

Reading: Adam Swift, (2001/2014), *Political Philosophy: A Beginner's Guide for Students and Politicians*, "Rawls: justice as fairness," pp. 47 - 59; "Nozick: justice as entitlement," pp. 60 -72

Review from last week: Rawls's "justice as fairness"

The two principles of justice as fairness (52):

1. PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL BASIC LIBERTIES (1 has priority over 2)

Each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive total system of basic liberties [e.g., *freedom of conscience, religion, expression, association, and the rights to participate in public and political life (e.g., to vote and run for office), as well as the liberties associated with the psychological and physical integrity of the person*] compatible with a similar system of liberty for all.

2. PRINCIPLE OF DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE:

Social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are both

a. DIFFERENCE PRINCIPLE

to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged, and

b. PRINCIPLE OF FAIR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY (2b has priority over 2a)

attached to offices and positions open to all under conditions of **fair equality of opportunity**, according to which:

*"[T]hose who are at the same level of talent and ability, and have the same willingness to use them, should have the **same prospects of success regardless of their initial place in the social system.** In all sectors of society there should be roughly equal prospects of culture and achievement for everyone similarly motivated and endowed. **The expectations of those with the same abilities and aspirations should not be affected by their social class.**" (Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, p. 63)*

## Discussion question #1:

The principle of *fair equality of opportunity* (2b) requires the state to *eliminate all advantages and disadvantages that are due to social class background*. As we discussed last week, this is far more demandingly egalitarian than mere *formal* equality of opportunity (i.e., a prohibition on discrimination based on social class). What practical steps do you think the state would have to take to achieve fair equality of opportunity?

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding/enhancement/accessibility of public education               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing ease of access to higher education (e.g., cost, admissions)</li> <li>- Monetary incentives for education                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flexibility of education around jobs, the time it takes to work jobs</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Support for continuation schools</li> <li>- Availability of tutors, academic support, lunch programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Increase in availability of Section 8, low-income housing</li> <li>- Rent controls               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>High priority</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Food stamps</li> <li>- Daycare/childcare systems               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not just for being able to take care of children, but for effective child development at the same time                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With trained, trusted individuals</li> </ul> </li> <li>- ex. Crystal Waters                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gov't paying older siblings (over a certain age, with certification) to look after younger siblings/family members</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scholarship accessibility and specialized programs</li> <li>- More public school funding</li> <li>- Limiting waiver fees</li> <li>- Hiring practice regulation</li> <li>- Strengthening anti discriminatory laws</li> <li>- More accessibility and funding to housing and healthcare</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Similar programs to head start — additional programming for students who are disadvantaged in primary schools               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paired with free lunches for students?</li> <li>- Prioritizing education for disadvantaged students.</li> <li>- Individual tutors from the government?</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Carefully planning libraries to be in areas where they are needed most</li> <li>- Ensuring access to quality healthcare without financial burden</li> </ul>

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educational funding is going towards disadvantaged students (in order for the state to "eliminate all advantages and disadvantages," more resources need to be placed towards the disadvantaged to ensure they can succeed like their more advantaged peers)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everyone is being taxed, but it differs based on economic background</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Programs that ensure all humans have the necessities needed for human development</li> <li>- Ensuring that funding isn't cut from universities. Currently, many programs that specifically help disadvantaged students are facing major budget cuts. For example, one of AAP's goals is to ensure that disadvantaged students graduate in 4 years and don't drop out, and they do that by providing them with counseling sessions and extra support in their classes.</li> <li>- Ensuring trade schools and other alternatives to higher education are also being provided the same funding and resources.</li> </ul>
5	<p>The cost of resources (tutors, education, college application fees, wifi) is proportional to your income so the same affordability.</p> <p>Standardize funding for public schools( not just based on property taxes) so each person has the same access and quality of education.</p> <p>Schools are equidistant to all students so people don't have to worry about transportation.</p> <p>Regulations to curriculum in schools. Standardized curriculum ( prevents schools from mispending funding).</p> <p>Extracurriculars should be affordable to all people of all social classes cost proportional to income.</p> <p>Common app= section for family responsibilities and job responsibilities</p>

## Discussion question #2:

What do you think is the point (for Rawls) of including *both* the **principle of fair equality of opportunity** *and* the **difference principle** as requirements of distributive justice? Given that the principle of fair equality of opportunity, on its own, already requires the state to eliminate all advantages and disadvantages that are due to social class background, what additional work does the difference principle do (i.e., why is the DP not redundant)?

To think about this, compare two hypothetical societies:

- Society A has fair equality of opportunity but does *not* follow the difference principle.
- Society B has fair equality of opportunity *and also* follows the difference principle.

How might Society A and Society B differ from each other?

Aditya: FEO addresses inequalities that are due to social class background, whereas DP addresses inequalities that are due to differences in natural talent.

Dean: The DP allows for talent-based inequalities that are to the benefit of the worst off whereas FEO prohibits all class-based disadvantages.