

John Rawls: A Theory of Justice

Review Questions:

1. Carefully explain Rawls' conception of the original position.

Rawls describes that the rules of justice are chosen in an Original Position. This tells that there is no one that can benefit or be harmed by the choice of principles.

2. State and Explain Rawls' first principle of Justice.

According to Rawls' the first principle of justice is each person have an equal right to the most extensive total system of equal basic liberties compatible with a similar system of liberty for all. It must be treated equally and we must know how to treat equally not only to others but as well as to all aspects of life.

3. State and explain the second principle. Which principle has priority such that it cannot be sacrificed?

The second principle is called the difference principle, and it identifies how economic compensation should be distributed. Everyone will have their own rights but the distribution of wealth and income will not be equal. It has two parts. Firstly, there is the difference principle proper, the principle for the distribution of acquired wealth in society. This is basically the principle to regulate taxation and redistribution. The second part of the second principle is the principle of equal opportunity. It regulates access to coveted social positions - basically jobs and positions of authority

Discussion Questions:

1. On the first principle, each person has an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty as long as this does not interfere with similar liberty for others. What does this allow to do?

The first principle each person has an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty as long as this does not interfere with similar liberty for others allows each individual in the community or in the society to weigh and to know the goodness and the badness of a certain act which we cannot deny the fact that most of the times its happening.

2. Is it possible for free and rational persons in the original position to agree upon different principles than those given by Rawls?

In my point of view, it is possible for free and rational persons in the original position to agree upon different principles than those given by Rawls.