

*Social
and
Political*

PHILOSOPHY



42



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
DIRECTORATE OF AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS
BIGARD MEMORIAL SEMINARY, ENUGU

09 FEB 2024

BMS LIB / 3003 Candidate's Number (write very clearly)
300 L Level of Study
ARTS Faculty/College
PHILOSOPHY Department/Course
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY Title of Paper
9TH FEBRUARY, 2024 Date

Examination (insert official title)
of the Examination for which you
have entered, as it appears at
the head of the question paper

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1. Write on both sides of the pages (except in Mathematics)
2. Begin each answer on a fresh page.
3. Write the number of each question at the top of each page.
4. All rough work must be crossed through, and enclosed within this cover.
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NUMBERS OF THE ANSWERS

in the order in which they have been written.

NOS. 3, 5 AND 6

All students of the University of Ibadan are expected to show academic integrity at all times.
Understanding this, I solemnly declare that I shall not be involved in any malpractice including
soliciting, giving, receiving or using unauthorised aid in this examination.

Mabillibarty

Signature of student

For Examiner's
Use Only

Question No.	Mark
3	17
5	14
6	15
Ans	24
Total...	46

10 70

Expose Plato's understanding of an ideal state.
Introduction:

In the vast tapestry of human existence, only few realms hold much significance and influence like that of political philosophy. Political philosophy delves into the very essences of human societies, power and governance. It seeks to unravel the complexities of political system and, thus, explore the principles of the organisation of the society.

Plato is a prominent ancient philosopher who contributed immensely to the understanding of politics using the concept of an ideal state.

In this discourse, I will meticulously expose Plato's understanding of an ideal state. This I will do by exploring some pertinent themes like Plato's theory of forms, his discourse on the nature of the soul, his ideal state.

Who is Plato?

Plato is a philosopher, who was an idealist. He was born in either 428 or 427 BCE according to credible source. He is considered as one of the greatest philosophers in western thought.

Plato was a student of Aristotle, Socrates and he was the teacher of Aristotle, thereby forming the triumvirate of intellectual giants. After the death of Aristotle in 399 BCE,

Plato opened the Academy in Athens. Plato was also born in Athens.

He used the Socratic method which is critical questioning and dialogue to delve into the essences of human understanding. This is evident in his 'dialogue' where Socrates dialogued with various interlocutors.

Plato's writing covered a whole lot of fields and are relevant even to today. In areas like ethics, metaphysics, politics, literature, epistemology.

Plato's Political Philosophy:

Plato's ideas of politics is fully contained in his magnum opus, "The Republic". In the book, he outrightly rendered his thoughts on politics.

Plato was born and he lived in Athens in Greece. Athens was then a great city-state with democratic governance and cultural prowess. Plato witnessed the political instability in Athens which for him was summed up in the execution of his teacher Socrates. Plato also witnessed the Peloponnesian war between Athens and Sparta. This war impacted on the political and cultural landscape of Athens which would influence Plato who lived in such state. The social and political instability witnessed by Plato influenced his political thoughts and made him move for an ideal

of its parts. When one part dysfunction or malfunctions, it negatively affect the other parts.

Plato's Concept of an Ideal State.

Plato, however, described the state as a 'great person'. The state is the mirror of an individual in a large screen. For Plato, the individual soul is a miniature of the state, so what applies in the state also applies in the individual soul.

Therefore, Plato's explanation of the tripartite nature of the soul, served as a background for the nature of an ideal state. Consequently, the hierarchical structure of the soul corresponds with the social classes of the state. The power of the reason corresponds with the guardians in the state, the bodily appetite corresponds to the producers in the state, the spirited-element of the soul corresponds with the auxiliaries and milibary in the state. Thus the diagram:

Structure of the Soul	Structure of the State
Reason	Guardians
Spirited element	Auxiliaries / milibary
bodily appetite	Producers

The producers; Plato classifies them as the lover of money, food, sexual activities. For Plato, they love these because it is their nature to love them. They can acquire and

State.

The metaphysical concepts of theory of forms in Plato and his explanation on the nature of the soul influenced him and became the background of his notion of ideal state. Thus

Plato's Theory of Forms.

Theory of Forms in Plato, asserts that forms are eternal, immutable and true definition of concepts. Forms are objective definition of concepts like justice, man. Forms are the very essences of things according to Plato.

However, forms are not mere intelligible, eternal concepts. If there are component of realities, then the forms have the closest claim to realities; they are real. Thus, forms are independently existing essences of things in the cosmos.

The theory of forms establishes that the material world is an imperfect reflection of the ideal world of forms. The physical world thus reflects the world of forms.

The tripartite nature of the soul

Plato argues that the soul is not just a simple essence. The soul is constituted of many forms which derives from the functions of its parts.

The structure of the soul which include

No 3

Question

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in its hierarchy, the power of language or reason, the bodily appetite and the Spirited element which incorporates passions.

The reason is the highest and noblest aspect of the individual soul, the bodily appetite is the lowest in hierarchy, and the Spirited-element is the intermediary - the reason (Logos) !

In the hierarchy of the nature of the soul, the reason is the highest and noblest. It governs the two other aspects and holds them together in their functioning.

The Spirit (Thumos): This refers to our drive like courage, assertion, boldness. It is responsible for our drive for success in life. The Spirit aids the reason in exercising its function. The spirit is in between the reason and the appetite.

The bodily appetite: The bodily appetite is the lowest in hierarchy. It is impulsive in nature. It is responsive to our desire for food, drink, sex, money, pleasure.

Plato described the structure of soul as tripartite and mentioned above. Every individual soul has this structure.

The soul for Plato is an organism, thus, it is not merely an entity comprised of a hierarchical structure. The soul as an organism flourishes because of the functioning

No 3

Question

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according to Plato prohibited from acquiring wealth, money, even nuclear-family units. This is to enable them focus on the common good chiefly engendered by reason.

Plato establishes that the philosopher-kings are selected not by heredity or by monarchy, but with the criteria of natural intellectual capacity.

Plato explains their journey to being philosopher kings as thus: By the age of 18, the individual must have learnt literature and music for the mind, and be involved in gymnastic for the strength of the body. By the age of 20, the individual is to learn mathematics. By the age of 30, he learns the intelligible things as specified in Plato's 'Divided Line' for five years. After that, he takes 15 years for public service. Confirmingly, at the age of 50, the best individuals who have been tested and passed these stages can now rule the state.

It is worthy of note, that the philosopher-king according to ~~the~~ Plato is able to distinguish between the visible world and the intelligible world. This is as a result of training.

Their job is to govern, make rules that apply in the state for the common good of all the citizens as directed by reason.

Form of justice:

Justice or moral or excellence, according to Plato is found in an ideal state. This is because of the harmonious working and interdependence in the functioning of the structure of the state, as corresponding in the individual soul.

A good and just citizen contribute to a good state, and a good state imparts moral virtues like justice in the citizens.

Thus, the harmonious functioning of the state brings about the form of justice in the state as found capable by the philosopher-kings.

Government agencies and Censorship:

Plato asserts that in an ideal state that there are government agencies that censor what the producers do. These agencies develop propaganda that establishes what should exist and what should not exist in the state. They checkmate the ~~excesses~~ excesses of the producers in order to maintain balance in the state.

Education:

Plato advocates seriously that in an ideal state, education of citizens is paramount. The citizens learn moral virtues and

Question No 3

amass wealth. They have the duty of providing for the two other classes and for themselves. They include, carpenters, bankers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, tailors, weavers. They are actively involved in the economic character of the state. They correspond to the bodily appetite in the structure of the human soul.

b. Auxiliaries / Military:

The auxiliaries or military are moved by courage, discretion and patriotism. They aid the guardians or philosopher-kings in carrying out their functions. They protect the state from external influence.

They live in barracks, trained to be disciplined by rationing their food moderately.

c. The guardians / Philosopher-kings:

The highest and noblest of hierarchy in the state are the philosopher-kings. For, Plato the art of governing is not for everybody. In the ideal state, the philosopher-kings govern and direct the affairs of the state.

They correspond to the power of reason in the structure of individual soul. The philosopher-kings are educated, trained and intelligent enough to rule the state.

The philosopher-kings act with their right reason for the common good. They are not moved by selfish interest. They are,

Question.....

Write on both sides of the paper

- Again the idea of Social Contract was unattainable because of the existence of Status.
- Also the idea of man relinquishing all his right was questionable to common sense, how can it be possible.
- Also, man became so timid and lacks freedom creates the view of him back to his initial state of nature.

His Merit

The Leviathan as a sovereign made it possible for the absolutism of power in a government and this idea was brought by Machiavelli, in The Prince.

Also it creates an ideal state that is free from external opposition.

Nevertheless the Leviathan as a sovereign of the state made it possible for man to relinquish his British nature for Hobbes this could be practised in Monarchy system of ruling.

Conclusion

Thomas Hobbes idea of the Leviathan as the sovereign of the state was because of the rebellion between the Parliamentarians and Royalists which brought to the British revolution, he pushed for the absolute power of the leader in the Leviathan whose authority and power cannot be challenged; a leader as a mortal god who is to be feared and commands fear to the citizens. The Leviathan is all powerful, invisible, absolute, unlimited power and Impenetrable.

Ans

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09 FEB 2021

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300 Level of Study

ASTS Faculty/College

PHILOSOPHY Department/Course

PHI 305
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John C. Duvall

Signature of student

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Thomas Hobbes's Idea of the Leviathan as the Sovereign of the State.

Introduction.

Before now in our present contemporary state, the question was how, where, where, and what brought about the origin of the state?

These questions has been approached with the use of theories like, the Divine nature theory, Social contract theory, Patriarchal and Matriarchal theory, gene theory and Evolutionary theory. These theories created a fore and insight on how men lived before the formation of the present state.

Political and Social philosophy as a course will help us to discuss and evaluate what politics, the state and governance are all about. How they function and comport their political activities in the state.

The Man Thomas Hobbes.

Thomas Hobbes was once the tutor of the Earl of Devonshire and King Charles II, he was born in 1588 and he experienced the Spanish armada and the British revolution. This revolution was a social unrest between the Parliamentarians and the Royalist. Hobbes advocated for absolute power to the sovereign for if there was an absolute power the for those in power the rise for the revolution would not occur. He studied in University of Oxford and later graduated from Harvard University. He lived up to ninety years and his famous

work, where his idea about the absolute power of the Sovereign was the book titled "The Leviathan", which was published in 1651. He maintained that absolute power will prevent anarchy and bring law and order in the state. What brought the idea of the Leviathan?

I wish ~~say~~ categorically, that the idea of the Leviathan sprung up for the State of nature of man. According to Hobbes, man lived in the State of nature, man was selfish and self-seeking in all he does, man paid attention to his self-interest. Man's actions were moved by his desire, the desire to satisfy his appetite; for this was man's major desire. The state of nature was a state of war, "War of all, against all". *"Bellum Omnia: Contra Omnes"*. Man was quarrelsome, antagonistic, selfish, self-seeking in all he does. It was a state of unrest where man seeks to acquire more properties, all has equal right and freedom. Man lived in solitary, poor, brutish, unrest and short. Men live in fear, and danger of one's life. Men shut their doors and at night and the women wrapped their garments up to their chest for the safety of their lives.

In the state of nature, Man owns no property, commodities, building, no law, no order, no government, no state existed. For Hobbes the three principles of quarrel were firstly gain, which is man's pursuit for wealth and properties. Secondly defiance, man's search for safety and property and Thirdly fame which is

to be in charge in order to foster and promote safety and control over the state because of their previous state of fear and self interest.

The coming and going of this act is called a covenant which cannot be dissolved by any means. The Leviathan are seen as mortal gods, under the supreme immortal god, who is in charge and have the general control of the state and all its activities. They make rules and policy for the citizens, and the citizens have no claim to disobey, the only moment the citizens have the right to go contrary to the Leviathan is when his life is in peril.

The Leviathan implement the norms and laws and policies in a society and the failure of the citizens to adhere to such decree will face capital punishment.

Anyone whom the Leviathan kills because of their inactions by suicide, their actions are justifiable.

If the Leviathan is conquered by another, the citizens of the formal Leviathan now becomes the subject of the conqueror.

The subject or citizen has no right of his own, because they willingly gave up their right to bid the Leviathan, but the Leviathan gave up none of his right and he still remained in the state of nature.

The citizens have no right to stir or rise against their Leviathan, because they were the actual

Seeking for popularity. The state of nature was brutish and fearsome. The law of nature had no effect on man. It was a state of might is right whereby the slogan was "kill who you can and take what you can". It was a state of anarchy.

Though, at some point man became fed up with such kind of lifestyle, and all decided to come together to give up their right and authority and this lead to the formation of the Social Contract.

The Social Contract :-

The emergence of Social Contract was as the result of the imbalance of the state of nature. Social Contract is the coming together of people who decided by stating that "I have decided to give up my right and authority in so far as he (my fellow man) decided to relinquish his and submit those rights and authority under a person or group of persons who is the Sovereign".

Thus was the Social Contract, the coming together of all the people to give up their entire right to a Sovereign.

This actually is where the idea of T. Hobbes came in "The Leviathan as a Sovereign of the State".

The Leviathan has an absolute power which is indivisible and inseparable. The masses gave their rights willing to the rule of the Leviathan.

ones who came up together and choose him, gave him the absolute power to be in control and entered into a binding Covenants.

For Hobbes there are two liberties, the Liberty of the Leviathan to do what he wants and the Liberty of the citizens to follow the laid down policies by the Leviathan which are unpunishable.

The Leviathan as the Sovereign of the State shows its Indivisible, inseparable and absolute absolute power. According to Hobbes "Bodine limited the power to only the divine power, law of nature, and natural law" but according to Hobbes the Leviathan has an absolute and unlimited power to do anything he wants.

The Leviathan acts only to safe guard and protect the citizens, they make policies and taxes on the citizens.

Criticism

Hobbes maintained that individuals comes together only when there was a formation of the state, but that was not attainable because citizens and individual lived together in the state of nature.

Also the idea of state of nature were not accepted, because the natural law pre-existed at their time.

Question.....

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Ans