

Q) Critically Analyze the Aristotelian Classification of state?

### Introduction:

Aristotle was a son of a physician and a student of the great philosopher "Plato". He was born in "Macedonia" and studied in the Academy of Plato in "Athens". He gave the theory of state which is based on scientific studies as he was a biologist. He is known as the "father of Political Science" because he studied different systems of government from basic levels. His famous work is "Polis". He established his own Academy known as "Lyceum".

### Theory of state:

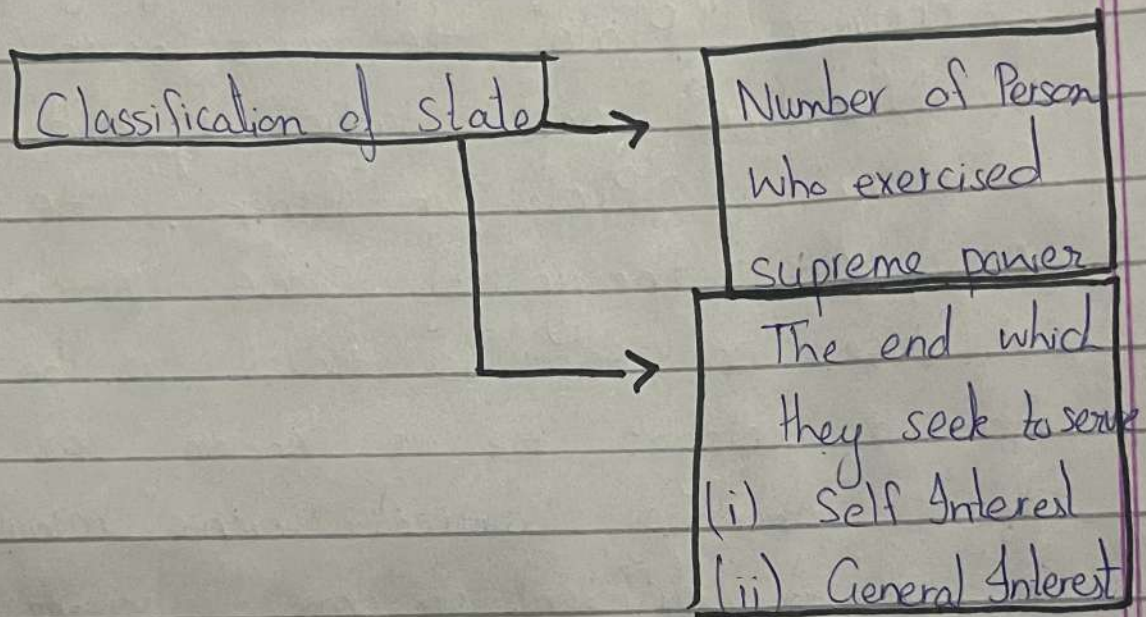
Aristotle never meant to develop Plato's ideal state. So he gave his own theory which is "Theory of state". According to his theory (Stia) State means to an end. He wanted to understand the state in which he is living and gave some

for it.

"State is Mean to an end"  
Aristotle

## Aristotle's classification of state

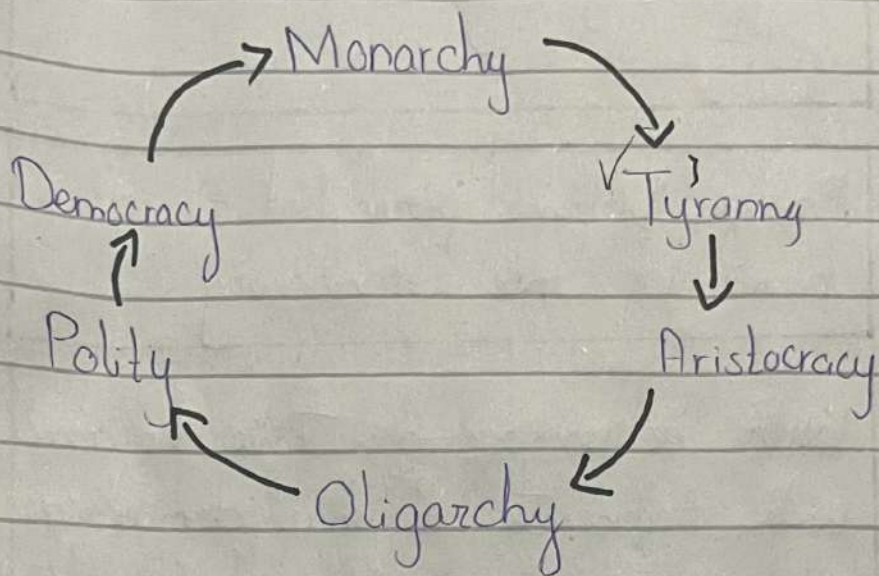
Aristotle classified his state on two basis:



Number of Person	General Interest	Self Interest
one	Monarchy	Tyranny
few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many Only	Polity	Democracy

According to Aristotle "Democracy" is the worst form of government because it degenerates.

# Cycle of Political change



## Understanding the classification of Aristotle's theory of state :

Superior person will emerged as a king, Monarch will be established

He will started working for self-Interest, Tyranny will be established

People will not tolerate Tyranny for so long, Aristocracy will be established

Again, after some time Aristocracy will start exploiting & converted into oligarchy

When Opportunity came, people will make a successful revolt against Oligarchy & <sup>will</sup> Establish polity.

Polity became perverted & converted into democracy.

With the passage of time democracy will degenerate & thus democracy disappears. Again Monarchy will be established.

## Good vs Worst Form of Government.

According to Aristotle there are three forms of constitutions which are good and three forms of constitutions which are bad.

"The right forms of governments are those in which one, few or many govern for the "common interest. While bad forms of governments are those in which one, few or many govern for self interest."

He called "Polity" a true/good form of government and "Democracy" a bad form of government.

### Ultimate purpose of Theory:

According to Aristotle state is not an end its a means to an end.

So what is end? End is the happiness of citizens. It's a virtuous life of citizen.

### Critical Appraisal of Classification of theory of state.

#### No Application in Modern World:

1- Aristotle's classification of state is not applicable in Modern World. In Russia, After the Monarchy, dictatorship of communists party was established.

In Germany, After World War I, Democracy was established when there was a rule of an Emperor. His cycle of Political change couldn't apply in the Modern World.

2- No differentiation between state & Government:  
Aristotle didn't clarify

the difference between the state & Government. His state sought to be a government rather than a state

3- Not applicable to Ideocracy or Theocracy

His classification of state is not applicable to Ideocracy or Theocracy.

4- Justification of slavery & Exclusion of women:

He justified slavery as an important element. He stated that slavery is important for state's interest.

According to Aristotle Women are inferior and men are superior.

In the "Politics" he states that:

"As regards the sexes, the men is by nature superior & female is inferior. The male is ruler and female is Subject."

Aristotle

This creates inequality in a society.

Modern Relevance:

Fundamental rights in the constitution:

Fundamental rights

in the constitution of Pakistan ensures the happiness & virtuous life of people. The ultimate purpose of Aristotle's theory is happiness of citizens.

### **Downfall of Srilanka's Government:**

According to Aristotle when government starts exploitation & work for their own interest. People will overthrow that government. Same happens in the Srilanka in which citizens of Srilanka overthrow the Government after a strike and protest of three months.

### **Democracy a worst form of Government.**

UK has legal obligation and cannot announce its exit from European Union. Besides this, UK left the EU through Referendum. Degenerative democracy works for self-interest. The will of the Majority is sovereign, not the law.

### **Conclusion:**

Aristotle's Politics and his theory will remain relevant to the world because it was based on scientific studies. He will always be

Known as "Father of Political Science"

Aristotle's believes that citizens shouldn't prefer self-interest. They should prefer community's interest first to achieve common goals.