

## Plato's Ideal Community

Lifestyle and education was very different in Plato's time. The class structure was set up in a triangle. The top of the triangle consisted of the guardians. Within the top structure you had both perfect and imperfect guardians. Everyone strived to be perfect but if you failed a test here or there you were an imperfect guardian. Imperfect guardians were loyal to their state and showed great strength and wisdom. Starting early in life they were raised and educated the same way. Whether you were a male or a female did not matter because your education and treatment was the same. Each person was educated in physical fitness where they were taught gymnastics to be strong. That was a primary part of their childhood. Everyone strived to be strong and be in good shape.

They also learned four other subjects all having to do with the meaning of life. The first was poetry, which was taught to develop spiritedness into bravery and teach courage and loyalty. The second was music, which was used to teach individuals gentleness. Math was taught to show how it can be used to perfect battle strategies. Lastly, was philosophy, which taught what was just or unjust, good or evil, and brave or cowardly. This information was taught to every male and female so that everyone was strong and capable of defending the state with their lives.

Life for imperfect guardians was much different than most people. Very rarely was private property given to anyone. The state did however provide common housing for them. They also had common areas where everyone ate together which were also provided by the state. This made the group very cohesive and one big family. They couldn't have their own family so this is all they had.

Spouses were shaved, and mating had been made into a rigged lottery. They tried to make the "best" offspring as possible. The most powerful and strong male would mate with the most powerful and strong female so that their kids would have superior genes and be the best guardian in the future generation. When their children were born they were taken away at birth. They were taken to nurseries to begin their lifestyle and education just like their parents. It was hard for the imperfect guardians, but it was their way of life. You either followed this way of life or did not.

If you chose not to follow this way of life, then you would be a fugitive and must survive on the run by yourself. Growing up in this time made it a lot easier to accept because it was all they knew. They were happy to defend their state because they were raised their whole life this way. They developed their loyalty at such an early age they would do anything for their state. This is what made them cohesive. They all had the same upbringing and teachings. They lived as one big happy community fighting for the same cause.

It's hard to say if Plato's Ideal/Just Community truly aligns the imperfect guardians to have a good life. In our society today, this would never be okay for anyone. But I think the way they were raised and the era they were born into made them okay with it. They saw it as a privilege and honor to protect the place that provided them with comfort throughout their lives. It was the least they could do because the state gave them food, water, and shelter. It was a military based lifestyle and times have changed, but our military still live, eat, sleep, learn, and fight together as a cohesive group.