



Social Justice or Political Egalitarianism : An Exploration of Distributive Justice

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Abstract

This article examines the science behind distributive justice, focusing on the concept of conscious awareness. It begins by discussing the concept of distributive justice and how it relates to the idea of a better society with better consciousness. It then reviews the research that has been conducted on the topic of distributive justice, discussing how it relates to both individual and collective consciousness. Egalitarianism is a term used to refer to the belief that all people should be treated equally and fairly, regardless of their race, sex, religion, or any other factor. Next, the article examines the ways in which distributive justice has been implemented in various societies, exploring how it has impacted the quality of life in those societies. Finally, the article looks at the potential implications of distributive justice for our own society and how it could be used to create a better society with better consciousness.

Keywords: Distributive Justice; Society; Consciousness; Aristotle; Plato; John Rawls; Francis Bacon; Immanuel Kant; Egalitarianism



Introduction

Distributive justice is a concept of fairness in the way resources, such as money and social goods, are distributed in a society (**Roussillon Soyer et al., 2022**). It is rooted in the belief that all individuals should have equal access to these resources and that any unequal distribution should be based on factors that are deemed to be morally acceptable, such as individual merit or need. Distributive justice is concerned with the fair and equitable distribution of resources among individuals, communities, and societies, and it can be applied to multiple contexts, including economics, politics, and healthcare (**Hayek., 2022**).

At its core, distributive justice is based on the idea of fairness. It holds that each individual should have an equal right to resources, regardless of their social, economic, or racial background. This means that resources should be distributed in a way that is equitable and that accounts for individual differences. It also requires that individuals be provided with the same opportunities and resources regardless of their social or economic status (**Fleischacker., 2009**).

The philosophy of distributive justice is based on the notion that society should strive to promote an equitable distribution of resources. This includes ensuring that everyone has access to the same resources regardless of their position in society. Distributive justice also requires that individuals be treated fairly and equitably, and that no one should be discriminated against or denied access to resources on the basis of their race, gender, age, or any other attribute.

In practice, distributive justice is based on the principles of equity, equality, and fairness. It is important to note that distributive justice is not the same as equality of outcome, which seeks to ensure that everyone has the same amount of resources. Instead, distributive justice seeks to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to access the same resources, and that any unequal distribution should be based on factors that are deemed to be morally acceptable (**Cohen., 1987**).

Overall, distributive justice is a philosophy of fairness in the way resources are distributed in a society. It is based on the principles of equity, equality, and fairness, and it holds that all individuals should have equal access to resources and that any unequal distribution should be based on factors that are deemed to be morally acceptable. Distributive justice is an important concept to consider



when discussing issues of economic and social justice, and it is a cornerstone of the modern welfare state.

Distributive justice is the idea that goods, services, and resources should be distributed fairly and equitably among members of a society. It is a concept that has long been debated among philosophers, scholars, and policymakers alike. The question is how to ensure that each person receives their fair share based on their individual needs and capabilities. Fortunately, science has recently been able to shed light on the topic.

The science behind distributive justice is rooted in the field of sociology, which studies the behaviour of people in different societies. Through this research, sociologists have identified a number of factors that influence how fairly and equitably goods, services, and resources are distributed among members of a society. These include factors such as social class, gender, race, and income level. By understanding these factors, researchers can better understand how to ensure that each person receives their fair share.

In addition, research conducted in the field of psychology has also shed light on the science behind distributive justice. Psychologists have studied how people perceive fairness and justice. Through this research, they have uncovered a number of psychological principles that can be used to create a more equitable society. These principles include things like empathy, fairness, and justice. By understanding these psychological principles, researchers can better understand how to create a society where everyone is given their fair share of goods, services, and resources (**Greenberg., 1983**).

Finally, the field of economics has also played a role in understanding the science behind distributive justice. Economists have studied how different economic systems can influence the distribution of goods, services, and resources. By understanding how different economic systems work, researchers can better understand how to create an economic system that ensures that everyone receives their fair share.

By understanding the science behind distributive justice, researchers can better understand how to create a better society with better consciousness. By understanding how to create an equitable distribution of goods, services, and resources, researchers can help create a society where everyone is given their fair share. This, in turn, can help create a better society with better consciousness.

Distributive Justice in Platonic era



In Plato's era, distributive justice was an important concept, and it was seen as a crucial element of a well-ordered and prosperous society. Plato argued that justice should be applied on the basis of merit, and that the distribution of resources should be based on the individual contributions of citizens to society. Plato believed that each person should receive what is deserved, and that the best way to achieve this was through a system of rewards and punishments. Plato argued that the state should be run by an elite group of wise and just rulers, who could ensure an equitable distribution of resources and a fair system of justice. He believed that citizens should be rewarded for their efforts and that those who failed to contribute should be punished appropriately. Plato's philosophy of justice was focused on creating a society where each person was treated fairly and received what was deserved.

Aristotle's philosophy of distributive justice is grounded in the belief that all individuals have an intrinsic worth and should be treated equitably in any form of distribution of resources or benefits. Aristotle believed that individuals should be rewarded according to their merit and contributions, rather than according to their social position or wealth. He argued that the distribution of resources and rewards should be based on a fair and just system that takes into account the individual's abilities, skills, and effort (**Boucher., 2016**).

In his *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle states that justice should be distributed not only according to what is deserved, but also according to need. He argued that justice should be based on an equal distribution of benefits and burdens among individuals, and that those who are less fortunate should be given additional aid to ensure that they are able to participate in the community and reap the benefits of the collective good.

Aristotle believed that justice should be administered with a sense of fairness and impartiality, and that it should be based on what is best for the community as a whole. He argued that justice should be based on the idea of equality, where everyone should receive the same amount of benefit, regardless of their social position or wealth. He also believed that justice should be based on principles of reciprocity and that individuals should receive back what they have given to the community (**Englard., 2009**).

Aristotle's philosophy of distributive justice has had a lasting influence on modern legal and political systems. His focus on the importance of fairness and impartiality in the distribution of resources and rewards has been instrumental in shaping the contemporary understanding of justice and its application in the legal and political systems. His emphasis on the importance of equality and consideration of need has also been influential in the development of social welfare programs.



Francis Bacon on Distributive Justice

Francis Bacon was a Renaissance thinker and philosopher who believed that justice should be distributed to all citizens equally. He argued for a form of distributive justice which was based on the concept of a fair balance between the interests of the individual, the state, and the community. In his work *The Advancement of Learning*, Bacon argued that justice should be seen as “*a distribution of rewards and punishments according to merit*”. He believed that justice should be based on the idea of equal and balanced rights and obligations, and should be applied in such a way that everyone is treated fairly and no one is denied their due. He also argued that justice should be seen as a moral obligation, and that it was the responsibility of governments and rulers to ensure that justice was maintained and upheld.

Bacon argued that justice should be seen as an obligation rather than a privilege, and that it should be distributed based on an individual’s merit. He believed that the justice system should be based on a system of rewards and punishments, where those who commit wrongs are punished and those who do well are rewarded. He argued that justice should be applied without prejudicial stance or favouritism, and that it should be seen as an obligation of the state to all of its citizens (Farrington., 1966).

Bacon also argued that justice should be based on a system of natural law. He argued that nature should be the source of justice, and that it should be based on a set of principles which are universal and immutable. He believed in a form of natural justice which was based on reason and fairness, and which would be applied in all cases in an impartial manner.

In conclusion, Francis Bacon was a Renaissance thinker and philosopher who believed that justice should be distributed to all citizens equally. He argued for a form of distributive justice which was based on the concept of a fair balance between the interests of the individual, the state, and the community. He argued that justice should be applied without prejudice or favouritism, and that it should be based on a system of rewards and punishments, where those who commit wrongs are punished and those who do well are rewarded. He also argued that justice should be based on a system of natural law, which was based on reason and fairness.

European philosophers on Distributive Justice

Distributive justice is a concept in philosophy which concerns the fairness and justice of the distribution of goods, resources, and benefits within a society. European philosophers have long debated the concept of distributive justice in order to determine the most equitable way to distribute resources and benefits in society.



One of the most influential European philosophers on the topic of distributive justice is John Rawls. Rawls argued that distributive justice should be based on the principles of fairness and equality. He proposed the idea of the “veil of ignorance” which proposes that people should make decisions on the distribution of resources without knowing their own personal interests. This would ensure that decisions affecting society would be made in an impartial manner (**Lamont., 2017**).

Another influential European philosopher on the topic of distributive justice is Immanuel Kant. Kant argued that justice and fairness should be the basis for any distribution of resources in society. He believed that society should be organized in such a way that all members of society had an equal chance at success and that those with the most resources should share them with those who have less.

Finally, the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau also had an influential view on distributive justice. Rousseau argued that society should be structured in such a way that all members of society had an equal chance at success and that those with the most resources should share them with those who have less. He believed that individuals should not be judged by their wealth, but by their character, and that resources should be distributed according to need.

Overall, European philosophers have had a major influence on our understanding of the concept of distributive justice. Through their writings, they have helped to shape our understanding of fairness, equality, and justice in society. They have helped to create a more equitable system of resource and benefit distribution, and their contributions to the field of distributive justice continue to be felt today (**Timmer., 2021**).

Immanuel Kant on Distributive Justice

Immanuel Kant was a German philosopher whose philosophical works shaped the way we think about distributive justice today. Kant believed that justice should be applied evenly to all individuals, regardless of their social status or wealth. He argued that each person has a right to the same basic civil liberties and protections, and that no one should be deprived of these rights on the basis of their economic or social standing. According to Kant, distributive justice is a moral imperative, as it is essential for creating a just and equitable society (**Shaw., 2005**).

The categorical imperative is an ethical theory developed by German philosopher Immanuel Kant in the 18th century. It is a moral obligation that is absolute and unconditional, and it applies to all rational beings. It states that one should act only according to that maxim whereby one can at the same time will that it should become a universal law. In other words, one should never act in a



way that cannot be universalized. This means that one should never act in a way that would be unethical or immoral if everyone did it.

Kant's theory of distributive justice is based on his belief that humans are rational agents and that all persons are equal in dignity. He argued that each individual has the right to pursue their own interests and that it is unjust to deny someone this right based on their economic or social status. Kant believed that in a just society, individuals should be rewarded according to their merit, rather than their wealth or social class.

Kant also argued that distributive justice should be based on principles of fairness and equality. He argued that a fair system of distribution should strive to ensure that everyone has access to essential goods and services. According to Kant, it is unjust to provide more resources to those who already have an abundance while those in need are left with nothing.

Kant's theories of distributive justice have been used to inform modern day discussions on the subject. His ideas are often cited in debates on economic inequality, health care, and other social justice issues. Kant's philosophy has been influential in shaping the way we think about justice and has helped to create a fairer and more equitable society (Williams., 2010; Shaw., 2005).

John Rawls on Distributive Justice

John Rawls's distributive justice theory is an influential and important contribution to the field of political philosophy. In *A Theory of Justice*, Rawls argues that a just society is one in which citizens have equal access to their basic rights and liberties, and that a just distribution of resources is one that maximizes the welfare of its least advantaged members.

Rawls believes that in a just society, those who are most disadvantaged should be given priority over those who are more privileged. He proposes a hypothetical construct called the "veil of ignorance" that is used to determine the fairest way to distribute resources. Under this hypothetical construct, each person is assumed to be ignorant of his or her own social status, wealth, talents and other personal characteristics. This would lead people to make decisions about the distribution of resources in a way that would benefit the least advantaged in society.

Rawls also argues that a just society should be based on principles of fairness and reciprocity. He believes that people should be treated fairly and with respect regardless of their social status or other characteristics. He also believes that people should be given the opportunity to contribute to society in ways that are meaningful to them, and that each person should be given an equal opportunity to participate in the economic, political, and social life of the society (Shaw., 2005).



Rawls's theory of justice has had a major influence on modern political thought. It has been used to support the idea of a welfare state, to argue for greater economic equality, to oppose discrimination in all forms, and to advocate for a more equitable distribution of resources. Rawls's theory is also often used as a starting point for debates around the ethical implications of a wide range of political and economic issues.

The *Bhagavad Gita*'s Distributive Justice

Distributive justice is one of the key principles of the *Bhagavad Gita*. It is the idea that resources should be distributed fairly and equitably among all people. The *Bhagavad Gita* states that it is the responsibility of the ruler to ensure that justice is served and that all people receive their fair share of resources. The *Bhagavad Gita* further emphasizes the importance of dharma, or duty, in ensuring distributive justice. Dharma is the moral code that guides our actions and decisions. By following dharma, we can ensure that we are distributing resources in a fair and equitable manner.

The *Bhagavad Gita* emphasizes the importance of justice and fairness in all aspects of life. It states that when a ruler or leader is just, they will be respected and obeyed. It also states that when a ruler or leader is unjust, they will be despised and disobeyed. This highlights the importance of fairness and justice in all aspects of society.

The *Bhagavad Gita* also focuses on the importance of generosity and charity. The *Gita* states that it is important to give to those who are in need and to help those less fortunate than ourselves. This is another way in which distributive justice can be achieved. By giving to those in need, we are helping to ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need to lead a good life (Muniapan., 2015).

In conclusion, the *Bhagavad Gita* emphasizes the importance of distributive justice. It states that it is the responsibility of the ruler to ensure that justice is served and that all people have access to their fair share of resources. It also emphasizes the importance of dharma and generosity in ensuring distributive justice. By following these principles, we can ensure that resources are distributed fairly and equitably among all people.

The Idea of Pure Procedural Justice

Pure procedural justice is a concept which is based on the idea that individuals should be treated fairly in all aspects of the legal system. It is based on the principle that all individuals should have access to justice and the legal system should be impartial and unbiased in the way it treats people.



Pure procedural justice is based on the idea that individuals should be protected from arbitrary and unfair treatment, and that the law should be applied consistently and fairly to all.

The concept of pure procedural justice is closely linked to the idea of due process. Due process is the legal principle which states that individuals should have access to a fair legal process, and that they should be given the opportunity to challenge any decision that is made against them in court. This means that individuals should be given the right to a fair hearing and the right to appeal any decision that is made against them.

Pure procedural justice is also based on the idea of equality before the law. This principle states that individuals should be treated equally regardless of their race, gender, religion, or any other factor which could lead to discrimination. This means that the legal system should not discriminate against any individual based on these grounds, and should treat all individuals equally.

John Rawls, a prominent philosopher of the twentieth century, developed a theory of justice known as “pure procedural justice.” This theory holds that justice is determined by a set of procedures that are designed to ensure that everyone's rights are respected and that no one is denied their due. Rawls argued that these procedures must be fair and impartial, and must be applied equally to all members of society (see **Figure 1**).

Rawls' theory is based on the idea that people have a moral obligation to respect each other's rights, and that these rights must be balanced with the interests of the larger community. He argued that the best way to do this was to create a set of procedures that would guarantee fairness and impartiality in decision-making, and that would take into account the interests of all parties involved.

Rawls argued that there were three principles of justice which should be used to guide the design of these procedures. The first principle is that everyone should be treated equally, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or other characteristics. The second principle is that everyone should have access to the same opportunities, regardless of their social or economic status. The third principle is that everyone should be given a fair chance to make their own decisions, and that these decisions should not be based on a person's race, gender, or other characteristics.

In addition to these three principles, Rawls also argued that society should promote the welfare of its citizens by providing them with basic goods, such as food, shelter, education, and health care. He argued that these goods should be distributed equally among all members of society, regardless of their economic status.



Rawls' theory of pure procedural justice has had a major influence on modern political thought. His ideas have been used to justify a number of various policies, such as affirmative action and equal pay for equal work. His theory has also been used to argue for greater civil liberties and protections for minorities, as well as for greater economic equality. Rawls' theory of justice has proven to be an important part of modern political discourse, and it is likely that it will continue to be an important part of social and political discourse for many years to come (Nelson., 1980).

Overall, pure procedural justice is a concept which is based on the idea that individuals should have access to a fair and impartial legal system. It is important that the legal system is fair and unbiased, and that individuals are given the right to a fair hearing and the right to appeal any decision that is made against them. The principle of equality before the law should also be respected, and individuals should not be discriminated against based on any grounds. Pure procedural justice is an important concept which ensures that individuals have access to a fair and unbiased legal system.

Role of Consciousness in Social Justice

Social justice is a concept that has been around for centuries, yet still remains elusive in terms of its definition and application. Broadly, it refers to a society in which all individuals are treated equitably and with respect, regardless of their social, economic, racial, or ethnic backgrounds. While the concept of social justice is often discussed in the abstract, it is the individuals who must actively work to bring about the changes necessary for a truly just society. Thus, consciousness plays a key role in achieving social justice (Talwar., 2015).

First and foremost, consciousness is essential to recognizing when social injustices are occurring and taking action to challenge them. It is easy to turn a blind eye to injustice, even if it is happening right in front of us. By cultivating greater awareness and understanding of the issues, we can be better equipped to recognize when injustice is being done and take a stand to fight against it.

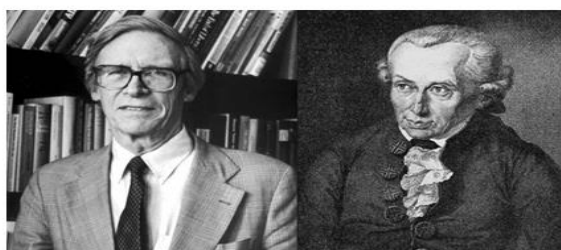
Egalitarianism is a concept that has been around since ancient times and has been embraced in many different forms throughout history. In modern times, egalitarianism has become a central tenet of many ideologies, including liberalism, socialism, and feminism.

Egalitarianism is based on the idea that all people are deserving of the same basic rights and liberties, regardless of their identity or circumstances. It is a belief that everyone should have the same opportunities and access to resources, which in turn can lead to greater social justice, economic equality, and political representation. In some contexts, egalitarianism is also used to refer to a social movement or ideology which seeks to promote these ideals.



At its core, egalitarianism is founded on the belief that all people should be treated equally and that everyone should have an equal stake in society. This can manifest itself in different ways. For example, some advocates of egalitarianism may push for equal access to education, healthcare, and other basic needs, while others may strive for the equal representation of women in the workplace, or advocating for other marginalized groups.

Egalitarianism is not about forcing everyone to be the same, but rather about creating an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is respected. It is a belief that everyone should have an equal say in the decisions that affect them and that everyone should have an equal chance to succeed. Ultimately, egalitarianism is an ideal that strives to create a fairer, more equitable world.



John Rawls

Immanuel Kant

John Rawls Theory of Justice.

Each individual is entitled to maximum freedom compatible with freedom of others.

Ex. Qualified Rights not absolute.

1. Freedom of expression but not hate speech.
2. Freedom of movement but not in tribal areas.
3. Right to life but not at cost of others.
4. Freedom to Propagate religion but not convert.
5. Right to equality with positive discrimination.

The Categorical Imperative

Kant doesn't actually say what **actions** are morally right or wrong. Instead he prescribes **how** an action can be judged **(using our reason)** to be morally binding by means of the **categorical imperative**.

The categorical imperative is a way of logically determining what is right and wrong. It tells us what we ought to do.

Figure 1. Theory of Justice & The categorical Imperative



Second, consciousness can help us think critically about the causes of social injustice and work to address the root problems. Too often, social justice initiatives focus on band-aid solutions that simply do not get to the heart of the matter. Consciousness can help us think more deeply and systematically about the underlying issues and create long-term solutions that are more likely to produce lasting change.

Finally, consciousness can also help us recognize our own privilege and use it to help others. Too often, those with privilege can become blinded to the realities of those less fortunate due to their own privilege. Consciousness can help us recognize and resist this phenomenon, and use our privilege to help those who are facing injustice (Doane., 2014).

Ultimately, consciousness is an essential component of social justice. By cultivating greater awareness, understanding, and critical thinking, we can be better equipped to fight against injustice and create a more just society.

Conclusion

Distributive justice is important to ensure that resources are distributed fairly and equitably, and that everyone has access to basic needs such as food, healthcare, and education. It is also necessary to ensure that all members of a society are able to participate through equal stake in meaningful decision-making processes. By understanding the causality behind distributive justice, we can create a more equitable, just, and sustainable society in which all members can contribute and benefit.

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