- Negative Method is used- "what justice is not?"
- Analyze the contemporary theory:-
  - Traditional Theory of Justice
  - Radical Theory of Justice
  - Pragmatist Theory of Justice

Traditional Theory of Justice

- Caphalus – "Justice lies in speaking the truth and paying your debts".
- Polymarchus- "Giving everyman what is due to him".
- "Justice lies in doing good to one's friends and harm to one's enemy."
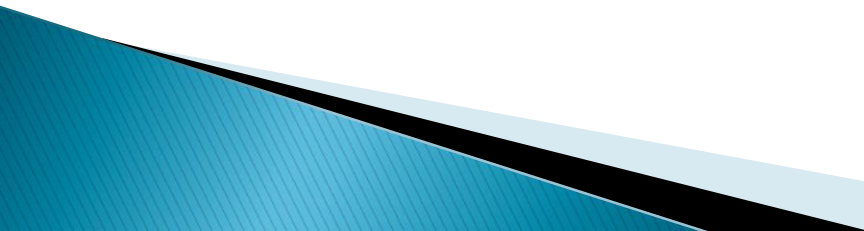
CRITICISM

- Possibility of contradictory things
- Difficult to recognize a friend and a foe
- Will encourage evils more
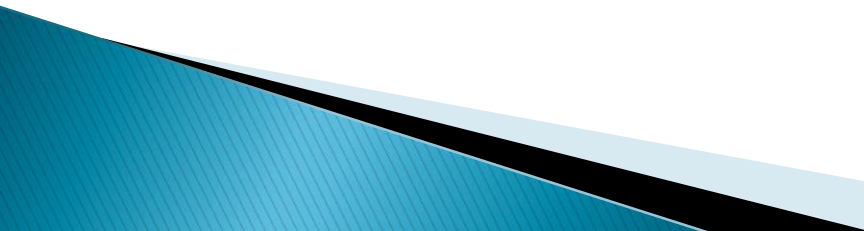- Individualism
- Justice is not dynamic

Radical Theory of Justice

- Thrasymachus- "Justice is always the interest of the stronger."
- "Injustice is better than justice."

CRITICISM

- Justice is not the interest of the strongest
- Injustice can never be better than justice
- This is not appropriate for the society

Pragmatic Theory of Justice

- Glaucon- "Justice is the interest of the weaker"
- It is the product or child of fear and is based on the necessity of the weaker.
- **CRITICISM**
- Justice is not product of any agreement.
- Justice is not a child of fear.
- Not for a special class.

Plato's Conception of Justice

- Justice is a necessary condition for an ideal state.
- Analyzed Justice on psychological basis.
- Every individual should perform his/her own duty on the basis of their interest and capability at their best for a state.
- Every individual must perform their duty and must not interfere in other's matter.
- Barker: "To discuss justice, Plato adopted the method of residue."
- Plato- "Justice is the virtue which remains in the state when the other virtues of temperance and courage and wisdom are abstracted and is the ultimate cause and condition of the existence of all of them.
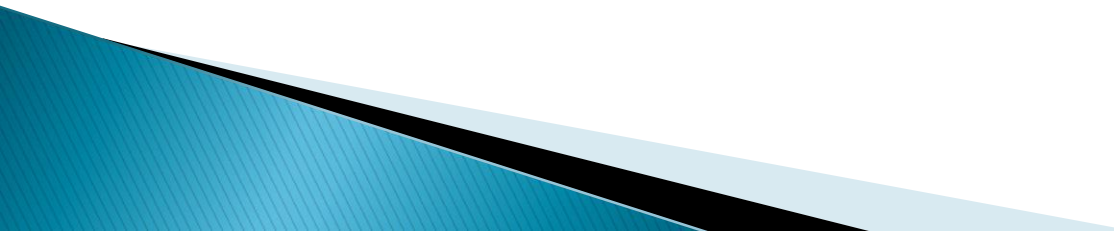
Types of Justice

▸ Social Justice

Sabine- "Justice is the bond which holds a society together, a harmonious union of individual each of whom has found his life work in accordance with his natural fitness and his training. It is both a public and a private virtue because the higher good both of the state and of its members thereby conserved. There is nothing better for a man than it have his work and to be fitted to do it. There is nothing better for other man and for the whole society than that each should thus be filling the station to which he is entitled."
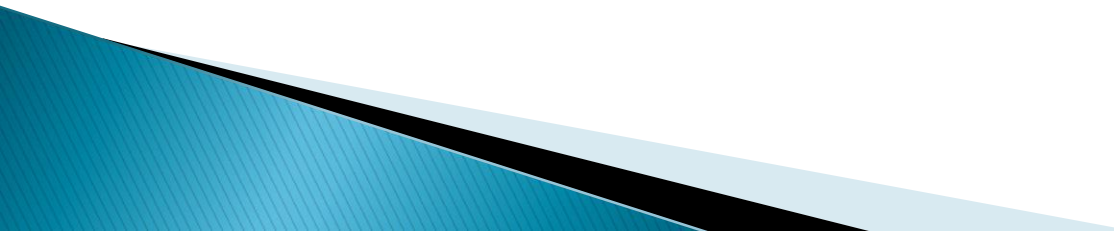
Barker- "Social justice thus may be defined as the principle of a society, consisting of different types of man who has combined under the impulse of their need for one another and by their combination is one society, and their concentration on their separate functions, have made a whole which is perfect because it is the product and the image of the whole human mind. The justice of the state is the citizens sense of duty of his station, issuing before the world in public action."
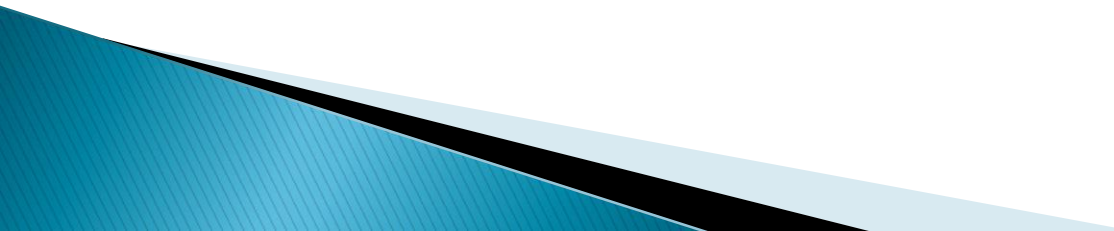
Foster- "Plato's conception of justice is Architectonic "

Individual Justice

- State is the association of individuals.
- Classification of state: reason or wisdom, courage, temperance of self-control and justice.
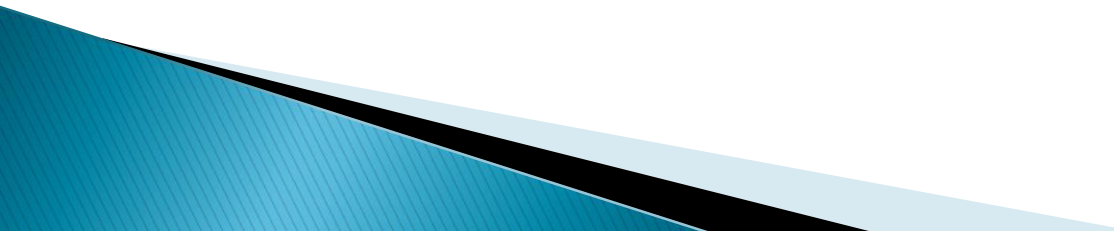- Classification of human mind: reason, courage and appetite.

Features

- Internal
- Theory of specialization
- Theory of non- interference
- Theory of harmony and unity
- Moral
- Concerned with all the aspects
- Against individualism
- Philosopher King
- Systematic Education System
- Types of Communism
- Based on decentralization of power
- Equal rights to women

Criticism

- Too passive in its character
- Excessive emphasis on duties
- Either excessive separation or excessive unification
- Little responsible to experience
- State as an end and individual as means
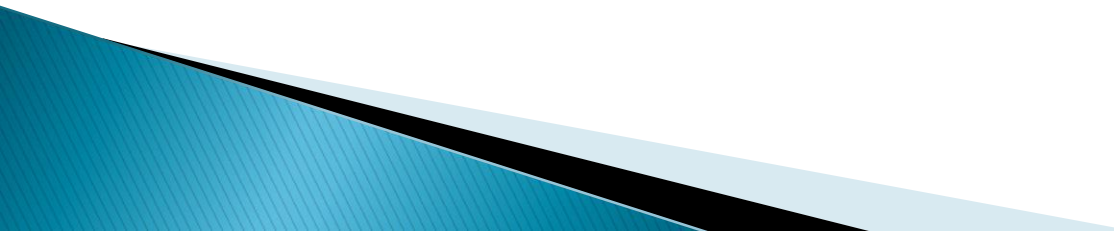- Impracticable
- Class struggle
- Rights neglected

Conclusion

- Faced too many criticism from the contemporary philosophers.

- But the theory of justice by Plato depicts Athenian situation.

- Plato's emphasized on the fact to deprive the ruling class with all the facilities and to pay their duties accurately.
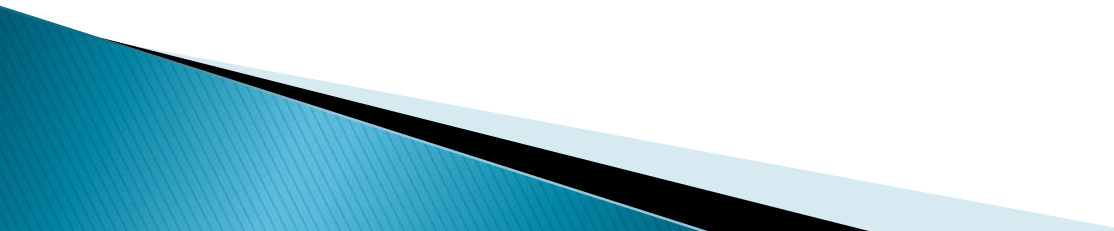
Plato's Ideal State

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Introduction

- Sabine- "The general nature of the state as a kind or type is the subject of the book, and it is secondary question whether actual state live up to the model or not."

- Plato- "Whenever we try to achieve something or try to create something, first we should think about what would be the ideal version of what we are trying to achieve. We should think about all the details of this ideal form and analyze it's aspects with regard to what makes it ideal."

Ideal State

- Conclusion of philosophical ideas
- Theory of Ideas
- Idea is Real
- Not worried about its real grounds
- Only wants to create a state for all the nations, all places and for all time.
- Ideal State is in "The Republic"

Role of human soul in the formation of Ideal State

- State and humans are like bacteria and creatures.
- Plato- "Must we not acknowledge that in each of us, there are the same principles and habits that there are in the state."
- State is the external form of human soul.
- Plato- "States do not come of an oak or a rock, but from the characters of the men that dwell therein."
- 3 elements of Human soul
  - Reason
  - Spirit
  - Appetite

- Plato- "Wisdom is the excellence of rational soul and courage of the active, but he hesitates to say that tolerance/ temperance can be confined to the nutritive soul."
- Some have reason, some have courage and some have appetite.
- **Society can also be classified according to this:**
  - Philosophical Class.
  - Soldiers
  - Peasants/ producer Class

Factors of State

▶ The Economic Factor

- Plato- "A State arises out of the needs of mankind; no one is self-sufficing, but all of us have many wants and many persons are needed to supply them, one takes a helper for one purpose and another for another; and when these partners and helpers are gathered together in one habitation the body of individuals is termed State.

▶ The Military Factor

- Glaucon- "To fulfill economic needs only is a city of swine"

▶ The Philosophic Factor

- Perfect Guardian can only have the capability to rationalize the things.
- Auxiliary – "show courage"
- Philosopher – "have reason"

Fundamentals/ Features of Ideal State

- Three classes
  - Protector
  - Warriors
  - Producers
- Specialization of function
- Rule of Justice
- Rule of Philosopher King
- Controlled and well planned education
- Censorship on Art and Literature
- Particular Communism System
- Equal attitude towards men and women
- Children are the National Property
- Totalitarian State
- Citizens of the Ideal State

Criticism

- Utopian and impracticable
- The Ideal State divides the state into two halves
- Rigid division of social classes in ideal state is impracticable
- Encourages castism
- Method of functional specialization is improper
- Rule of philosopher king will change into dictatorship
- Philosopher king can not be a practical ruler
- Negation of principle of equality
- Communism of ideal state is improper
- Corruption in ruling class