

CSS-2016

Give a critical analysis of Aristotle's classification of state?

CSS-2021

What is the Aristotelian classification of state?

1. Introduction:

Aristotle was born at Stagira, Greece on 384 BC. He was a member of Plato's academy in 367 BCE. He was a tutor of Alexander the Great in 343 BCE. He died at Chalcis in Euboea. The most important work of Aristotle are: Nicomachean Ethics and Politics.

According to Aristotle two types of basic needs require for a man, that are: (i) Ethical and (ii) Economical. To fulfill these needs man have to do three types of cooperation i.e. first shape family, secondly shape a village and third, and most to shape a state. For this Aristotle gave his theory of ideal state.

2. Aristotle theory of State / Polis:

"Man is by nature a political animal
Whoever is outside the state is
either greater than human or less."

- Politics 1:2

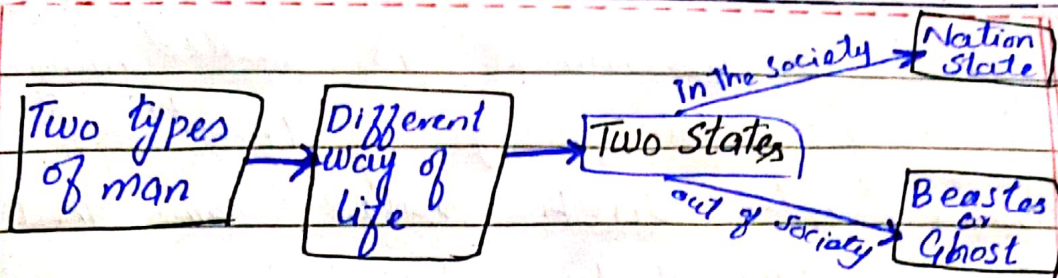
i- Ideal State:

State should be independent. Its population should also be limited. According to Aristotle population should be 15,000 - 100,000. State should have that much territory that can be seen by ruler at a mountain height. Army should be enough to defend its area. Geographically should not be a land-locked state. There should be sea route but not too near to water that others can attack. Education and rule of law are necessary elements of Aristotle's ideal state.

ii- Ruler Purpose based state

According to Aristotle's theory of State, State is divided into two types on the basis of ruler's purpose. These states are:

- (i) Normal State (ii) Perverted State



3. Classification of Government by Aristotle:

Aristotle gave classification of government on the basis of good or normal state and bad state.

It also based on the number of ruler that run the government.

There are six different classes of government given by Aristotle.

No. of Rulers	Good form	Bad form
01	Monarchy	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
many	Polity	Democracy

Aristotle cycle of Government ^{Change:}

Monarchy: When one person rule over state and not a corrupt ruler. He work for respect and honor. Such state lasts for a long period and is one of the good

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form of government is called monarchy.

Tyranny: With passage of time in one man, rule such ruler came that is so corrupted and work for self interests. Such rule not last for too long. This is called tyranny.

Aristocracy:

To topple down tyranny few person combine and form finish tyranny and a good government by few people called aristocracy came in rule. These people also work for people and not corrupted. Aristocracy also last for long time.

Oligarchy:

When these few people become corrupt and work for self interests not for people, this type of govt became perverted and ruled by few people called oligarchy.

Polity:

To finish bad form of few people government, many people gather to and become ruler.

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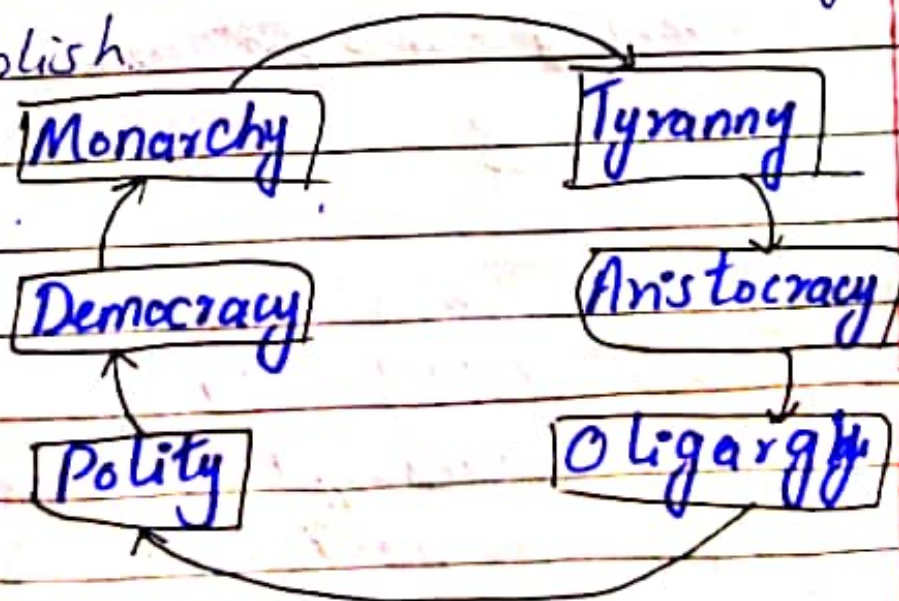
These people also work for the welfare of state. This good form of government Aristotle called it Polity.

Democracy.

Democracy replaces Polity.

Many people govern the state and are corrupted. They work for self-benefits. Aristotle ~~to~~ called this form of government democracy. Cycle repeat:

To finish democracy one person stands ^{for} people and again to gain respect and honor and Monarchy establish.



Aristotle cycle

4. Criticism:

Aristotle's classification of Government/State is also criticised by critics. Some of the criticisms are as follows:

i- Aristotle does not distinguish between Government and State

According to Dr. Garner Aristotle does not distinguish between Government and State. As these both are totally different. State are all same based on four elements:

i.e. Population, territory, Government and Sovereignty but Government can be classified Aristotle did not differentiate both of them.

ii- Unscientific and Quantitative:

Aristotelian classification is just like his Plato's classification based on assumption and character of rulers. His theory is not supported by scientific. His classification is based on spiritual rather than numericals.

iii. Aristotelian classification does not cover all forms of modern form of government:

Aristotelian classification is not applicable on modern country-states.

His classification could apply on small city-states like ancient Greek and Rome. Modern form

of government like Parliamentary, Presidential, unitary, and federal etc are not part of Aristotle's classification of government.

iv. Democracy is a worst form of government is Aristotle's classification.

In Aristotle's classification of government he called democracy worst form, as rule of crowd.

In modern world democracy is most successful form of government. Every country in one way or other try to apply democratic form of government.

✓ B Classification is based on only two principles:

Aristotle classification based on two principles i.e. Numbers of person who rule and self-interest or benefit of community. Making or breaking of government is based on these two aspects only. There are several other reasons and aspects on which a state may be but Aristotle not mentioned except these two.

5 Conclusion:

Aristotle's classification of government was a very excellent attempt in political science's history as it gives pave way for further development. Although, it has some drawbacks but even today his classification of government is applicable in one way or other.

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