

POWER AND DECISION MAKING :

- NUSSBAUM ARGUES THAT MUCH OF OUR DEMOCRATIC AND DECISION MAKING SYSTEMS TAKE FOR GRANTED AN EQUAL STARTING POINT WHICH IS NOT REALITY.
- HER CAPABILITIES APPROACH ARGUES THAT THE STATE SHOULD AIM TO REDUCE OR REMOVE ANY BARRIERS THAT LIMIT CITIZENS FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE FULLY TO THEIR SOCIETIES.

EDUCATION:

- NUSSBAUM BELIEVES EDUCATION CAN HELP TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO CITIZENS FULFILLING ALL OF THEIR CAPABILITIES.
- SHE LIKES THE IDEA OF SOCRATIC EDUCATION, THAT MEANS SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES THAT ENCOURAGE CONSTANT SELF QUESTIONING AND CRITICAL THINKING ABOUT OURSELVES AND SOCIETY.
- SHE BELIEVES LIBERAL EDUCATION CAN ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO LOOK BEYOND THEIR OWN NARROW BACKGROUNDS AND INTERESTS AND ACT IN THE COMMON GOOD.

KEY THINKERS ON KEY TOPICS

HUMAN RIGHTS:

- NUSSBAUM'S CAPABILITIES APPROACH IS A WAY OF LOOKING AT HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH FOCUSSES ON THE STATE REMOVING IMPEDIMENTS TO HUMAN FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS.
- SHE OUTLINES 10 CENTRAL CAPABILITIES WHICH NEED TO BE IN PLACE FOR ANY CITIZEN TO FULFIL THEIR FULL HUMAN POTENTIAL.
- THE CHALLENGE TO THE STATE IS TO PROVIDE A SOCIETY IN WHICH REGARDLESS OF STARTING POINT ANY CITIZEN CAN ACHIEVE ALL 10.



CULTURE/IDENTITY

- NUSSBAUM'S IS CRITICAL OF THE CUSTOM OF ACCEPTING TRADITIONAL BELIEFS OR NARROW NATIONAL OR CULTURAL IDENTITIES.
- SHE ENCOURAGES THE DEVELOPMENT A SENSE OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP WHERE CITIZENS OF DIVERSE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS BUILD RELATIONSHIPS BASED ON COMMON GROUND.
- SHE SUGGESTS THE 10 CAPABILITIES AS A PLACE TO START.

MARTHA NUSSBAUM

CLASS INEQUALITY:

- NUSSBAUM'S CAPABILITIES APPROACH AVOIDS TACKLING CLASS OR ECONOMIC INEQUALITY HEAD ON.
- BY FOCUSSING ON BARRIERS TO HUMAN CAPABILITIES RATHER THAN MORE SIMPLE ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES NUSSBAUM POSITIONS HERSELF CLOSER TO LOCKE AND RAWLS THAN MARX.

GENDER INEQUALITY:

- NUSSBAUM IS A FEMINIST WHO BELIEVES MILLIONS OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD ARE FRUSTRATED AND BLOCKED IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR CAPABILITIES BY UNEQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.
- IN "SEX AND SOCIAL JUSTICE" SHE OUTLINES FIVE FEATURES OF FEMINISM ADDRESSING ISSUES WOMEN FACE GLOBALLY AND PERSONALLY.