

# R.G. Peffer – Justice as Fair Rights

## (1) BASIC RIGHTS PRINCIPLE

- A. Security Rights
- B. Subsistence Rights

## (2) MAXIMUM EQUAL BASIC LIBERTIES PRINCIPLE

- A. Civil Liberties
- B. Family Rights
- C. Civil Rights

## (3) FAIR POLITICAL REPRESENTATION PRINCIPLE

- A. For Societies Having Fulfilled the Preconditions for Full-Fledged Political Democracy (requires full political rights and their approximately equal worth)
- B. For Societies Not Having Fulfilled the Preconditions for Full-Fledged Political Democracy (requires at least partial political democracy and/or effective consultation mechanisms that transmit the will of the people to the government)

## (4) FAIR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY PRINCIPLE (for educational slots, jobs, careers, etc.) requires

- A. strict laws against overt or intentional discrimination;
- B. universal access to (approximately) equal high-quality education from an early age; and
- C. not letting personal connections with candidates unduly influence such decisions.

## (5) MODIFIED DIFFERENCE PRINCIPLE (stating that the only allowable Economic/

**Material Inequalities must be to the greatest economic advantage of the poorest segments of the population)** but that allowable differences are not to exceed levels that will undermine

- (a) the (approximate) equal worth of political and due process liberties or
- (b) the good of persons' self-respect;  
and this principle
- (a') applies directly to non-able persons and to able persons not having sufficient opportunities to attain this standard of living by their own efforts, but
- (b') applies only indirectly to able adults who do have sufficient opportunities to attain this standard of living by their own efforts (by having background institutions – such as sufficiently high minimum wage laws and fair taxation schemes, as well as universal access to health care and education – that allow them to achieve the specified standard of living by their own efforts).

## (6) SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY PRINCIPLE (e.g. Work Place Democracy) but

- A. this principle does not apply directly to private clubs or associations, small owner-operated or family-operated businesses, or families;
- B. not everyone is guaranteed equal power and authority in the specified large-scale public and quasi- public institution; and
- C. this principle does not automatically entail that all large-scale productive property must be socially owned (that is, state-owned, cooperatives, or community-owned).

