

Passage 1 :The Republic book 8 follows upon Socrates view of the Just city. Within the book Socrates describes the four unjust constitutions that compose governments and the spirit of men. These four constitutions are a(n) timocracy, oligarchy, democracy as well as tyranny. This passage occurs as Socrates describes the conditions needed for a city to mold from a timocracy to an oligarchy.

Content : Within this passage Socrates explains how exactly a timocratic man becomes an oligarchy. In this transition Socrates explains that a timocratic man's priorities turn from honor to wealth as a result of a desire for ownership of private property. Socrates explains that as this switch of priority begins to occur en masse, the conditions of a timocratic man become neglected and forgotten.

Assessment : Socrates argument that a desire of private property and wealth would overshadow victory and honor is a valid one. Referring to the rise of feudalism throughout Europe, one can see that the late stage of feudalism contrasts early feudalism . This is due to its prioritization of private property, such as the various fiefs owned by vassals, over honor and victory. This chain of events mirrors that of Socrates' argument and therefore I agree with his ideas thus far.

## Passage 2

Context : This passage occurs within Socrates explanation of Democracy. This is the third constitution in Socrates list and it immediately follows the previously mentioned Oligarchy and is followed by a Tyranny. As Socrates explains to Glaucon and Adeimantius the various downfalls of a democratic government and soul of man, this passage occurs.

Content : Socrates judgement of Democracy is based upon its prioritization of freedom. Preceding this passage, Socrates explains that the borders between the youth and elderly become blurred out of a desire of freedom. He then continues to critique the freedoms women had been allowed thus far. Within this passage he argues that the major downfall of a Democracy are these desires for freedoms due to the fact that any attempt of imposing control is opposed with outcry. Furthermore he argues that these people pay little attention to the law out of this desire for freedom.

Assessment : Socrates' claims that a democracy is flawed for its prioritization is outdated and flawed. This passage highlights how even ancient philosophers are products of their time in regards to the ideas of sexual equality. Furthermore, his argument that a prioritization of freedom flaws a democracy due to the fact that its people will eventually ignore its laws is flawed as a result of the fact that those who break laws are punished. Within a proper system, this prevents further crimes from taking place.

## Passage 3

Context : This passage occurs as Socrates describes the final constitution within his list. Tyranny is this constitution. It immediately follows that of a Democracy and is the worst

constitution that a man or government can possess. This passage refers to how a democratic government can transition to a tyrannical one.

Content : As Socrates describes that of a tyrannical government, he describes one that takes the wealth of the rich and redistributes it to the poor while keeping the largest sum for itself. He explains then as a result the wealthy will attempt to protect their wealth through political meetings, which would eventually result in a dissent from the poor. Socrates explains that the people adhere to a popular leader. This passage occurs as an explanation that the public's blind following of such a popular leader is the sole power that allows a leader to become a tyrant.

Assessment : Socrates critique of how a democratic government could descend into a tyranny is a valid one. If one were to look to the development of the USSR and the collapse of the Soviet Union, one would see a system that mirrors the conditions that Socrates' listen in his assessment of a tyranny. Furthermore, the passage that a popular leader is allowed to springboard into a tyranny only due to his popularity carries a heavy amount of validity. I feel it also currently reflects the current state of the American democracy.