

Socrates and Western Political Thought: Its Impact on Human Mindset

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Abstract

Socrates was one of the most influential philosophers of ancient Athens, born in 469 B.C. and executed in 399 B.C. He greatly shaped Western philosophical and political thought through his emphasis on moral inquiry, rational discussion, and the search for truth. Trained as a sculptor like his father, he later turned to philosophy after becoming dissatisfied with natural science explanations. Socrates spent his life examining ethical, political, and social issues through dialogue with citizens and students. He believed that knowledge and virtue were essential for both individuals and the state. Socratic dictums and his core areas are like guiding principles for his disciples in course of their future write up. Socrates was known his courage and integrity and he never hesitated to challenge unjust authority or the orders of tyrannical rulers. In his early years, Socrates seriously studied the physical sciences and national philosophy. Even later thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, Hegel, Marx etc. acknowledged the importance of Socrates contribution to the development of human thought and intellectual tradition. Consequently Socrates dedicated his entire life to the discussion of philosophical, moral and political issues. His method of education is still used to encourage critical thinking and dialogue. Unlike the Sophists, he did not charge fees for teaching and regarded the pursuit of knowledge as a noble and selfless activity. His influence on young people and his critical questioning led to accusations of impiety and corrupting the youth of Athens. His impact on western philosophy is immense so that his ideas influenced countless thinkers all over the world. After a public trial, he was sentenced to death where few people were present including his friends and followers. He chose death over exile saw it as fulfilling duty. Although Socrates wrote nothing himself, his ideas were preserved by his students, especially Plato, Xenophon, and Aristotle, the intellectual legacy of Socrates continued to influence modern philosophy, political thought and ethical discussion throughout the world forever.

Keywords: Athens, Courage, integrity, Karl Marx, Physical Science, Natural Philosophy

1. Introduction

Socrates is widely regarded as one of the founders of Western political thought. He was a Greek philosopher who lived in Athens during a period of great political change, cultural growth, and intellectual development in ancient Greece. Socrates did not write any books himself; most of what we know about his philosophy comes from the writings of his students, especially Plato, Xenophon and Aristotle. Through their works, the ideas and teachings of Socrates have been preserved and have become a fundamental part of Western philosophy and political theory. Socrates played a crucial role in shaping political thought by shifting the focus of philosophy from the study of nature to the study of human life, ethics, and society. Before Socrates, many early Greek philosophers often called the pre-

Socratic thinkers were mainly concerned with understanding the natural world, such as the origin of the universe and the elements of nature. Socrates, however, emphasized the importance of understanding human behavior, morality, justice, and the nature of the good life. He believed that philosophy should help people live better and more ethical lives. For Socrates, political life could not be separated from moral values, and he argued that a good state must be based on ethical principles and a strong sense of justice. One of the most significant contributions of Socrates to Western political thought was his emphasis on knowledge and virtue. According to Socrates, knowledge and virtue are closely connected. He argued that true knowledge leads to virtuous action, while ignorance is the main cause of wrongdoing. In his view, people do not intentionally do evil; rather, they do wrong because they lack knowledge of what is truly good. Therefore, education and the pursuit of wisdom are essential for creating responsible citizens and building a just society. By encouraging individuals to seek knowledge and self-understanding, Socrates laid the foundation for moral responsibility in political life. Another important feature of Socratic philosophy is the method of questioning known as the Socratic Method. This method involved asking a series of thoughtful and probing questions in order to stimulate critical thinking and reveal contradictions in people's beliefs. Through dialogue and discussion, Socrates encouraged individuals to examine their assumptions and search for truth. This method promoted rational thinking, open debate, and intellectual humility. It later became a fundamental technique in philosophy, education, and political discussion, helping individuals develop the ability to analyze arguments and think independently.

Socrates was a many sided character. He was a man who was well hated and well loved. He was hated because he exposed those who pretended to be wise. He was passionately loved by his own intimate followers. He was a compelling figure. Physically he was short, thickset and ugly. His nose was broad, flat and turned up. He strutted like a water-fowl. He dressed himself in old and shabby clothes and went bare-footed everywhere. His indifference to heat and cold, hunger and thirst, amazed every one. His mastery over bodily passions was complete. Even the most beautiful women would not be able to kindle sensuous passions in him. Socrates was famous for his physical and moral courage. His intellectual integrity was always unquestioned. He always said and did what appeared to him to be right and true without any regard to the consequences. His moral courage was perhaps more remarkable. He alone, of those presiding over the Assembly, at the trial of the generals, after the battle of Arginusae, was unmoved by the fury of the Athenian mob and refused to put an illegal motion which they demanded. He refused with like courage to obey the commands of the Thirty when the oligarchic revolutionaries controlled Athens at the end of the Peloponnesian war. Socrates was famous for self-control. He led the simplest life. Poor, caring nothing for worldly goods, wholly independent of the ordinary needs and desires of men, he devoted himself exclusively to the acquisition of wisdom and knowledge. But of course he did not practice a deliberate asceticism. He liked good company and allowed the rich to entertain him. But he made no obeisance to them. All in all, he was fortunate. He lived without working, read without writing, taught without routine, drank without dizziness and died almost without pain. Socrates was also famous for his amazing power of intellectual concentration. "Once at Potidaea, something occurred to him at dawn and he stood still thinking. His problem did not come out but he did not give up but stood seeking. Midday came. Socrates did not move. Then came evening. He was standing thinking till the next day morning. Socrates was most often seen in the streets, in the markets and especially in the gymnasium where men and boys met for games. Here he would enter into conversation with anyone who was ready to talk or listen to him. The audience that gathered round him

was a mixed one such as statesmen and orators, artists and musicians, literary and business men, manual workers and workers of fashion. Besides the casual there were regular followers who were profoundly influenced by his personality. "When I listen to Socrates", says Alcibiades. It is worse than being in religious ecstasy, his discourses make my heart beat wildly and tears stream my eyes; and I often see others affected in the same way. Now, when I used to listen to Pericles and other great orators, much I admire them, I felt nothing like this; my soul was not stirred to its depths nor was I tormented by the realization of my degraded condition... He is the only man who has even made me feel... a sense of shame.

The philosophy of Socrates has profoundly influenced Western political thought and the intellectual development of humanity. Through the writings of Plato, Xenophon, Aristotle, and later thinkers such as Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, Russell, Popper, and Durant, the ideas of Socrates have continued to inspire critical thinking, moral awareness, and the pursuit of justice. His emphasis on rational inquiry and ethical reflection has played a crucial role in shaping the mindset of individuals and the foundations of modern political philosophy. Many scholars have discussed the philosophy and political ideas of Socrates, who is regarded as one of the founders of Western political thought. Although Socrates did not leave any written works, his ideas have been preserved through the writings of his students and followers. Researchers and historians of philosophy have examined these writings to understand his views on ethics, justice, knowledge, and the role of individuals in society. Their studies highlight that Socrates emphasized the importance of rational thinking, moral responsibility, and self-knowledge as the foundation of a good society. One of the most important sources for understanding Socratic philosophy is the work of Plato. In several dialogues such as *Apology*, *Cerrito*, and *Republic*, Plato presents the teachings and personality of Socrates. Scholars studying Plato's works explain that Socrates used a unique method of questioning, known as the Socratic Method, to guide people toward truth and knowledge. Through these dialogues, Plato shows how Socrates encouraged critical thinking and ethical inquiry, which later became central elements in Western political philosophy. Another significant source of information about Socrates is the writings of Xenophon. In works like *Memorabilia* and *Apology*, Xenophon describes Socrates as a wise teacher who guided people toward moral and virtuous living. According to scholars who study Xenophon's writings, Socrates believed that knowledge and virtue were closely related and that individuals should live according to moral principles to create a just society. The influence of Socrates can also be seen in the philosophy of Aristotle, who acknowledged Socrates' contribution to the development of ethical and political thought. Aristotle pointed out that Socrates introduced a systematic way of discussing moral concepts such as justice, courage, and virtue. Modern scholars of political philosophy also recognize that Socrates' emphasis on questioning, dialogue, and moral reasoning has had a lasting impact on the development of Western political thought and on shaping the intellectual mindset of humanity.

Socrates also made important contributions to ideas about justice and the rule of law. He believed that laws are necessary for maintaining order and stability in society, and citizens should generally respect and obey the laws of the state. His own life demonstrated this principle. Socrates was brought to trial in Athens on charges of corrupting the youth and showing disrespect to the traditional gods of the city. Although his friends planned an escape for him, Socrates refused to flee from prison. He believed that escaping would violate the laws of the state and weaken the authority of the legal system. Instead, he accepted the court's decision and willingly drank the poison hemlock, showing his deep respect for law, justice, and moral duty. Socrates was also critical of unwise leadership and believed that political

authority should be based on knowledge and virtue rather than wealth, popularity, or power. In his view, those who govern should possess wisdom, moral integrity, and a clear understanding of justice and the common good. A good ruler must care for the welfare of the citizens and must be guided by truth and ethical principles. This idea greatly influenced the philosophy of his student Plato, who later developed the famous concept of the philosopher-king, an ideal ruler who governs with wisdom and moral understanding. Another important aspect of Socratic thought is his belief in self-examination and moral responsibility. Socrates famously stated that the unexamined life is not worth living. He believed that individuals must constantly reflect on their actions, beliefs, and values in order to live a meaningful and virtuous life. This emphasis on self-knowledge encouraged citizens to become morally aware and responsible participants in political and social life. The influence of Socrates on later Western political thought is immense. His ideas inspired not only Plato but also Aristotle, who further developed political philosophy and the study of ethics and government. Through their works, the teachings of Socrates became the foundation of classical political philosophy and continued to influence thinkers throughout history. Socrates made a profound and lasting contribution to Western political thought by emphasizing morality, knowledge, justice, and rational discussion in political life. His method of questioning encouraged critical thinking and intellectual honesty, while his commitment to ethical principles demonstrated the importance of moral integrity in public life. The ideas of Socrates laid the groundwork for later philosophers and helped shape the development of political philosophy, making him one of the most influential thinkers in the history of Western civilization.

2. Objectives of the Study

- a) To examine the life and philosophy of Socrates and his role in the development of Western political thought.
- b) To analyze the ethical and political ideas of Socrates, especially his views on justice, virtue, knowledge, and moral responsibility.
- c) To study the influence of Socratic philosophy on later philosophers, particularly Plato and Aristotle, and their contributions to Western political philosophy.
- d) To understand how the Socratic method of questioning shaped critical thinking and intellectual inquiry in society.
- e) To evaluate the impact of Socratic ideas on the mindset of humanity, including the importance of self-knowledge, rational thinking, and ethical living.
- f) To highlight the relevance of Socratic philosophy in modern society, especially in promoting moral values, democratic discussion, and critical thinking.

3. Research Methodology

The present study on “Socrates’ Contribution to Western Political Thought and the Human Mindset” is based on a qualitative and descriptive research method. The study mainly relies on secondary sources of data to understand the philosophical ideas and political thoughts of Socrates and their influence on human thinking. The research is conducted through the analytical study of philosophical texts, books, journals, and scholarly articles related to Western political thought. Since Socrates did not leave any written works, his ideas are mainly studied through the writings of his students and followers, especially Plato, Xenophon and Aristotle. Their works help to understand Socrates’ views on ethics, politics, knowledge, and the role of citizens in society. This study also adopts the historical method to examine

the social and political conditions of ancient Greece in which Socrates lived. By analyzing historical records and philosophical interpretations, the research attempts to evaluate the significance of Socratic thought in shaping the foundations of Western political philosophy. Furthermore, the interpretative approach is used to analyze how Socrates' ideas influenced later thinkers, particularly Aristotle, and how these ideas contributed to the development of rational thinking, moral values, and the intellectual mindset of humanity. Thus, the methodology of this study combines descriptive, analytical, and historical approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of Socrates' contribution to Western political thought and its impact on human thinking.

4. Review of Literature

Many scholars and philosophers have examined the life, ideas, and intellectual influence of Socrates on Western political thought. Since Socrates himself did not write books, most of the knowledge about his philosophy comes from the writings of his students and later scholars. Their works provide important insights into Socrates' influence on political philosophy and the development of human reasoning and moral consciousness. The writings of Plato are the most important source for understanding Socrates' philosophy. In many of his dialogues such as *The Republic* and *Apology*, Plato presented Socrates as a philosopher who believed that knowledge and virtue are closely connected. Plato emphasized that Socrates encouraged individuals to question authority and seek truth through rational discussion. According to Plato, Socrates believed that a just society can only be achieved when individuals develop wisdom, self-knowledge, and moral responsibility. Similarly, Xenophon also described the teachings and personality of Socrates in his works such as *Memorabilia* and *Apology*. Xenophon portrayed Socrates as a moral teacher who guided people toward ethical living and self-discipline. He highlighted that Socrates influenced the mindset of individuals by encouraging them to reflect on justice, virtue, and the duties of citizens in society. Another important scholar who discussed the influence of Socrates is Aristotle. Although Aristotle was a student of Plato rather than Socrates directly, he acknowledged Socrates' contribution to ethical and political philosophy. Aristotle pointed out that Socrates was the first philosopher to focus deeply on moral questions and definitions of virtues. This approach significantly influenced the development of systematic political thought in Western philosophy. The German philosopher G. W. F. Hegel also recognized Socrates as a turning point in the history of human thought. Hegel argued that Socrates introduced the concept of individual moral consciousness in political life. According to Hegel, Socrates' method of questioning encouraged individuals to think independently and critically, which contributed to the evolution of modern political and ethical thought. Similarly, Karl Marx acknowledged the intellectual importance of Socrates in the history of philosophy. Marx appreciated Socrates' courage to question established beliefs and his commitment to truth. Marx believed that Socrates' ideas helped stimulate critical thinking and intellectual freedom, which are essential elements in shaping human consciousness and social change. Modern scholars such as Bertrand Russell also discussed Socrates' influence in his work *History of Western Philosophy*. Russell described Socrates as a revolutionary thinker who shifted philosophical inquiry from natural science to ethical and political questions. According to Russell, Socrates' method of dialogue and questioning played a crucial role in developing rational thinking and intellectual independence among individuals. The literature clearly shows that Socrates played a fundamental role in shaping Western political thought and influencing human intellectual development. Through the works of Plato, Xenophon, Aristotle, and later

thinkers, Socrates' emphasis on rational inquiry, moral virtue, and critical thinking continues to influence political philosophy and the mindset of humanity.

The philosophy of Socrates has been widely discussed by ancient and modern scholars who consider him one of the founders of Western political and ethical thought. His ideas about knowledge, virtue, morality, and rational inquiry deeply influenced the development of political philosophy and the intellectual mindset of human beings. Since Socrates himself did not write any philosophical works, much of the knowledge about his ideas is derived from the writings of his followers and later scholars. The earliest and most significant account of Socrates' philosophy is found in the works of Plato. Plato presented Socrates as a philosopher who believed that knowledge leads to virtue and that ignorance is the root cause of injustice. In dialogues such as *The Republic*, *Apology*, and *Cerrito*, Plato depicted Socrates as a defender of truth and justice who encouraged individuals to question traditional beliefs and examine their own lives. Plato emphasized that Socratic philosophy helped develop rational thinking and moral awareness among citizens, which are essential elements of a just political order. Another important source of Socratic thought is Xenophon. In his works *Memorabilia* and *Apology*, Xenophon portrayed Socrates as a practical moral teacher who emphasized self-control, discipline, and ethical conduct. Xenophon highlighted that Socrates influenced the human mind set by encouraging individuals to cultivate virtue and responsibility in both personal and public life. Aristotle also acknowledged the intellectual contribution of Socrates to Western philosophy. Although Aristotle did not study directly under Socrates, he recognized Socrates' role in shifting philosophical discussion toward ethical and political issues. Aristotle pointed out that Socrates introduced the method of inductive reasoning and the search for universal definitions of moral concepts such as justice, virtue, and goodness. These ideas later became fundamental elements in the development of Western political philosophy. The French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau also admired the moral courage and intellectual independence of Socrates. Rousseau regarded Socrates as a symbol of integrity and truth, emphasizing that his life and teachings demonstrated the importance of moral freedom and individual conscience. Rousseau believed that Socratic philosophy encourages people to think independently rather than blindly following social conventions. Similarly, the German philosopher G. W. F. Hegel considered Socrates a turning point in the history of political thought. According to Hegel, Socrates introduced the principle of subjective freedom by encouraging individuals to rely on their own reason and moral judgment. Hegel argued that this development played a crucial role in shaping modern political consciousness and the idea of individual responsibility in society. The influence of Socrates was also acknowledged by Karl Marx. Marx appreciated Socrates' commitment to questioning established authority and exposing contradictions within society. Although Marx developed a very different political philosophy, he admired the critical spirit and intellectual courage that characterized Socratic inquiry. Modern philosophers have also recognized the lasting significance of Socrates. Bertrand Russell described Socrates as one of the greatest moral thinkers in history in his work *History of Western Philosophy*.

Russell emphasized that Socrates shifted philosophical focus from natural phenomena to human ethics and political responsibility. According to Russell, the Socratic method of questioning encouraged intellectual freedom and critical thinking, which continue to influence modern education and democratic societies. Another important scholar, Karl Popper, praised Socrates as a champion of open dialogue and rational criticism. Popper argued that the Socratic Method laid the foundation for democratic discussion and the scientific spirit of inquiry. He believed that Socrates' commitment to questioning authority contributed to the development of an open and rational society. In addition, the historian of philosophy

Will Durant also highlighted Socrates' influence on human civilization. In his writings, Durant portrayed Socrates as a teacher who inspired individuals to pursue knowledge, truth, and ethical living. Durant emphasized that Socrates' intellectual courage and dedication to truth shaped the philosophical traditions that followed him.

Many historians of political thought consider Socrates as a turning point in the development of Western philosophy. Scholars argued that before Socrates, Greek philosophy mainly focused on nature and the physical world, but Socrates shifted the focus toward human life, ethics, and politics. His emphasis on moral inquiry and rational discussion encouraged people to question traditional beliefs and examine the principles of justice, virtue, and good governance. This shift laid the foundation for the systematic study of political philosophy. The works of Plato provide detailed insights into the life and teachings of Socrates. In many of his dialogues, Plato presents Socrates as a philosopher who believed that true knowledge leads to virtuous action. Scholars studying these texts highlight that Socrates emphasized the importance of self-examination, famously expressed in the idea that "an unexamined life is not worth living." Through dialogue and questioning, Socrates encouraged individuals to develop critical thinking and moral awareness, which greatly influenced later political and ethical thought. Another important literary source is the historical account of Xenophon. Xenophon portrays Socrates as a practical moral teacher who guided people toward a disciplined and ethical life. Researchers analyzing Xenophon's writings argued that he emphasized the practical aspects of Socratic teaching, particularly the idea that a good citizen should cultivate self-control, wisdom, and responsibility in public as well as private life. The philosophical contributions of Socrates were further developed by Aristotle. Aristotle acknowledged that Socrates played a crucial role in introducing logical reasoning and systematic discussion in philosophy. According to Aristotle, Socrates was the first thinker to focus on defining universal moral concepts and applying rational inquiry to ethical and political questions. This intellectual approach later became a key method in Western philosophical and political traditions. Modern scholars and political theorists also recognize the lasting influence of Socratic thought on the development of democratic values and intellectual freedom. They argued that Socrates' commitment to truth, open dialogue, and questioning authority helped shape the tradition of critical thinking in Western societies. His ideas continued to inspire modern discussions about ethics, citizenship, education, and the moral responsibilities of individuals in society.

5. Importance of the Study

The study of the contributions of Socrates is important because he is considered one of the founders of Western political and moral philosophy. His ideas about justice, virtue, knowledge, and ethical living laid the foundation for the development of Western political thought. By studying his philosophy, we can better understand the origin and development of many important political and ethical concepts that influence modern societies. This study is also important because Socrates introduced a unique method of critical thinking known as the Socratic Method, which encourages questioning, dialogue, and logical reasoning. This method has greatly influenced education, philosophy, and political discussions. It teaches individuals to think independently, examine their beliefs, and search for truth through rational debate. Another important aspect of this study understands how the teachings of Socrates influenced later philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. Their philosophical works further developed the ideas of Socrates and played a significant role in shaping Western political philosophy. Therefore, studying Socrates helps us understand the intellectual roots of many modern political theories and democratic

values. Furthermore, this study highlights the relevance of Socratic ideas in shaping the mindset of humanity. His emphasis on self-knowledge, moral responsibility, and the pursuit of truth encourages individuals to develop ethical character and critical thinking. In modern society, where social and political issues require thoughtful discussion and moral judgment, the ideas of Socrates remain highly relevant. Thus, the study is important for understanding the historical development of Western political thought as well as for promoting rational thinking, ethical values, and intellectual awareness in contemporary society. The study of the philosophical ideas and political contributions of Socrates is highly significant in understanding the origin and development of Western political thought. Socrates is widely regarded as one of the earliest thinkers who shifted the focus of philosophy from the study of nature to the study of human life, ethics, and society.

His teachings emphasized the importance of moral values, justice, virtue, and rational thinking. By examining his ideas, scholars and students can better understand the foundation upon which Western political philosophy has been built. Another important aspect of this study lies in understanding Socrates' method of inquiry, commonly known as the Socratic Method. This method is based on dialogue, questioning, and critical examination of ideas in order to reach truth and knowledge. Through this approach, Socrates encouraged individuals to question accepted beliefs and think independently. This method has greatly influenced the development of education, philosophy, and democratic discussion. Even in modern times, the Socratic Method remains an important tool in teaching, legal studies, and intellectual debates. The study is also important because the ideas of Socrates greatly influenced later philosophers, especially Plato and Aristotle. Plato preserved the teachings of Socrates in many of his philosophical dialogues and further developed them into a systematic political philosophy. Aristotle later expanded these ideas by providing deeper analysis of ethics, politics, and governance. Therefore, studying Socrates helps us understand the intellectual roots of the philosophical traditions that shaped Western civilization. Furthermore, the importance of this study lies in its relevance to the development of the human mindset. Socrates believed that knowledge leads to virtue and that individuals should strive to know themselves and act morally in society. His famous idea that the unexamined life is not worth living highlights the importance of self-reflection and personal responsibility. These ideas encourage individuals to develop critical thinking, ethical awareness, and intellectual honesty, which are essential qualities for responsible citizenship. This study is also important for understanding the development of democratic values and the role of citizens in political life. Socrates encouraged open discussion, questioning of authority, and the search for truth through dialogue. These principles form the basis of democratic traditions, where freedom of thought and expression are highly valued.

By studying Socratic philosophy, we can gain insights into the importance of rational debate, tolerance of different opinions, and the pursuit of justice in political systems. In addition, the ideas of Socrates remain relevant in addressing modern social and political challenges. In a rapidly changing world where misinformation, intolerance, and ethical dilemmas are common, Socratic teachings encourage individuals to think critically, seek truth, and act with moral responsibility. His philosophy promotes intellectual curiosity and encourages individuals to question injustice and contribute to the improvement of society. Thus, the study of Socrates' contribution to Western political thought and the human mindset is important not only from a historical perspective but also for its practical relevance in modern society. It helps us understand the development of philosophical traditions, promotes rational

and ethical thinking, and inspires individuals to pursue truth, justice, and moral integrity in both personal and public life.

6. Statement of the Problem

The study of Western political thought reveals that many fundamental ideas about ethics, justice, citizenship, and governance originated in ancient Greece. Among the early philosophers, Socrates occupies a unique and significant place. He introduced a new way of thinking that emphasized rational inquiry, moral responsibility, and the pursuit of truth through dialogue and questioning. However, Socrates himself did not leave any written works, and most of the knowledge about his philosophy comes from the writings of his students, particularly Plato, Xenophon and Aristotle. Because of this, there are different interpretations and debates among scholars regarding his actual ideas and contributions. Another problem arises from the fact that although Socrates played a crucial role in shaping Western philosophy, many people today are not fully aware of the depth and significance of his ideas in political and ethical thought. His teachings about virtue, justice, and self-knowledge continued to influence modern philosophy and political theory, yet the connection between his ideas and contemporary human thinking is not always clearly understood. This creates a need to re-examine and analyze his philosophical contributions in order to better understand their relevance in shaping the intellectual and moral mindset of humanity.

Furthermore, in modern society there is often a lack of critical thinking and ethical reflection in public and political life. Socrates strongly believed that individuals should question accepted beliefs, examine their actions, and pursue knowledge and truth. His method of dialogue and reasoning encourages individuals to think independently and to challenge injustice and ignorance. Therefore, the present study seeks to explore how the ideas of Socrates contributed to the development of Western political thought and how they continued to influence the mindset of human beings. Thus, the central problem of this study is to analyze and understand the nature, significance, and lasting impact of Socratic philosophy on Western political thought and the intellectual development of humanity.

The history of Western political thought shows that many of the important ideas about justice, morality, citizenship, and good governance originated in ancient Greek philosophy. Among the early philosophers, Socrates holds a unique and influential position. He is widely regarded as one of the first thinkers to focus on ethical inquiry and the moral foundations of political life. Socrates encouraged people to question traditional beliefs and to seek truth through rational discussion and self-examination. His philosophical approach emphasized the importance of virtue, knowledge, and moral responsibility in both individual and public life. However, despite his great influence, understanding his exact ideas and contributions remains a challenging task for scholars and researchers. One of the major problems in studying Socratic philosophy is that Socrates himself did not write any philosophical works. Most of the information about his teachings comes from the writings of his followers and contemporaries, particularly Plato, Xenophon and Aristotle. These authors presented their own interpretations of Socrates' ideas, which sometimes differ in emphasis and style.

As a result, it becomes difficult to determine which ideas truly belong to Socrates and which are influenced by the perspectives of these writers. This situation creates an important academic problem in understanding the real nature of Socratic philosophy and its contribution to Western political thought. Another issue is that although Socrates greatly influenced later philosophers such as Aristotle and many other thinkers in the Western intellectual tradition, his role is often discussed only in a limited or

introductory way in studies of political philosophy. Many modern discussions of political theory focus more on later philosophers, while the original contributions of Socrates to ethical reasoning, rational dialogue, and moral inquiry are sometimes overlooked. Therefore, there is a need to carefully examine and analyze the significance of his ideas and their influence on the development of political and philosophical thought. In addition, modern society faces several challenges related to ethical values, critical thinking, and responsible citizenship. In many cases, people tend to accept information and opinions without careful examination or rational debate. Socrates strongly believed that individuals should not accept ideas blindly but should question them through logical reasoning and dialogue. His famous method of questioning, often referred to as the Socratic Method, encourages individuals to examine their beliefs, identify contradictions, and arrive at a deeper understanding of truth and morality. This method is highly relevant in contemporary society, where intellectual curiosity and ethical awareness are necessary for solving social and political problems. Furthermore, the mindset of humanity has been shaped by various philosophical traditions over centuries, and the influence of Socratic thought plays an important role in this intellectual development. Socrates emphasized self-knowledge, moral integrity, and the search for truth as essential elements of a meaningful life. His famous idea that the unexamined life is not worth living reflects his belief that human beings must continuously reflect on their actions, values, and responsibilities. Understanding this aspect of his philosophy can help explain how his teachings contributed to shaping human attitudes toward knowledge, ethics, and social responsibility. Therefore, the main problem addressed in this study is to explore and critically analyze the contributions of Socrates to Western political thought and to examine how his philosophical ideas influenced the intellectual and moral mindset of humanity. The study seeks to understand the significance of Socratic teachings in the historical development of political philosophy and to evaluate their continuing relevance in the modern world. By doing so, the research aims to highlight the enduring importance of Socrates' philosophy in promoting rational thinking, ethical awareness, and responsible participation in social and political life.

7. Different facets of Socrates and his Philosophy

7.1 His views on Politics

The philosophy and political ideas of Socrates have been widely discussed by many classical and modern scholars. Since Socrates himself did not write any books, most knowledge about his ideas comes from the writings of his disciples and later philosophers. These works form the foundation for understanding his contribution to Western political thought and the development of human thinking. The most important source of Socratic philosophy is the work of Plato. In his dialogues such as *Apology*, *Cerrito*, and *Republic*, Plato presents the ideas and teachings of Socrates. Through these writings, Socrates is portrayed as a philosopher who emphasized the importance of virtue, justice, knowledge, and moral responsibility. Plato also explains the Socratic Method, a form of questioning used to encourage critical thinking and the search for truth. Another important source is the writings of Xenophon. In his works like *Memorabilia* and *Apology*, Xenophon presents Socrates as a moral teacher who guided people toward ethical living and self-discipline. His writings highlight Socrates' belief that knowledge and virtue are closely connected and that a good citizen should act according to moral principles. The influence of Socratic thought can also be seen in the philosophy of Aristotle. Aristotle acknowledged that Socrates played a crucial role in the development of ethical inquiry and rational discussion in

philosophy. According to Aristotle, Socrates introduced the method of logical questioning and focused on defining moral concepts such as justice, courage, and virtue. Modern scholars of Western political thought have also emphasized Socrates' role in shaping philosophical inquiry and democratic discussion. They argued that his emphasis on questioning authority, seeking truth, and developing moral awareness has had a lasting impact on political philosophy and the intellectual development of humanity. Thus, the available literature shows that Socrates' teachings have significantly influenced the development of Western political thought and have contributed to shaping the moral and intellectual mindset of human society.

Socrates, in his analysis of political and philosophical problems and issues, applied the method of dialectic, and in this respect he departed from the Sophists who arranged the different topics in a systematic way and then discussed them. Socrates, on the other hand, adopted the question-answer method. Needless to say, his disciple Plato also followed him. In the view of Socrates ethics and politics are closely connected with each other. Without politics ethics carries no value, and without ethics politics becomes harmful. The highest of all virtues is the political art which includes statecraft and makes men good politicians and public officials. In other words, Socrates thought that the purpose of politics was not to capture power, nor it was an art how to remain in power. Political ethics makes good and proper citizens. Both public and private persons must learn the art of political ethics. Socrates also discussed the concept of law. He divided law into unwritten divine law and written' human law. He cautioned us by pointing out that there was no discrepancy between these two sets of laws. Justice was the root of all the laws. If a law is not justified by justice, it is useless. If anything is not applied over by justice it cannot be legal. To be precise, Socrates priority to justice in his thought system and in this respect Socrates followed his predecessors. Socrates spoke about the allegiance to law. He devised the theory of concord which means the citizens must show allegiance and obedience to law. Interpreting Socrates' allegiance to law, Xenophon, the most reliable interpreter of Socrates' view, says- "A Republic that is obedient to laws is happy in peace and invincible in war. Moreover, you know that concord is a great happiness in a state." Socrates admitted the diversities among the citizens and differences of opinion. But notwithstanding they must unanimously obey the laws. He thought that without unqualified obedience to law there could not be unity and integrity in the Republic. His exaltation of law-abidingness did not rule out the importance and necessity of criticism. Laws, not in conformity with justice, might invite criticism. Socrates was a staunch supporter of philosopher-king. He did not like democracy, oligarchy, hereditary aristocracy and tyranny. Only a philosopher-king, he thought, could serve the purpose of the polis. Socrates gave a brief classification of government which runs as follows. Rule of men over the unwilling mass was to him a tyranny. Property qualification for office was for him a plutocracy. It was democracy when all people were allowed to participate in the government. Socrates recommended only the rule of wise.

All other forms of government, in his opinion, were unsuitable. Socrates had viewed the concept of rule from a different angle. The purpose of the ruler should not be to acquire pleasure or to satisfy personal whims and wishes, but to ensure the welfare of the common people. The ruler must keep a watch upon the needs of the people and he should never try to fulfill his own needs. If a ruler furthers his own interests he should be punished. Ascendency to power, in the opinion of Socrates, is not automatic at all. The above-noted qualifications must be satisfied. Related with the concept of justice is equality and Socrates greatly emphasized it. Equality is a political virtue and it is the utmost duty of the wise ruler to ensure it. A polis must be based on equality. Violation of equality would result in disorder, chaos

and disruption of normal activities of the polis. Socrates' equality is geometrical equality. By geometrical equality Socrates means political justice and equity or right judgment in terms of political virtue as distinct from simple numerical or arithmetical equality. Therefore his views on politics is very much relevant even in the 21st century.

7.2 Socrates and His Philosophical Influence on Plato and Aristotle

It is generally observed that the political thought of ancient Greece and particularly of Socrates created a positive and far-reaching impact upon the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle. It is, therefore, necessary, to throw light on how Socrates influenced Plato and Aristotle in forming and propagating their philosophical and political concepts. Socrates is one of the most remarkable far famed characters in the intellectual history of mankind. For over two and a half millennia there has been a ring of glory about his name and aura of enigma surrounding his personality. This was Socrates. Even Karl Marx highly eulogized and appreciated him. Though Socrates was not chiefly a political thinker or politician he dealt with a number of subjects, which may conveniently be included into the subject- matter of politics or political philosophy. His main concerns were law, justice and polis. His method of analysis was dialectic. That is question and answer form. The discussion about any subject could proceed until a final opinion was arrived at he held discussions with his disciples. If we study the political ideas of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle we would find that Socrates created a tremendous impact upon the latter two giants of Greek philosophy. Maxey says 'In Plato Socrates lived again. Not in the sense that the pupil was an unvarying facsimile of the master, not even in the sense, that Plato was the literary and philosophic executor of the great queerest' but rather in the sense that the mind and soul of Plato so completely absorbed in the thought and spirit of his teacher as to inspire his own soaring genius to create a sublime Socrates than ever trod the bustling streets of Athens. The writings, intellect, logic and above all the thought of Socrates created a great influence upon Plato. What we call the thought system of Plato is of genuine Socratic origin. Maxey also says that how much of Plato's philosophy is original cannot be said assertively. V. S. Nersesyants has written "The ideas of Socrates, particularly his emphasis on the law as the criterion for classification of the forms of government, the contrast between monarchy and tyranny, and others exerted a considerable influence on the subsequent political theories of ancient thinkers, above all Plato, Aristotle and Polybius and through them various politico-legal doctrines of the middle ages and modern times.

Socrates' views on democracy influenced both Plato and Aristotle. He did not consider democracy as a desirable form of government' on the grounds that incompetent officials are appointed to run the administration of democratic state. Another reason is common people have no ability to participate in the state affairs. Socrates also advocated the concept of philosopher-king. Both these views of Socrates were accepted by Plato. Socrates classification of government or constitution influenced Aristotle. Though Aristotle followed Socrates in classifying constitution his criteria were different from those of Socrates. In Socrates' view ethics is political and politics is ethical. Without ethics politics is bound to contaminate the whole society. For an ideal or good and well-ordered state both ethics and politics must travel hand in hand. It may be ethical politics or political ethics. However, both Plato and Aristotle took this idea from Socrates. The very foundation of their ideal state was ethics. Socrates and Plato both believed that officials of public services must be moral and ethical persons. Aristotle also held the same view. These three persons were unanimous about that without good and ideal politician citizens cannot be good and moral. Socrates is traditionally regarded as the founder of theoretical ethics which paved the

way for Plato's and Aristotle's logical and political conceptions. Though Socrates' thought and philosophy had a direct and positive influence upon Plato and Aristotle, it cannot be said that they were the carbon copies of Socrates. There is no doubt that both Plato and Aristotle were great and original thinkers. The three great Greek philosophers built up the fabric of political philosophy with the help of the experience of Greek city-state, but the thought system of Plato and Aristotle is really comprehensive. Plato's ideal state's main concern is justice, but it deals with many other aspects which are not available in Socrates. Aristotle was indebted to Socrates so far as his classification of constitution or government is concerned. But his classification deals with the comparative aspect of politics which is still remembered by students of political science. Aristotle's views on revolution and polity still deserve special mention for forever to the humanity.

7.3 His works and Teaching

Socrates was born in the year 469 B .C. It was the period when hardly four years earlier to his birth Pericles had come to power in Athens and five years after his death Athens saw her downfall. In other words he saw the rise and fall of Athens with his own eyes. His father was simply a sculptor and mothers a midwife. According to him, he followed the occupation of his mother by way of giving birth to new ideas and new philosophies. He was a keen student of philosophy and physical sciences. He was interested in the performance of ordinary civic duties. Barker says, "A steady discharge of civic duty and a steady refusal to go outside the bounds of civic law, are thus the two features which mark his life as an Athenian citizen." Since the defense of state was considered rather the supreme duty of each and every individual, the states of his time invariably expected that every citizen would behave and act as a soldier in fact Socrates also fought as a soldier in Thrace and at the battle of Delius. At the age of sixty-five he became a member of the Council and subsequently a member of Committee of Council. It was in the Committee that he refused to side with the illegal and unjust actions of thirty Tyrants. He believed that there was always a close relationship between politics and ethics. He was perhaps the most law-abiding citizen of his times. He refused to escape from prison, where he was put on charges of impiety, on the plea that it was against the spirit of the laws. According to him a person should disobey the law only when he was to obey higher law of God, otherwise he must render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar even to the debit of his life. He was charged with impiety and ultimately put to death in 399 B.C. Socrates was considered as one of the wisest thinkers of his age. He was of the opinion that his mission of life was to complete a divine mission and as such he was duty bound to carry that out even at the cost of his life. He never tried to give any new philosophy to his audience but only wanted to expose the hollowness of knowledge of those who claimed to know something or possess knowledge. He thus wanted to make it clear as to what real knowledge was and how the ideas should be tested before accepting those. Crossman has nicely put in his ideas when he says, He did not provide his hearers with new and interesting ideas, but like midwife assisted to bring forth its own truth. Socrates adopted dialectical method of study which was in question and answer form. It was by this method that he tested the knowledge of all those who claimed to possess that and exposed their hollowness. In the words of Barker, "It was a definite method much as the scholastic method of Middle Ages; there were rules for the adoption of the theme of discussion and rules for the relevant answering of questions." But the method failed to achieve its logical ends of exposing the truth. To quote Barker again, "It was a method unpleasant for the victim, and a method which might become merely eristic, turning to argument in any

direction for the sake of argument; but it was all the same, in fire hands of Socrates, a genuine organ of truth." His teachings are as follows:

a) His views on knowledge

According to Socrates knowledge was of two kinds, namely opinion or belief and knowledge. This opinion was something which was not sound and thus subject to frequent modifications and changes. On the other hand, real knowledge was based on sound foundations and thus real possession of mind. It represented truth with the scientific sense. Corresponding to knowledge we had virtue or truth. The goodness of virtue based on opinion was equally unreliable and subject to frequent changes whereas virtue based on real knowledge was permanent and could not yield to temptations. In other words it was permanent possession of mind. According to Maxey, He cared for nothing but facts and sound reasoning based on facts. Men, he thought, must be guided exclusively by knowledge; true knowledge; which penetrates beneath the surface of things, disregards the motives and interests of passing periods and personalities, and arrives at truth that is universal and eternal. It was not based on blind faith. The virtue was always good but two types of virtues differ in their duration and stability alone. Real goodness would always find due place in whatever circumstances it might be. According to Barker, "Goodness which rests on principle admits of some definition of those principles and one can communicate and teach something which can be embraced in a general definition." According to Socrates all vices were the result of ignorance. A person would normally not do anything evil provided he knew what was virtue and vice. But this idea of Socrates does not seem to be very correct because many a time wrong things are knowingly done by the people either due to our personal and selfish motives or because of some other compelling reasons.

b) His views on Reality

According to Socrates reality is in the idea of a thing and not in the thing itself. He believed that whereas thing is imperfect and can be changed, the idea is lasting and permanent. In his opinion, thus reality could as well exist without its outward manifestation.

c) His Stress on Self

Socrates laid great stress on the idea that everyone should try to know about self. It was duty and responsibility of everyone to know what his duties in life were. It has been said that, "To the promotion of that logical clarity and intellectual honesty Socrates devoted his life in the conviction that on these depended moral health and political salvation".

d) His views on State

Socrates was of the firm opinion that politics was an art and that it should be taught and accepted in that spirit. The politicians must be fully aware of conduct of political affairs. According to Barker, Socrates believed that "If goodness was not an art but something higher and more 'Catholic, politics at any rate must be treated as an art, and the politician must be required to undergo training". In his opinion unless a prince was properly trained he could not be a successful ruler. It was both in own interest as well as in the interest of the community as a whole that he should get the desired type of education and training. For that reason he even did not like that all should be given the right to vote or to become citizens. To govern was the privilege of just the few and only those few could have the privilege of sharing state secrets. All others should simply engage themselves in the defense of the State. He vehemently opposed the idea of equality of all. All could never be equal because inequality was visible in all walks of life. Maxey, says, "The basic premise of Athenian democracy was that all citizens were

equal and equally qualified to take part in the Government. Upon this, Socrates made unremitting war contending that only those possessing the deepest wisdom and the highest virtue should be entrusted with the administration of Government." He thus believed in the philosophy of inequality of human beings. He was unhappy over the administration based on the system of equality of votes. According to him there-were only few persons who were competent enough to understand the problems of the state and the art of governing the people. He stood for selfless devotion in politics. As every artist struggles for the betterment of his art so should be the aim, of every politician. In other words, he believed in enlightened despotism. According to him, the politicians could differ in theories of politics but, not in the running the state administration. The power of the government should be in the hands of a few wise but at the same time the masses should be taken into confidence, in order to achieve their cooperation. As far as possible all state policies should be decided with their consent and their views should be willingly accepted. Socrates on the whole believed in the social necessity of man. According to him functions performed by the state were both useful and necessary. He did not believe that the state should be dispensed with or it is a necessary evil.

e) His views on Law

According to Socrates laws were necessary for proper guidance of the state and also it was obligatory on all citizens to obey these. According to him breach of law was a crime against the state, which was performing social and necessary functions. According to Barker, "He was always and never more than a loyal servant of Athens. Her laws were not to him only less sacred than the command of God, and not to be disobeyed except for righteousness sake; nor would he leave the prison where he lay bound even when escape was easy, lest the laws should rebuke his flight." According to him, it was only through the laws obeyed by the individuals under the command of the state that conventions and customs grew. He believed that the custom and conventions were essential for guiding mankind both in long and short terms.

f) His views on democracy

Socrates was bitterly opposed to democratic institutions as were in vogue in Athens of those days. He was of the view that people in Athens were not being governed either by laws or by the wise people. The authority had slipped in the hands of those who were, selfish, undisciplined and ignorant. Based on his experience of Athens, Socrates condemned democracy, as an institution. He also did not support democratic theory of equality among men.

g) His views on aristocracy

According to Socrates all were not capable and competent to govern the masses. Only the wise and the intelligent had this right. Even an assembly of elected people, consisting of common men was not competent to rule. For governing the people expert knowledge based on sound principles was very essential. If the government was not in the hands of intellectual aristocracy that meant complete chaos. He, therefore, suggested that government should be run by those who possessed the deepest wisdom and the highest virtue.

h) His views on Government:

Socrates did not agree with the Sophists that the art of governing the people could be picked up only by few and that all did not know that art. He believed that there was no special human conduct for governing the people but it was only architectonic art. He also believed that true philosophy was the basis of true government. According to him philosophies might differ but it is not the art of governing of the people. He, however, wished that there should be restricted right to vote. He did not subscribe to the

idea that all persons living in the state should enjoy a right to vote. Art of governing the people should be left only to those who have been fully trained for the purpose but all should be given opportunity to get this training.

i) His idea of death and its teaching

Socrates was put behind the bars because he disagreed with the members of the Council in their illegal actions. He was charged with impiety and had to remain in jail till his death. He got the opportunity of escaping from the jail but did not avail that because he felt that flight from jail was both immoral and illegal. He also felt that by his flight his conscience would prick him for disobeying and violating the laws of the state. His death was significant because: (1) He taught the people that everybody was master of his own conscience in deciding as to what was right and what was wrong. He was himself final court of appeal for his own actions. He could not sit in judgment for the actions of the others but was responsible for his own actions. (2) It was the duty of every citizen to bow before the laws of the state. He was duty bound to accept the punishment awarded by the state in violation of the laws. But at the same time he was of the opinion that every individual must have free conscience. According to A.M. Adams, "Socrates, like Hobbes, asserted the uncompromising authority and irresponsibility of ruling power. His death has left some far reaching lessons behind him and thus is of great importance. His real contribution, however, lies in the fact that he could establish for his audience standards for judging false ideas and pretensions about knowledge and also methods for revealing these. He made his listeners understand the truth of knowledge and thus put succeeding generations on the right path". Discussing significance of his philosophy Crossman says, "In a sense he did nothing, and yet he was and is one of the greatest figures of European civilization. Of him and of a few others such as Jesus and St. Francis for instance it can be truly said that their lives and individualities have moulded the shape of our innermost being and are still the inspiration of the best that is in us. Socrates was the wisest thinker of Athens of his time. His mission of life was to expose those who claimed to possess knowledge. He did not wish to give to his listeners any new philosophy but wanted to develop capacity among them so that they could expose hollowness of those who claimed to know something. He aimed at telling his listeners proper and reasonable methods of testing knowledge of an individual without caring for his own claims for his ability and knowledge. But in spite of his unwillingness to break new ideas, his followers and admirers compiled his ideas about various aspects of political life so that his idea of that and its lesson of teaching is very much important to the humanity for further source of critical ideas for mankind.

7.4 Major findings

1) According to him, law was next only to God. It was the very basis of state existence. Any violation of law was both immoral and illegal. Though the individuals can have a free conscience yet they should be bound by the laws of the state. According to him customs and conventions are the basis of all laws and give birth to abstract notions of justice and righteousness. He had the highest regard for the laws which is evident from the fact that he did not escape from jail, when he could safely do that. According to Socrates knowledge was of two types namely belief and real knowledge. The former was not of permanent nature and changed from time to time. It was something undependable and thus could not be real possession of anyone. On the other hand the latter was most dependable and real possession of everyone who possessed that. One could be proud of having real knowledge. He believed that

knowledge had corresponding virtues which could either be based on belief or real knowledge. The former was undependable whereas the latter was real and dependable. The virtue was as good and dependable as the real knowledge. He, however, wrongly believed that the people always act in the right direction. who can deny that many a time either on his own or by force of circumstances an individual is forced to do wrong things as well e.g. under the influence of anger or intoxicating drinks one commits wrong actions fully well understanding that to get angry under normal circumstances was absolutely a wrong action.

2) According to a few political thinkers Socrates was a Sophist and as such they believe that though their philosophies might differ in detail yet the fundamentals remain unchanged. It is, however, contrary to facts as both radically differ from each other on many important problems of life.

3) Sophists were a class of persons who had come from outside Athens, with the idea of imparting knowledge. As has already been stated they were like university professors of the modern times. Their instructions were open to those who really wanted to have them or were in a position to pay for that. The doors of knowledge were closed on the poor as they could not purchase knowledge. In addition to this they wanted to preach philosophy and wished that their listeners should believe in what they said. On the other hand Socrates did not make any attempt to evolve any new philosophy. He also did not wish that his listeners should accept his theories alone. On the other hand he attempted to tell the people the basis of judging right and wrong. He desired that knowledge should not be imposed from outside agency but should dawn upon the people on its own. They should have the capacity to understand as to what was right or wrong. A true knowledge should appeal the brain and not the mind.

4) The Sophists without any exception were the type of the teachers who heavily charged from their students and rich alone could afford their teachings. But on the other hand, Socrates did not charge anything for what he said. It is generally believed that he talked to the people freely, frankly and openly at places where he could find any such opportunity. For him a street was as good as any other lecture hall. Thus whereas for Socrates knowledge was free it was extremely costly for the Sophists.

3) The Sophists were of the opinion that to be good and to acquire goodness was an art. If a person was interested in becoming good he could become so by attaining some special knowledge. They believed that like many other arts, art of goodness was to be taught and followed. Socrates held quite a different view. According to him to be good or to acquire goodness was something natural. It depended upon the capacity of each and every individual to be good or not to be so. It was inherent in every person and thus was not to be acquired.

5) The Sophists did not distinguish between ordinary and real knowledge, to them all, knowledge was one. On the other hand, Socrates distinguished between ordinary knowledge and the real knowledge. He even distinguished between virtues based on these two types of knowledge. This type of distinction was, however, useless for the Sophists.

6) According to the Sophists, law was the convenience of the individual. They believed that laws differ not only from individual to individual but also from place to place. They introduced a type of antithesis between nature and convention. In the words of Sabine, "According to their philosophy legal justice is of no use for those who follow it; it does not prevent enjoy or correct the injury. For Antiphon nature is simply egoism or self-interest." On the other hand for Socrates law of the state was next to Cod only he wanted to honor law even at the cost of his life. He did thus by refusing to escape from the jail when he was awaiting his death and he had got an opportunity to set himself free.

7) The Sophists were concerned with the mechanical aspect of things. They look the things on their face value and did not bother to know about their origin. On the other hand and just contrary to Sophist philosophy, Socrates wanted to know the reason (why) or happening of all events and things. He was - not satisfied with merely the appearance of the events but with the real value of the things. He was not concerned with mechanical but practical aspect of the problem. Socrates Evaluated: Both the Sophists and Socrates drastically differed from each other not only in details but also in fundamentals of philosophy. It will thus be safe to conclude that Socrates was not one of the Sophists but one who stood to expose their hollowness. Most of his ideas were, however, developed to their logical conclusions by his brilliant pupil Plato. It is, however, said by his critics that his unorthodox ideas corrupted the youth of his times.

8) His philosophy was not suited to his times and thus not very conducive for moral and religious life of Athens, which he should have very much cared. Maxey says, "With such unorthodox doctrines and corresponding monstrous ideas in the field of ethics and religion, he corrupted the youth of Athens." Some of the critics have also attached great significance to his death. There is no doubt that by his death he established that one should, be ready to sacrifice life for cherishing and adhering to his doctrines but at the same time significance of his death has been over stressed. It will perhaps, be wrong to say that he was exterminated for his ideas.

9) There was also mounting personal grievance against him by the rulers and he had perhaps to suffer from their wrath rather than for preaching his ideas. About his death Crossman says, "Socrates will always be compelled to die, his death will always be politically justifiable and it will always be condemned by succeeding generations, who see so easily in retrospect that truth is ultimately preferable to any established falsehood, however, efficient it may appear.

10) Condemning the death of the historical Socrates, each generation kills its own. But undoubtedly he laid the seeds of certain ideas which became the springboard of the Greek political philosophy. According to Get tell the aim of life of Socrates was to rouse his fellowmen from their thoughtlessness and lead them to reflect on the meaning of life. He was much success in that if not during his life time but after his death. His ideas of philosophy are quite unique and remain forever in the minds and hearts of the every person who loved wisdom and knowledge.

11) Virtue is knowledge, theory of knowledge, theory of reality are the main three core areas of his theosophy of human mindset in order to get the value of life through philosophy.

12) Knowledge thyself, the unexamined life is not worth living, virtue is knowledge: Vice is ignorance is the three dictums of philosophy of human mindset in order to change the world positively.

13) Socrates argued that knowledge cannot be purchased in the market because it is not a commodity. True knowledge comes from continuous questioning, reflection, and intellectual effort, which every individual must achieve through their own pursuit of truth. Therefore, knowledge is not a meat which cannot be sold or purchased in the market.

8. Conclusion

The study of Socrates shows that he played a fundamental role in the development of Western political thought and in shaping the intellectual mindset of humanity. Socrates shifted the focus of philosophy from the study of nature to the study of human life, ethics, and morality. Through his teachings and method of questioning, he encouraged people to examine their beliefs, seek truth, and live

a life guided by virtue and knowledge. His emphasis on rational inquiry and moral responsibility laid the foundation for later developments in political and ethical philosophy. Although Socrates did not write any books, his ideas were preserved and developed by his followers, particularly Plato and later expanded by Aristotle. Through their writings, the teachings of Socrates became an important part of the Western philosophical tradition. His method of dialogue and critical questioning, commonly known as the Socratic Method, became a powerful tool for discovering truth and encouraging independent thinking. The philosophy of Socrates also played a significant role in shaping the moral and intellectual outlook of individuals. His belief that knowledge leads to virtue and that individuals must constantly examine their lives inspired people to develop ethical awareness and personal responsibility. These ideas influenced not only philosophy but also education, law, and democratic traditions where open discussion and rational debate are highly valued. Furthermore, the teachings of Socrates remain highly relevant in modern society. In a world where social, political and ethical challenges continue to arise, his emphasis on critical thinking, dialogue, and the search for truth provides valuable guidance. His ideas encourage individuals to question injustice, seek knowledge, and contribute positively to society. Therefore, the contribution of Socrates to Western political thought and the human mindset is profound and enduring. His philosophy continues to inspire scholars, thinkers, and ordinary people to pursue truth, justice, and moral integrity. The legacy of Socrates remains a cornerstone in the history of political philosophy and an important influence on the intellectual mindset for development of humanity forever.

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