Platos republic

Philosophy



The paper "Plato's Republic" is a worthy example of a philosophy book review.

In Plato's Republic Plato wrote of Socrates' encounter with several characters to determine justice and other philosophical truth. Socrates and his fellow characters did not fully explain justice, but several ideas about justice were mulled over. The one definition argued all men would be unjust without fear of retribution. Socrates debated that this type of unjust life would not be lived by a just man.

Theoretically both Glaucon, who advocates an unjust life and Socrates who advocates a just life are both correct. However, both men refuse to acknowledge the individuality or uniqueness between each individual human. A good example would be the invisibility ring. If Mother Theresa put on the invisibility ring, she would probably do well for others without the need for praise. She would not steal, murder, or maim. On the other hand, Madoff (although not convicted) would wear the ring to steal from banks, without having to con anyone. It depends on the person. A just person would act the same whether using an invisibility ring, around people, or alone. A corrupt person afraid to of being caught would steal if the option of not being caught was presented. Criminals not afraid of being caught or going to jail commit heinous crimes. An example would be Charles Manson. He loves being in jail. The individuality must be taken into consideration when talking just and unjust.

The definition of just and unjust cannot be used on humanity as a whole as it relates to Socrates. The one flaw in Socrates' thinking is the thought that everyone wants to be just. This is where society has to make rules for the greater good of the whole society. A just society allows individuality but

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creates just laws to protect citizens. Not all individuals are just or want to aspire to be just. Socrates created his inner justice measure as all humans do. This justice system was not universal for all humans.