

TAXONOMY OF GOVERNMENTAL FORMS IN PLATO'S *REPUBLIC* (543C-569C)

Overall happiness	Form of government	Guiding value(s)	Individual	Group
highest	(Plato's) Republic	Justice (and courage, wisdom, and temperance)	Happiness and harmony	Happiness and harmony
↑	Timocracy	The spirited part's sense of glory and patriotism (but not wisdom)	Uncultivated, poor sense of place (of superiority to slaves); value victory/ambition, rather than life of mind; still, relative harmony	Confusion regarding Reason (possessed by the Guardians) and Spirit (proper to Auxiliaries, who here <i>lead</i>)
↑	Oligarchy	Money	Disharmony: torn between desires. Ambition and other appetites grow; people would satisfy them but fear punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wealth is valued over virtue ▪ Despise the poor; promote the rich ▪ Property the/a qualification for political office (even if poor more qualified) ▪ Tension between rich and poor ▪ Being a non-worker is accepted, and so is being a "mere consumer of goods"
↑	Democracy	"Liberty" (lack of proper self-control due to glorification of appetites & \$\$)	Driven to satisfy even unnecessary desires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since the poor see the rich are not superior, the polis is unstable
lowest	Despotism/Tyranny (excessive freedom brings excessive subjection)	Unruly appetites	The passion to plunder drives out desires "capable of shame"; the appetites need to be satisfied by <i>any</i> means.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After the wealth of the rich is redistributed, the people <i>react</i> by putting forward <i>their</i> champion, then in control of the mob, who comes to power in instability ▪ He is paranoid and has a body guard ▪ He provokes wars to prevent people from looking at <i>internal</i> affairs and jeopardizing his power ▪ Then he'll be hated; harder to maintain power: hired army ...