

FIRST POST

There are a lot of ways in which the Greek Democracy in Athens fought against the dominant classes at the time in which they arose. For example, Socrates, Plato, and others were all bitterly opposed to the Democracy. To them this government, by the common people was wrong in principle and they criticized constantly. More than that, Plato spent the greater part of his long life discussing and devising and publishing ways and means of creating forms of society, government and lay which would be superior to the Greek Democracy. They also published books to talk about how an ideal society should be. Even the old aristocratic class and some of the wealthy made attempts to destroy the democratic constitution and institute the rule of the privileged. Furthermore, This also all leads back to oppression. The slaves in Greece were in horrible conditions and worked in the mines. Some slaves who were denied the rights of citizenship, lived the life of an ordinary citizen. It was impossible to tell a slave to go off the pavement to make way for a free citizen because the citizens and slaves dressed alike and it was hard to tell who is the slave and who is the citizen. The slave was the most part of a household slave but in later years, slavery developed to such a degree, with the development of commerce, and industry that it degraded free labor. The women were living a bad life too. They were not able to vote and they were bearers of children and housekeepers for children. As was mentioned in the old chapter, as societies became more powerful, they became more stratified and some groups are treated badly.

As I read chapter 5, Buddhism in India fought against the dominant classes of the elite is using religion. The Buddha came up with Four Noble truths which were Life from birth to death, is full of suffering, all sufferings are caused by desires, the only way to renounce desire; and only through adherence to the rightful eightfold path can individuals rid themselves of desires and thus reach a state of contentment or Nirvana. These teachings became a powerful appeal. The Buddha's doctrines left no space for deities To dictate human lives, a theme stressed in classical Brahmanic thinking. The Buddha's logical explanation of human suffering gained him people that trusted and wanted to follow him. The Buddha sided with the Oligarchic Republic and that opposed the Brahman government. The Buddha did not want to erase the caste system, the sangha provided an escape from its oppressive aspects and the prestige that it afforded the Brahmins. " Buddhism challenged to Brahmanic thinking appealed particularly to the new urban residents of South Asia and those who felt disadvantaged by prevailing Vedic Hierarchies"(Tignor 176). But even with Buddhism, certain groups were being treated unfairly. The people who did the dirtiest jobs, such as removing garbage and sewage were viewed as ritually impure and physically impure and were called "untouchables" and that is saddening because they were not viewed as humans in a way.

Lastly, when Akhenaten became Pharaoh, he closed temples and the population were supposed to worship one god which was the Sun god: Aten. He no longer funded the other gods. When Akhenaten became Pharaoh, he made his people worshipped sun god with him. Before Akhenaten's religious formation, ordinary people worshipped outside the temples while the king, priests, and the elite of society performed their rites inside mysterious secret chambers. By eliminating other gods, Akhenaten eventually became a god himself. The Egyptians did not want Akhenaten as their ruler because he only wanted to worship one god so the Egyptians would worship in their own home without their king knowing. These people remained oppressed with this new system is that THEY HAD to worship this new religion that this Pharaoh came up with. Akhenaten closed off all the temples making him "The Heretic" ruler that everyone knew him as.

In conclusion, as these civilizations become powerful, they develop different ways to oppress and dominate their people.

SECOND POST

Greek Democracy in Athens fought against the dominant classes of the elite by promoting a city-state form of government. In this form of government, all citizens were involved in making important decisions and every citizen be it a grocer or a sailor was given a chance to lead. This allowed equality and fairness since important decisions about the lives of the average Greek were not in the hands of the elite. Greek democracy also promoted equality by being strict about politics. Working politicians were paid for their time and also if any frivolous decisions were made serious repercussions were set in place. In hindsight, this prevented the elite to tamper with the law by making biased decisions to oppress the less fortunate. Oppression to this democracy also resulted into death or democracy hence suppressing the elites from going against it.

Buddhism in India fought against oppression against everyday people from the elites by preaching love and equality. Buddha's preachings were based on four noble truths i.e. 1) life from birth to death is full of suffering, 2) all sufferings are caused by desires, 3) the only way to rise above suffering is to renounce desire, 4) only through adherence to the Rightful eightfold path can individuals rid themselves of desires and thus reach a state of contentment or nirvana. These beliefs thus promoted the notion that everyone was in charge of their lives and left no space for deities to dictate human lives. Also according to Dharma (behaviour or beliefs in accordance with Buddha's teachings) it was the government's responsibility to ensure the responsibility and safety of the people and the environment hence ensuring equality. In fact it is believed that when wrangles existed between an oligarch and the kings, Buddha sided with the oligarchs.

During King Akhenaten's reign, he changed Egypt into a monothetic state and made his followers worship one god, Aten the sun god. He got rid of the temples of the other temples and by doing this he indirectly got rid of the priests which were part of the elite. Before Akhenaten established monotheism, the priests were unjust to everyday people as they used to worship in secret rooms inside the temples while everyone else worshipped outside. However, this form of oppression was no more as Akhenaten let everyone worship together inside the temple hence promoting equality and unity to some extent.

However even with the emergence of these new systems, oppression of the lower class from the elites was not entirely vanquished. For example in Greece, although slaves were allowed to dress and live any other Greek, they were never allowed the rights of citizenship. The slaves also continued to work in horrible conditions. In Egypt, even though Akhenaten introduced monotheism and indirectly got rid of priests, he never really got to do away with the class structure and thus the lower class was still being oppressed by the elite. Also in India although Buddhism evolved, it never really surpassed the Brahminic thinking and yet the Brahminic thinking encouraged inequality and oppression of the lower class.