Pledge to the Georgia State Flag

“I pledge allegiance to the Georgia flag and to the principles for which it stands: Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation.”

On the banner encircling the three pillars are the words “Wisdom,” “Justice,” and “Moderation”—with each word associated with one pillar. This later led one historian to conclude that “Wisdom” was to apply to the legislative branch in making the laws, “Justice” to the judicial branch in their decisions, and “Moderation” to the executive branch to administer laws in moderation.

Actually, the qualities of wisdom, justice, and moderation with reference to government were first mentioned in chapter 4 of Plato’s Republic. In that work, Plato analyzed four cardinal “virtues” associated with government: wisdom, courage, moderation, and justice. It is possible that the soldier with drawn sword standing between two of the pillars was meant as a symbolic representation of Plato’s fourth virtue - courage. In any event, the 1799 law creating the state seal specifically provides that the man with drawn sword represents “the aid of the military in defense of the Constitution.”

Directions: Reinforce your understanding of the three principles of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Georgia Flag. In each list below, circle the appropriate synonym for each principle.

1. Wisdom
   a. Insight  b. foolishness  c. strength

2. Justice
   a. Restriction  b. anger  c. fairness

3. Moderation
   a. Stupidity  b. knowledge  c. calmness

4. According to the 1799 law creating the Georgia State seal, what does the soldier with a drawn sword represent?