

## **Contexts, Principles and Social Justice —A Comparison of Miller’s and Walzer’s Pluralist Theories of Justice**

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### **Abstract**

Social justice is one of the most hotly debated subjects in contemporary political philosophy. It is well acknowledged that theorists, such as Rawls and Nozick, have attempted to construct generalist theories of justice. In response, other theorists try to develop contextualist theories of justice. This paper compares Miller’s and Walzer’s theories and explores their respective characteristics and internal consistency. Contextualist theories take their differences in various settings seriously, and their main concerns are: “Distribution of what?” “Distribution by what principles?” and “Distribution under what circumstances?” They both believe that the goods and bads to be distributed are diversified in nature, the principles used to distribute are pluralistic, and the contexts of distribution are multiple. Through the analysis of these three dimensions, we can obtain a better understanding of the theoretical difficulties that a pluralist theory of justice should address.

**Key Words:** Resources, Modes of human relationships, Contextualism, Pluralism, Social justice