St Augustine political philosophy

“The key to moral action is found in the agent’s possession and exercise of free will- the psychological faculty of choice and volition,...

Although God alone is completely free, angels and human beings have free will. Just as our minds can transcend the mere sensible world and rise to the contemplation of eternal truths, so too our wills can transcend the natural order and are able to resist all external influences.

Augustine spells out his basic conception of the will in three theses:

1. He holds that we are responsible only for acts done out of free choice: freedom is necessary condition for the ascription of moral responsibility.
2. The will is completely self-determining
3. We are responsible for not having a good will, since it is within our power to have one.

About the problem of evil:

1. Every case of genuine moral evil in the world stems from the voluntary choices of free agents.
2. Since God bestowed free choice of the will on human beings unconditionally, he ought not, and hence, he does not, interfere with its exercise.
3. It is better for these to be a world in which there are beings with free choice of the will, even at the cost of genuine moral evil, than a world in which there is neither.

There are 4 fundamental forms of grace:

* Salvation
* Good works.
* Perseverance.
* The beginning of faith”

Source of this text:

Peter king, Augustine on the Free Choice of the will, on Grace and Free Choice and Other Writings, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010, p-p: xviiii-xxv

* The natural law: the consistency between reason and common good.
* The eternal law: the rule of divine reason.
* The emergence of political society from the needs of human nature; it is not made by human beings.
* An excellent human being is an excellent citizen who acts according to the common good not the private one.
* The types of regimes vary according to:
* How the regime is ruled?
* Whether or not it is ruled justly?
* A monarchy is a regime that is ruled justly, it is the best regime.
* A kingship is a regime that is ruled by one single individual
* An aristocracy is a regime that is ruled by few
* A republic is a regime that is ruled by the multitude.
* A tyranny is a regime that is ruled by one
* An oligarchy is a regime that is ruled by few
* A democracy is a regime that is ruled by the multitude.

Source:

“Thomas Aquinas: Political Philosophy”,

 <https://iep.utm.edu/thomas-aquinas-political-philosophy/>

Thomas Aquinas political philosophy