

Social Justice from The Perspective of Geopolitics

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ABSTRACT

Political geography is concerned with studying the state in terms of definition and the people, it was the first pillar and justification, the reason for the existence of the state, whether they are citizens or non-citizens, as well as the second pillar, the territory, which is also important and has a relationship with social justice, the population is distributed over this territory and is supposed to be covered by justice, as well as the third pillar, the authority, because it is concerned with the distribution of development and its abundance, as it gains the legitimacy of its existence through what it achieves in terms of justice in distribution, as well as it is concerned with the idea of the state and the analysis of its internal functions. Social justice is one of the functions that the state must achieve according to an organization and policies that preserve its survival and continuity.

1. Introduction

Social justice is one of the important topics that touch upon the first pillar of the state, which is the people, and it represents an important element of human society, as it is based on ensuring the fair distribution of the state's resources, wealth and income, ensuring equality and providing equal opportunities among citizens without discrimination or differentiation, and it represents an important way to ensure the continuity of the political system, economic growth, prosperity and development to meet the necessary needs of the people. Political geography is concerned with studying the state and its pillars (the people) the justification and reason for the existence of the state, and then (the territory) the land on which the state is based, as for the third pillar (the authority), which regulates the relationship between the people and the territory, and what results from it in achieving social justice based on balanced distributive justice directed from the authority to the people, as it is concerned with the idea of the state and analyzing its internal functions. Social justice is one of the functions that the state must achieve according to an organization and policies that preserve its survival and continuity. The researchers decided to divide their research into three sections. The first section dealt with the concept of social justice, the second section focused on the types of social justice, and the third section dealt with social justice from a geopolitical perspective. The research concluded with a number of results and recommendations and a list of footnotes and sources.

The first requirement - the concept of social justice

The term social justice was first mentioned in the mid-nineteenth century by the Italian Jesuit priest Luigi Taparelli d'Azeglio in an article entitled (A Theory of Natural Law Supported by Facts) published in 1843 in Italy, in which he said (Social justice must be achieved in reality among all when it comes to their human rights) (1). In political circles, by the mid-twentieth century, the term social justice had become a central concept in the ideologies and programs of political parties almost all over the world. It represents the essence of the existence of a democratic socialist doctrine that left its mark in the decades following World War II (2). Therefore, establishing a political concept of social justice is to emphasize the necessity of securing human rights and meeting the basic needs of the people, as well as reducing social inequality by considering individuals as free, equal, and fully cooperative members of a society that is characterized by being democratic and guaranteeing the participation of all its citizens in political decision-making (3). Therefore, since 2007, the United Nations General Assembly has declared February (20) as a day of social justice. Emphasizing that it is (a basic principle for peaceful coexistence and prosperity), and she defined it as (fairness and equitable distribution of the fruits of economic growth) (4). Based on that, the researcher defines social justice as a basic pillar for preserving the unity of the people and their social fabric to eliminate injustice, oppression, tyranny and

non-discrimination and to elevate the values of justice and fairness through each person having a right to his right from the people regardless of their affiliations and ethnicities and obtaining equal opportunities to exercise rights and freedoms (5), participate in public and political life through the nature of the policies followed by the state in various aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life.

Distributive Justice

The concept of justice in general and social justice in particular is linked to the term distributive justice, which has many interpretations that differ according to the visions of theorists, researchers and thinkers about the nature of this type of justice, its importance and its objectives. It represents a standard principle designed to distribute (goods and services) in a specific distribution according to demand. These principles differ according to their dimensions in terms of goods suitable for distribution such as (income, wealth, opportunities, etc.), and the nature of the beneficiaries, such as (individuals or countries, etc.), in addition to the basis on which they are distributed based on (equality according to the components of society and according to the prevailing economic processes in the state). John Rawls* referred to distributive justice as equality for the principles of social justice and the basic structure of society, which determines the way in which social institutions distribute rights and duties and through which the appropriate method of distribution of the benefits and burdens of social life is determined (6).

Distributive justice is understood as allowing work to redistribute benefits and burdens such as (income distribution) or social structures such as (systems and laws), and thus distributive justice is distinguished by the type of social entity (7), therefore, distributive justice is one of the requirements for achieving social justice, the principles of which aim to regulate the distribution of social rights, including freedoms, opportunities, resources, income and wealth, so that the shares of individuals with the least share in society are increased, achieving justice for all citizens of the state (8). In addition, the idea of fair distribution of resources is generally linked to the concepts of human rights, human dignity and the public good, and it is based on what is said that the state owes its people equal proportions, as the state's authority is constantly working to change or establish laws that affect the distribution of economic, social and political benefits and burdens in its society (9). Therefore, the importance of distributive justice is highlighted through the effects it leaves on society in general and the state and its stability in particular, whether in the political, economic or social aspects. Therefore, achieving distributive justice is an important and effective tool in increasing stability within the state and raising the ceiling of investment, increasing production and equal opportunities for all members of the people, in addition to increasing and accelerating economic growth (10). Accordingly, distributive justice is one of the most prominent types of social justice because it works to achieve a balanced distribution of wealth returns among individuals. The people, regardless of their affiliations and components, which results in eliminating and reducing differences between the people, eliminating poverty and unemployment, achieving development and reaping its fruits.

2. Political Justice

Political justice is related to the shared social and political life that requires the existence of a political authority capable of organizing the relationship between the people and the state by emphasizing the principle of the (social contract) that regulates the nature of this relationship between the two parties, which contributes to protecting societies from the outbreak of disputes and conflicts and the spread of manifestations of violence and the disruption of security resulting from the failure to achieve social justice between the components of one society and its individuals. The just state works on the necessity of agreement in distributing benefits and burdens in society through its political institutions and the laws and legislation that it follows and is keen to implement them fairly among the individuals of its people. As for governments, they are the ones who have the ability to employ their political authority or legitimate political power to achieve social justice in distributing resources and expanding the base of popular participation in public and political life in a manner consistent with the requirements of the

society that gains it legitimacy. It is thus a prerequisite for achieving social justice (11).

3. Economic Justice

It is an important type of social justice, as the achievement of one is closely linked to the other, as all members of society are equal and privileges are not decided for a certain group over another. Economic justice represents that aspect of life related to production in terms of its inputs and outputs, in addition to the right of members of society to participate in production processes. This type of justice is based on three principles, which are (12):

A. The principle of participation: means giving equal opportunities to all members of society to contribute effectively to the production process, whether through work or capital.

B. The principle of distribution: aims to distribute the returns of the production process to economic resources (labor, capital) according to the contribution to it, i.e. it is distributed according to productivity, not according to need.

C. The principle of correction: is concerned with the process of making the necessary corrections to the principles of participation and distribution to reach a fair and balanced economic situation.

Achieving these principles requires combating monopoly and discrimination, removing obstacles that prevent seizing available opportunities, and restricting the tendencies of greed and exploitation. Economic justice is not limited to the fair distribution of income and wealth, but has other manifestations such as (unemployment, health, education, social exclusion, etc.). Therefore, economic justice is the material aspect of social justice, and its achievement means the achievement of a large part of social justice, as it has great importance and urgent necessity, as it addresses the issues that interest the individual in his daily life and society in its continuous endeavor to achieve its needs, desires, and well-being, and to balance rights and duties to achieve social justice in the desired society (13).

4. Spatial (geographic) justice

The first explicit attempt to link justice to geographical terms was by Bledan Davies, David Smith, in his book published in 1968 entitled *Social Needs and Resources in Local Services*. Davies's concept was normative in nature, and designed to evaluate the distribution of local services in relation to the local community, the needs of specific service areas (14).

As for David Harvey, he was one of the first to link place and social justice through his study of cities and the mechanism of distributive justice, and he added the spatial dimension to it and called it spatial justice. Its definitions and concepts have varied, and more than one concept has been mentioned for it, which can be referred to as follows (15):

1. In the broadest sense, spatial justice (inequity) refers to the deliberate and focused focus on the spatial or geographical aspects of justice and injustice. As a starting point, this includes the fair and equitable distribution of socially valuable resources and opportunities to use them in space. 2. Spatial justice in itself is not a substitute for social, economic or other forms of justice, but rather a way of looking at justice from a critical spatial perspective. From this perspective, there is always a spatial dimension relevant to justice, and at the same time all geographies contain expressions of justice and injustice embedded within them.

3. Spatial (un)justice can be seen as both an outcome and a process, with geographies or patterns of distribution being in themselves just/unjust, and the processes that produce these outcomes. It is relatively easy to detect examples of spatial injustice descriptively, but it is much more difficult to identify and understand the underlying processes that produce unjust geographies.

4. Spatial discrimination, resulting from the biases imposed on some populations because of their geographic location, is central to the production of spatial injustice and the creation of permanent spatial structures of privilege and discrimination. The three most common forces that shape spatial

discrimination are class, race and gender, but their effects should not be limited to racial segregation alone.

5. The political organization of space is a particularly powerful source of spatial injustice, with examples ranging from gerrymandering, redefining urban investments, the effects of exclusionary zoning on regional apartheid, institutional housing, the imprint of colonial or military geographies of social control, and the creation of other central and peripheral spatial structures of privilege from the local to the global scale.

6. The economy tends to lead to a redistribution of real income in favor of the rich over the poor, and this redistributive injustice is exacerbated by racism, patriarchy, gender bias, and many other forms of spatial discrimination. These processes can lead to spatial segregation without strict forms.

7. Geographically uneven development and underdevelopment provide another framework for explaining the processes that produce injustice, but as with other processes, it is only when inequality is transformed into more sustainable structures of privilege and advantage that intervention becomes necessary.

8. Perfectly equal and balanced development, complete socio-spatial equality, pure distributive justice, as well as universal human rights, can never be achieved. Every geography in which we live has a certain degree of injustice inherent in it, making the choice of intervention sites a crucial decision for achieving social justice.

Therefore, Harvey sought through his thesis to focus on the basic elements of geography and link them to social justice, such as spatial discrimination, population distribution, and activities in the place, to reveal the nature of the relationship between place and distribution in a fair manner, and to consider it as something conditional on the ongoing processes in society as a whole. These processes are represented by (16):

A. The distribution of income must be in a way that meets the needs of the population within each region in the country.

B. Allocating resources to achieve the maximum possible balance between the regions.

C. Allocating additional resources to the regions to overcome the difficulties they face and resulting from the physical and social environment.

D. The mechanisms followed by the parties (political, institutional, organizational, and economic) should be consistent with the prospects of the future, i.e. achieving sustainable development.

This requires addressing social justice from a spatial perspective and shedding light on regions that may suffer from social injustice (17). Therefore, social justice is closely linked to geography, political systems, the enforcement of laws, human rights issues, and freedoms, in addition to the role of geography in deepening social exclusion due to the emergence of the phenomenon of spatial marginalization*. Harvey focused on the regionalism of justice, which stems from his absolute belief in fair distribution, and through geography, distribution patterns are determined. Geography, in the end, revolves around appreciating distinction, pluralism, and diversity (18). Three basic criteria were classified on which the idea of geographical distribution is based and its role in achieving social justice. These criteria are represented by the following (19):

The first criterion refers to a group of basic needs that remain in constant demand, which are (food, housing, health care, education, social, environmental, and recreational services, and amenities in residential areas and transportation).

The second criterion - the nature of the impact of resource allocation in one region on conditions in another region.

The third criterion is related to geography by linking it to environmental difficulties that may arise in human environments and their impact on human activity, such as floods and earthquakes, for example.

Accordingly, Harvey concludes that social-geographical justice should be based on the following requirements (20):

1. The distribution of income should be as follows:
 - A. The needs of the population in the regions of the state.
 - B. Increasing the allocation of resources to the most deprived regions.
 - C. The allocation of resources to help overcome the difficulties resulting from the political, economic and social environments.
2. The institutional, organizational, political and economic mechanisms should be such that the prospects of the less fortunate regions are as great as possible.

Based on this, spatial justice is a mechanism for achieving justice in distribution with regard to the distribution of income among the population of the state and its regions and providing the basic needs required for the well-being of the population, and this is fundamentally related to the nature of the mechanisms and programs that the political, economic, social and organizational institutions that are managed by the state are committed to.

The third requirement Social justice from the perspective of political geography

Political geography is one of the branches of human geography. It refers to the way in which political systems and structures are analyzed locally and internationally - influence and influence - and the spatial distribution of resources and the nature of the interaction between place and human groups. Hartshorne defined it as (the study of spatial differences and similarities of a political nature as an interconnected part of the total complex of spatial differences and similarities) (21). Political geography is concerned with studying the state in terms of definition and the people because it is the first pillar and the justification and reason for the existence of the state, whether they are citizens or non-citizens. The second pillar is the region, which is also important and has a relationship with social justice because the population is distributed over this region and is supposed to be covered by justice. In addition to the third pillar, the authority because it is concerned with distributing development and its abundance, as it gains the legitimacy of its existence through what it achieves in terms of justice in distribution. It is also concerned with the idea of the state and analyzing its internal functions. Social justice is one of the functions that the state should achieve according to an organization and policies that preserve its survival (22).

This is another reason other than the developments that have occurred in political geography to move towards expanding the topics subject to its analysis, such as the topics that were previously controlled by sociologists, including the topic of social justice, which will be subject to a political geographic analysis to clarify the relationship between them (23). Political geography is concerned with studying the state and its institutions, so the institutional approach emerged that explains the role of institutions, especially the social ones that are based on the political spatial organization in terms of achieving the principle of access to resources, services, jobs and opportunities for all members of the people, in addition to the quality of their management and distribution, as the role of political power in managing and distributing them fairly is not hidden (24).

Neil Brenner says that we, as geographers, must evoke what is called the power of place to achieve human empowerment, integration, democracy and social justice (25). All aspects of human geography (political, economic, social, cultural and environmental) are concerned with studying social justice, and there are three important areas of geographical research that are closely related to the work of politicians, which are (poverty and welfare, gender (and gender, race and ethnicity), therefore geography's interest in social justice has grown since the early seventies of the last century to emphasize its role in achieving regional distributive justice and focusing on the principle of need and the public good in the process of redistributing wealth. This came to reduce political, economic and social inequality on the one hand, (26) and to combat issues of racism that revolve around

discrimination, racial inequality and conflicts and what may result from them in terms of issues of marginalization, exclusion, social injustice and the emergence of separatist tendencies between the geographical regions of the state on the other hand (27).

This clarifies the connection between social justice and distributive justice because it is more compatible with social justice due to the focus on the equal distribution of opportunities and resources among the people of the state based on geopolitical and security components that are compatible with spatial and cultural differences to work on improving the management of spatial disparities in order to secure the nation's satisfaction and permanent independence and to emphasize not ignoring the equal rights of minorities to achieve homogeneity and avoid a social justice crisis (28). Thus, social justice in political geography moves away from the objective (subjective) aspect to the practical. From this perspective, social justice also represents relative equality in indicators of comprehensive development (economic, infrastructure, political, cultural, social, security, and health care) in the partial and total geographic places and regions of the state with indicators that are compatible with development at the national level based on the principles of need and equality (29). It thus depends on the patterns and policies followed by the state to reduce disparities in welfare and social injustice associated with poor distribution (30).

Therefore, social justice requires policies that the state follows in many areas (political, economic, social and environmental) and that are directed towards achieving the comprehensive social goal of enhancing the welfare of the state's citizens by achieving a balance between different interests and providing appropriate conditions for the optimal development of the people (31). The state and democratic political systems implement these policies through institutions that operate in a transparent manner. The state refers to effective, protected and organized authority, which indicates that the state is a type of social organization (32). This organization is maintained through policies that enable it to achieve social justice based on distributive justice among the various classes of the people (33). Achieving social justice in liberal and non-liberal societies, as described by Rawls, is not limited to the policies followed by the authorities, but is also linked to the nature of societies and the characteristics they possess that contribute to their achievement. Therefore, the characteristics of the liberal (democratic) political people were defined by Rawls with several features, which are (34):

- 1. Institutional feature:** i.e. it has a high constitutional democracy to the extent that it serves the basic interests of citizens.
- 2. Cultural feature:** Citizens have common emotional feelings among themselves that urge them to cooperate.
- 3. Moral feature:** i.e. it is necessary for a democratic society to have a moral nature.

The availability of these features plays a major role in establishing justice in a society, which is the first basic structure for achieving it, and the way in which the main social institutions distribute rights and duties and determine the division of benefits resulting from social partnership, as the structure of society has a direct impact on determining the nature of the distribution of basic goods (rights, freedoms, wealth, etc.) and restructuring the benefits and costs resulting from social cooperation.

In addition, the basic principles of social justice in a just society were identified and represent the conditions agreed upon by the parties (government and citizens) as follows (35):

1. The existence of a governmental structure that allows every citizen to play a meaningful role in political decision-making.
2. Guaranteeing the basic human rights of citizens and the basic political rights that allow them to play a meaningful role in political decision-making.
3. Providing the basic needs of citizens in a way that ensures their well-being.
4. Reducing social and economic disparities in a manner consistent with the spirit of reciprocity inherent in the criterion of reasonableness and thus establishing the social foundations of the self.

These conditions included the availability of government institutions based on work structures that contribute to activating the role of the citizen in making decisions that guarantee his political rights, in addition to providing the necessary needs as a minimum to enjoy a life of luxury, in addition to limiting - as much as possible - the disparities between the classes of the people, which makes them feel the prevalence of equality among them, which results in increasing familiarity and harmony in the social fabric on the one hand, and between the citizen and the state on the other hand. As for what relates to the principles by which these conditions are implemented and also achieve social justice in an ideal manner, Rawls proposed two principles that represent the essence of the liberal constitution for countries that seek to achieve social justice among their peoples, starting with the question (What are the most appropriate principles of justice to determine basic rights and freedoms and organize the phenomena of inequality...?) stressing that his first concern in this context is to agree on a principle that organizes these phenomena by relying on the most deeply rooted beliefs in democratic societies regarding basic rights and freedoms and equality of opportunity by representing the essential ones in the original situation. These principles include the following (36).

The first principle: Every citizen has the same right that cannot be exceeded, in his demarcation of the basic equal freedoms sufficient that are consistent with the system of freedoms prevailing in society, and these freedoms are represented by (public freedoms, political freedoms, and freedoms granted by the rule of law).

The second principle: The phenomena of social, economic, and political inequality must fulfill two conditions, which are (the first condition) that inequality must be related to positions and jobs that are available to all according to the principle of equal opportunities, and (the second condition) that the phenomena of inequality achieve the greatest possible interest for the less fortunate members of society.

The first principle has priority over the second principle, as it emphasizes complete equality in freedoms and basic rights that represent a limit that cannot be accepted for the citizens of society. As for the second, it emphasizes the fair equality that came in the first part and its organization according to a fair distribution formula that benefits the poorest citizens in an effort to reduce the disparity between citizens (37). Based on that, these principles seek to consolidate freedoms, including freedoms and basic rights such as (freedom of expression and freedom of thought) and political freedoms such as (the right to vote and participate in politics and political decision-making). If freedoms and basic rights are the essence of the principles of justice, which makes them political par excellence, the government must include them in its legislation and make them the heart of the constitution that regulates the relationship between the authority and the people. Therefore, the state and its authority are responsible for achieving social justice and promoting it among citizens through several considerations that depend on its policies and decisions related to this matter to consolidate the principles of justice and spread equality, fairness and equal opportunities to strengthen feelings of belonging and loyalty to the state and strengthen the social fabric. In short, Political geography examines the power of the state through its analysis of the justice of the state's distribution among its people and regions. Achieving distributive justice leads us to two types of social justice from the perspective of political geography. The first is (horizontal justice), which refers to justice among the people that enhances social integration and increases the cohesion of the fabric that makes up the people's classes. The second is (vertical justice), which is directed from the state to its people and regions. When social justice is achieved with all its foundations and bases, this prolongs the life of the state and gives it legitimacy and increases the people's confidence in the state, which raises the values of loyalty and belonging to the homeland and increases the people's participation in shaping the state's general policy. Most of this enhances the state's power and position, while when distributive justice, which represents the other face of social justice, is not achieved, the state's power is weakened. When there are areas deprived of development and witnessing distributive injustice, especially in peripheral areas, this will weaken the state's power. In political geography, the further we move from the center towards the peripheries, this leads to the state's weakness and exposure to fragmentation and disintegration and its exposure to crises, including: The social justice crisis results in many problems,

including (social discrimination, widening poverty gap, widespread unemployment, regional gap, increasing political, social and economic unrest and instability), which permeates the general situation in the state and its instability and may lead to its weakness.

Results

1. Social justice is a modern concept that has been given attention by political circles because it seeks equality, equal opportunities, and giving everyone his due.
2. Political geography is concerned with studying social justice because it touches on the first pillar of the state, which is the people, the second pillar is the territory, and the third is the authority that directly affects the policies pursued by the state and the mechanism of action of its institutions.
3. The lack of distributional justice results in the emergence of societal problems that threaten the security, sustainability, and stability of the state, represented by unemployment, poverty, and crime.
4. The achievement of social justice is met by the achievement of distributional justice and the reduction of popular and regional disparities at the development level and the provision of basic services to the people.
5. Political geography seeks, through its study of social justice, to achieve a balance in the distribution of resources and burdens between the people on the one hand and the regions of the state on the other.

Recommendations

1. Emphasizing the promotion of social justice by developing plans and strategies that are implemented on the ground in a way that reduces the gap between the classes of the people and the regions of the state.
2. The state shall establish mechanisms to be adopted by the concerned parties to achieve social justice and its principles and foundations.
3. The state shall strive to reduce the phenomenon of spatial marginalization and achieve development to reap its fruits and distribute them in a manner of spatial justice.
4. The state and its authority shall establish policies and activate them legally and its institutions shall commit to them in order to enhance social justice and preserve the security, independence and sustainability of the state.

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