

A Theory of Justice by John Rawls

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn what the principles behind the theory of justice are.

Quote:

"In justice as fairness the original position of equality corresponds to the state of nature in the traditional theory of the social contract. This original position is not, of course, thought of as an actual historical state of affairs, much less as a primitive condition of culture. It is understood as a purely hypothetical situation characterized so as to lead to a certain conception of justice."

Book review:

The author in this article points out and discusses two principles in justice which is liberty and wealth. The first principle which is liberty states that each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive total system of equal basic liberties compatible with a similar system of liberty for all. This means that every person regardless of his/her social status is entitled to equal rights, any abuse to his/her right is subject to judicial action. The second principle of justice which is wealth states that social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are both: (a) to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged, consistent with the just savings principle, and (b) attached to offices and positions open to all under conditions of fair equality of opportunity. The second principle for me supports what is being stated in the first principle of Liberty. Any living person is entitled to live freely without any treat or abuse. The social and economic status in reality tells a lot about a person because of the influence and power money can give, but this should not in any way influence improper implementation of justice. Equality amongst the people should always be upheld by the governing state because it is through equality that peace and harmony is achieved.

What I have learned:

Equality brings peace to a nation.

Integrative questions:

- 1) What is the principle behind the theory of justice?
- 2) How does wealth influence a person's standing in society?
- 3) How does wealth affect the implementation of justice?
- 4) What is equal basic liberty?
- 5) How can it be exercised?

