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**DEPT: IRD**

**ASSIGNMENT: READ THE CHAPTER ON RAWLS (FULL NAME IS JOHN RAWLS) AND WRITE SHORT EXPLANATORY NOTES.**

1. **JOHN RAWL'S FIRST PRINCIPLES:**

The Theory of Justice being John Rawl’s first principle revolves around the adaptation of two fundamental principles of justice which would, in turn, guarantee a just and morally acceptable society. The first principle guarantees the right of each person to have the most extensive basic liberty compatible with the liberty of others.

Rawls claims that for every individual citizen there are two fundamental capacities or powers and, correspondingly, two 'higher order interests' in the realization of those capacities. Thus, each person has, over that person's entire life, (i) an interest in being able to formulate and live according to some particular conception of the good and

(ii) an interest in exercising one's 'sense of justice' and being motivated by it, providing others do so as well. Rawls uses the idea of the two powers and the corresponding interests of the citizen to ground his elaboration of the concrete basic liberties that each citizen is to have equally. He identifies which 'liberties'-which ways of acting or of not being injured should be among the basic constitutional rights, or among the weightiest such rights, by considering what he calls 'two fundamental cases'.

1. **THE SECOND PRINCIPLE: DISTRIBUTIVE ECONOMIC JUSTICE:**

John Rawls's second principle of Justice has two parts. The first part, fair equality of opportunity, requires that citizens with the same talents and willingness to use them have the same educational and economic opportunities regardless of whether they were born rich or poor. Unlike the case with his first principle, Rawls thought that the account and formulation of his second principle of justice, as found in A Theory of Justice (1971), was substantially sound. So I will confine myself to what he said there and to elaborations that he made over me next decade.

Rawls's account begins with the fact that people have different natural endowments and are born into and grow up in different social circumstances. No one can be said to be responsible for these factors in their own case. Nonetheless, factors such as natural endowment and initial social circumstance are not negligible; they powerfully affect a person's life prospects, advantageously for some and disadvantageously for others. Indeed, they may be the main sources of inequality between people.

1. **THE ORIGINAL POSITION:**

The original position is a central feature of John Rawls's social contract account of justice, “justice as fairness,” set forth in A Theory of Justice (TJ). The original position is designed to be a fair and impartial point of view that is to be adopted in our reasoning about fundamental principles of justice.

Rawls's contractarian method of justification is very complex. I will be able to mention only a few of its main features here. One feature that is often emphasized and that Rawls continued to include even in his later writings is that the 'parties' to the contract are placed (in what he calls the 'original position') behind a thick veil of ignorance.

Other features are important as well. The parties understand that they are deciding about principles of justice (principles for distributing certain primary goods-such goods as liber- ties, opportunities, income, and wealth-to individuals) and that they will have to live, for their entire lives, under the principles they have selected. In simplest terms the original position is an arena for deliberation and decision about principles of justice; its various features are meant to frame and constrain the debate about such principles. 'The idea of the original position is to set up a fair procedure so that any principles agreed to will be just'.

1. **SUMMARISE JOHN RAWLS IDEA OF JUSTICE:**

John Rawls was an American political philosopher in the liberal tradition. His theory of justice as fairness describes a society of free citizens holding equal basic rights and cooperating within an egalitarian economic system.Rawls's begins with the fact that people have different natural resources or gifts and which they are born into which leads to several problems or circumstances. The method of John Rawls is a very complex one. A Theory of Justice is a 1971 work of political philosophy and ethics by the philosopher John Rawls, in which the author attempts to provide a moral theory alternative to utilitarianism and that addresses the problem of distributive justice (the socially just distribution of goods in a society). The theory uses an updated form of Kantian philosophy and a variant form of conventional social contract theory. Rawls's theory of justice is fully a political theory of justice as opposed to other forms of justice discussed in other disciplines and contexts.