

compare and contrast the different political philosophies of Hobbes and Locke. How these are implemented in present day political system and policy making?

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1. Introduction

The Enlightenment era witnessed a profound transformation in the way philosophers presented the nature of government, human society, and the social contract. Two prominent thinkers of this era, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke, offered strikingly different perspectives. Their political philosophies, though rooted in the same intellectual period, stand as contrasting pillars in the landscape of political thought.

Hobbes believed that people are naturally not so nice and need a strong ruler to control them.

On the other hand, Locke thought that people have right of life, freedom, and property. The government should only exist to protect these rights.

2. Different events of era influenced the philosophies of Hobbes and Locke

(a) Thomas Hobbes lived during a tumultuous period in English and European history

That was the time of Charles I, Charles II and James I, the most turbulent time in the history, with political strife, scientific

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advances and philosophical debates that shaped the ideas of Thomas Hobbes. English civil war (1642-1651) was a significant conflict that took place in England, Scotland, and Ireland. It was marked by political, religious, and social tensions, including disputes between monarchy and parliament. As Thomas said, "Me and tear both turns". He wanted peace at any cost, even through absolutism.

(b) Ideas of John Locke were shaped by the events like "Glorious Revolution" (1688)

This was one of the most significant events during Locke's lifetime, which led to the overthrow of King James II and establishment of constitutional monarchy in England.

Locke's ideas are often associated with the Enlightenment, a period of intellectual and philosophical development in the 17th and 18th centuries. The enlightenment emphasized reason, individual rights, and the pursuit of knowledge. Locke's emphasis on individual rights and the social contract was in line with Enlightenment thinking.

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3- Thomas and Locke's perception of "Human nature"

(a) According to Thomas Hobbes, Man is self centered, egoistic and solitary. Man is driven by impulses as animals are; the only difference between animal and man is that man have the faculties of speech and reason. The individual is always obsessed with his personal pleasures and desires. Human nature is to wish unlimited powers. Fear is a motive behind human activities. Fear is inseparable from human nature.

(b) Locke believes in goodness of human nature

To him people are fundamentally decent, orderly and society loving. According to Locke, "All men are naturally in a state of equality and all people are born free."

Desire is the spring of all human acts.

The object of all human action is the gain of pleasure and avoidance of pain. Locke said people are sufficiently rational to see that their best interest lies in mutual and peaceful cooperation.

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4- The difference of ideas on "The State of Nature"

(a) Thomas Hobbes explained a very gloomy picture of the state of nature

The life of a man in state of nature was solitary, poor, and short. It was a state of constant warfare. It was a "war of every man against every man". There was a constant fear and danger of violent death. In the state of nature, might was only right. In it there was no law, no justice, and no distinction between right and wrong. There were no common power to control the activities of men.

(b) According to Locke, state of Nature was pre-political but not pre-social stage

There were no political authority. It was not lawless stage. People were under the control of natural law. According to him, the state of nature is the state of good will and preservation of peace. People did not indulge in war. In the state of nature, people were free and equal. Locke's state of Nature was very much like civil society without a government.

5- Ideological difference in "Nature of contract"

(a) Hobbesian's contract was social and mutual where people agreed to surrender their rights to a common superior.

The main motive behind the contract was man's desire of peace and security. The contract was binding, where people obey the command of authority. The contract was of each with all and of all with each. Sovereign was the product of the contract but he was not a party to the contract. Sovereign derived complete authority.

(b) Locke's contract was specific with no absolute sovereign.

Main purpose of the contract was the protection and preservation of natural rights, life, liberty and freedom. In this contract people surrendered their rights not to any person or group but to the community as whole. Hence, community became superior.

Government is entrusted with certain powers to protect the rights of the people.

6- Their views on "Sovereignty of state"

(a) According to Hobbes, state possess absolute sovereignty

Hobbes believes without the sovereign power, law and order, peace and security cannot be maintained, it is absolute, irrevocable, unlimited and non-transferable. Sovereign himself is above morality. No action of his can be described as immoral or unjust.

(b) Locke emphasized on popular sovereignty

Locke said people have no right to revolt against state, but can revolt against government. The natural rights must be protected by government. If government fails to protect these rights, it deserves to be changed. Locke opposed the idea of absolute sovereignty. Locke's contract implied the rule of majority.

7. Hobbes advocacy of Absolutism and Locke's advocacy of constitutional government

(a) Hobbes justifies Absolutism through the example of "Leviathan"

In the old Testament, Leviathan is a

magnificent creature who reigns over all other creatures. Thus, for the protection of the monsters (people), they need to be governed by a leviathan, that is all powerful supreme authority.

(b) Locke advocates limited powers of government

The main object of people's uniting into a state was the preservation of their natural rights, not to be ruled by an absolute sovereign. Government's powers are limited. Government will work for public interest. It must govern according to the laws. Locke advocated constitutional government.

7. Implementation of Hobbes and Locke's philosophies in present day political system

(a) Hobbesian Influences can be seen in Russia and China

Russia has historically had a strong central authority. The country has history of centralized powers. While it has evolved over time, elements of a strong central government can

be seen in its political system.

China's one-party system, led by Chinese Communist party, represents a authoritarian form of governance.

Others are North Korea, Cuba, Iran.

(b) Locke's influence can be seen in United States, Sweden, Canada

United States is often seen as embodying Locke's ideas in its democratic system. It has a system of checks and balances, and a strong emphasis on individual rights.

Sweden also combines strong government services with a commitment to individual rights. It has a social welfare system.

Canada is characterized by a parliamentary democracy with protection for individual rights, and has a strong tradition of religious and cultural tolerance.

(c) Countries like Germany combines elements of both Hobbes and Locke's philosophies

Germany's political system has a strong government, but it also has a federal republic with a constitution that protects

individual rights and freedoms.

8- conclusion

The political philosophies of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke represent two distinct approaches to understanding human nature, the social contract, and the role of government. Hobbes emphasized the strong central authority to prevent chaos, whereas Locke stressed ^{on} the individual rights and government to protect those rights. These differing views have had a lasting impact on political systems of these days. Modern countries incorporate a mix of ideas from the philosophies of Hobbes and Locke.

Aristotle was the greatest, but not
grateful student of Plato

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Plato is dear, Truth is dear,

May! Truth is dearer than Plato.

(Aristotle)

1- Introduction

Aristotle is often regarded as one of the greatest philosophers in Western history, and his relationship with Plato, is a topic of significant interest and debate among scholars. Aristotle was the greatest student of Plato who studied in "Academy" for twenty years. This association was the most important factor in the shaping of his philosophy. Plato called him "the reader." But, it is also true that their philosophical views differed in important ways and Aristotle sometimes criticized Plato's teachings. Though he was influenced by Plato, yet he was not a blind follower of Plato.

2. Aristotle as the greatest Platonist

Aristotle is regarded as the greatest Platonist. It is no doubt that Plato was an idealist while Aristotle an actualist.

But there is no denying the fact that in

Aristotle's philosophy "There is no page

which does not bear the express of ~~Plato's~~
Platonism?

(a) Concept of state is same for
both Plato and Aristotle

Aristotle considers state as the highest level of community organization which may employ in his struggle toward moral perfection. The state represents the highest manifestation of man's nature in seeking to realize his nature of living in society. Man without state would no longer be a man but a beast.

In the concept of state, Aristotle, like Plato could not get out of the Greek world. The ideal before them is the ideal of Greek state-city.

(b) Aristotle's belief regarding Plato's concept of family.

Aristotle criticized Plato's system of communism of family the most. But he was influenced that "the state must regulate marriage from the angle of age-limit for both the sexes.

The state must regulate population as any undue increase in population will tend towards

disharmony. It should also be compulsory for the state to ensure that the family members are educated properly. He essentially agrees with the basic principles of social restrictions advocated by Plato.

(c) Aristotle's private property with common use, view ~~was~~ is nearer to Plato's communism of property.

Aristotle criticized the Platonic scheme of communism. Still, he advocated that neither should have so much property that its accumulation promotes evil ideas. Property should be regarded as means and not as end. Aristotle is as such neither a socialist nor a capitalist. He pleads that private property must exist but must not be unlimited. He saw in property the actual fulfilment of individuality but in its excessive, the perversion of individuality like Plato.

(d) The Principle of Aristotle's Justice is essentially Platonic in essence.

Aristotle considered state as association existing for a moral and intellectual life.

♥ A life of common action, says Aristotle, is impossible without justice. Both the

Plato and Aristotle, aim at discovering unity and harmony. Both advocates giving a man his due in accordance with his capacity or nature. Both consider justice as functional and therefore moral.

Both explored ethical philosophy. Plato's "Republic" and Aristotle's "Nicomachean Ethics" are two of the foundational works in this area.

(e) Aristotle tried to construct the ideal state on the lines suggested by Plato in his "Laws"

It is certain that Aristotle was convinced of the fact that the ideal can not be attained. Therefore, he was more concerned with the ideals of the good state. It was significant in the sense that the events and experience had convincingly a salutary effect on the views of Plato.

It has very aptly been remarked that

"On the fundamentals of his political philosophy, Aristotle was a greatest student of Plato"

He accepted the greatest influence of Plato to a very great extent.

3 Aristotle as ungrateful student of Plato : a critic of Plato

In the opinion of Judd Harmon, Plato and Aristotle, teacher and pupils, disagreed on many points but not on all. Aristotle protests Plato's lacks of practicability.

The Principle objective of statesman should be, says Aristotle, the establishment of best practicable state.

The criticism levelled against him as follows:

(a) He criticizes the concept of unity of state advocated by Plato

Plato seeks to audience unity to make the state more peaceful, purposeful and perfect. This conception of state, according to him, can be achieved by if diversity in the state is eradicated.

Aristotle criticizes this concept as state is a plurality. State is made up of so many ones of different natures. It is never a singular entity.

(b) The difference in training guardians and artisans will create a gulf

Plato's educational philosophy, as seen in works like "The Republic" was focused on

creating a harmonious society through the education of guardian classes. His educational system was an authoritarian system.

The education of guardian classes will inculcate in them a feeling of superiority.

This will create a gulf between the guardians on the one hand and the artisans classes on the other hand.

(c) Aristotle rejects the platonic concept of origin of state

Plato believed that the state had an artificial origin, arising from a social contract among individuals who sought to secure their basic needs. State is a result of rational planning by philosopher-king.

Aristotle argued for a more naturalistic origin of state. He believed that state is not artificial creation rather a natural growth of human social nature.

According to Aristotle, humans are political animals that live together in communities thus forming a state. A state is a supreme association of individuals, arises from the basic human need for social organization.

(d) Aristotle reflects the concept of communism of family

Abolition of political families will destroy the very basis of state. Making a family of the whole state is impossible through communism of wives. Child of all get love from nobody, leads to division among members.

(e) Plato's idea of common property is the root of disputes

Plato proposed the idea of communism of property that property cause diversion of philosopher kings and guardians. Aristotle called it the root of disputes and problem. According to him, property is an essential source of pleasure and virtue. Conflicts are not caused by property but due to wickedness of human nature. Communism may solve the old problems but will create new ones.

(f) Plato's neglect of lower class is woeiful lower class is excluded altogether from his system of education and communism Aristotle in this way holds Plato guilty of creating a rift between the guardian and non-guardians. Platonic system is, therefore, equivalent to dividing the state

into two hostile camps.

(g) Plato's rule of philosophers is abandonment of the rule of law.

According to Plato, philosophers are above the law. What they say is law. This leads to abandonment of rule of law as those are not accountable before anyone. According to Aristotle, Plato's supremacy of law is ~~undoubted~~ as all the supreme power belongs to philosophers.

4-Conclusion

Aristotle was indeed a great student of Plato, and he undoubtedly learned a great deal from his mentor. While they shared some common ground in areas like ethics and politics, they also had significant differences, particularly in view of communism and absolute authority of philosopher king. In conclusion, Aristotle's relationship with Plato was complex and characterized by both admiration and criticism.