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Maharaja College

1 WEDNESDAY
182-183
Week 27

BA-3, Paper- 6, Unit-1(C1) ~~Unit- I(C1)~~

Platonic Communism

Long before Karl Marx, the father of modern communism presented his theory, Plato in Greece derived a social philosophy based upon communist ideals. This ideal was first presented in his dialogue "The Republic which was later on improved in another dialogue "The Laws". The aim of platonic communism was moral evolution? While through education he wanted to develop the citizens according to his ideas, through communism he wanted to prepare a social environment conducive to his plan. Communism was the means for the realization of moral and spiritual reforms. His communist system aimed at creating an ideal environment for the moral growth of the guardians. The mind of man is the creator of the state and therefore if the state has to be reformed, men's mind must be reformed, Justice is not something external, but a tendency of the mind. It can be, therefore, achieved only in a right thinking mind.

Platonic communism is not an original idea. Communist system was prevalant in Greece long before the advant of Plato. In Greece the

ownership of land was generally collective. The people considered it their right to take food in other's homes. They could use other's horses, dogs and slaves for their personal good. Plato's ideas concerning the communism of property and women were very much borrowed from contemporary circumstances. It is a different matter that while we have forgotten about the circumstances of time, his ideas have widely influenced different branches of knowledge.