

x ————— x

Q2) Explain the contributions of Aristotle regarding state and governance. Examine its relevancy in the present time.

4) Introduction:-

Aristotle, famously referred to as the father of political science, has greatly contributed to the subject. His understanding of the state, constitutions and governance has laid the bricks of the foundation of this discipline. Like other Greek philosophers, he also believed that state comes into existence for the sake of life and continues

for the sake of good life. Furthermore, his political philosophy is also quite relevant in the contemporary global politics.

Relate your headings to the qs statement

2

Aristotle and his view on State
Aristotle views the state as natural. According to him, the state is a necessary condition for all humans. Like Plato, he doesn't differentiate between state or society and, in a similar fashion, considers it to be essential for good life. Thus, in his view:

"The state is a necessary condition of a good life."

A human being cannot survive in isolation and thus establishes household. Similarly, a village is formed when a family expands. And when such villages are formed, a state comes into existence. Due to this, a society becomes organised and people can meet their needs. That is why existence of state is as important as existence of family or village. Unlike humans, he viewed state as being able to meet all facets of a good life.

2.1

State relation with Man

He believes that man is a political animal. He means that human beings become different from animals only if they

exist in a state. For humans, satisfaction does not cease at survival; the constant aspiration to lead a good life makes them political beings by default. He says, "He who does not live in a state or who does not need a state is either a beast or a god."

2) The State was born to satisfy the needs of a man. Aristotle is known for his dictum that "State is prior to man", who appears before the state. Still, since it is the state that makes him capable of completing his needs and fulfilling the objective of a good life, thus, the state is given priority over the man. An individual without a state is incomplete and it is the state that makes him whole (Gandhi's analogy of whole and part). Aristotle also draws a similar kind of relation by giving example of organ and organism. Just as each organ performs specific functions, similarly, the state ensures the communication of various individuals, where the division of labour ensures cooperation and harmony in society.

Link your arguments to the qs asked.

3) Aristotle and Governance — Aristotle's classification of Governments and constitutions:-

Aristotle was troubled by the instability that existed in Greek city-states' governments. He studied and analysed over

158 case histories among which the case history of Athens is important source to understand his classification of constitutions. It can be understood based on two factors:-

(i) Number of individuals ruling the state :- Whether it is one, few or many ruling the state.

(ii) Intent of the ruler :- Whether the ruler is ruling for State's interest i.e. normal form of government or for self-interest i.e. perverted form of government.

3a) Aristotle classification of Government.

	<u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u>	<u>SELF INTEREST</u>
* The <u>ONE</u>	Monarchy/Kingship (ideal form)	Tyranny/Despotism (perverted form)
* The <u>FEW</u>	Aristocracy (ideal)	Oligarchy (perverted)
* The <u>MANY</u>	Polity/Constitutional democracy (ideal)	Democracy (perverted)

3.3) Aristotle's cycle of change

According to him, without any adequate checks on a ruler's power,

no form of government would be stable. He believes that,

"Power and virtue cannot co-exist."

And hence, he provided the cycle of change of governments over time.

(i) kingship turns to tyranny when there is absence of control over monarch's power.

Monarchy

• Polity decays in democracy when too

many men seek their self-interest.

Democracy

Tyranny

• Tyranny leads to rebellion or revolution

by a few, forming aristocracy.

Polity

• Greater many rebels against oligarchy supersede it with polity.

Aristocracy

Oligarchy

• Aristocracy degenerates to oligarchy

" In the end, a single individual who seems virtuous establishes monarchy and hence the cycle continues in a circular motion."

(3.4) Governance and Administration in State.

While portraying the administration arrangements of ideal state, he depicts its three kinds of sections and capacities. These all are part of his democracy.

(i) Gathering → The gettogether that settles on issues identified with administration i.e. the assembly.

(ii) Magistracy → Rulers and managers whose occupation is to control the public authority i.e. the chief.

(iii) Legal Executive → Third organ of parliament, the legal officials who play out the errand of apportioning equity.

Even in present day these three make up the administration framework.

[3.5] Justice and State.

Justice in a state can be measured by its capacity to serve the general interests of the people. Aristotle believed in concept of distributive justice i.e. fair distribution of benefits and burdens among the members of the community.

Education and State

3.6) schooling is the most impressive weapon of making men great, to prepare them for goodness. His theory of education for every citizen is given in a pattern of 7 years:-

- Age
- 7 — 14 years
 - 14 — 20 years
- } given by the State

Focus

- 7 — 14
 - schooling of activity and music
 - preparation of body and soul
 - advancement of moral characteristics
- 14 — 20

- 14 — 21 years → to give scholarly and military preparation.

3.7) Rule of law :- Aristotle state is dependably constitutionally managed. According to him, great state should have a definitive sovereign law. He says:-

" The rule of law is superior to the rule of the individual, because the law is such a conscience which is not affected by the will of the individual!!

④ CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF ARISTOTLE'S
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.

Aristotelian concepts still serve as the guiding principles for understanding political philosophy today. It is relevant in the contemporary global politics.

Although his logical hypotheses were for the most part wrong, yet his idea is as important in our present society.

In Aristotle's political philosophy the key to an ideal state is a balance that is between democracies and oligarchies. So, the governance system will be composed of involving traits of both. The check and balance of the American constitution are greatly influenced by this concept of Aristotle.

4.1) Relevance in Constitutionalism - It is the main relevance. Aristotle favours a blended political framework. He gave the concept of a mixed constitution as solution to prevent instability and form a lasting form of governance. He employed his idea of the "Golden Mean" to create stability. In his book, "Ethics", he explains Golden mean as a middle path between two extremes. His solution is the combination of rule of few and rule by many. He disregarded Monarchy as it would be corrupt from absolute power. Aristocracy would suit a chosen minority, who are rich and educated would make the rules.

However, in case of no checks, it would deteriorate, so to prevent that he suggested that decisions made by

aristocracy should be ratified by the ordinary
many. He says:-

The people, though individually they may
be worse judges than those who have special
knowledge, are collectively good.

4) Golden Mean the Constitutional Democracy
This judicious mixture between aristocracy and
polity / democracy, embodies his belief in the
Golden Mean formula. In modern times,
his formula is arguably referred to as
Constitutional democracy where the competent,
rich and educated rule but the ordinary
citizens check them from exceeding their
power by ratifying their decisions. The American
protected arrangement of balanced governance owes
a lot of impacts to the Aristotelian
hypothesis both direct and indirect way.
Some similarities are seen in the English constitution
too by some scholars. It addresses a harmony
among monarchy and aristocracy and fuses
a few components of majority rules system.

4.3) Existence of law of nature:-

His concept of distributive justice is still
a guiding principle to ensure the proper working
of a state system. It unifies them all multiple
diversities of a state under one rule of law. It
guides a citizen to recognize their limits and
act accordingly. Otherwise, state treats them
according to rule of law. Thus his book
"Politics" is the guiding principle for it.

44) Individualism and Empiricism — 11/11

practicing ideologies

He was supporter of the view that one ought to be useful for one's own good, not for any other individual. According to him, this can be done through participation and subjection to the state. He cannot have privileges separated from the state. In return, State ensures provision of his fundamental rights. Thus, he revisits the organic theory of individualism which later formed basis of "liberalism", which is a still practicing ideology.

Similarly, his concepts of scientific discovery and empiricism are still relevant in the modern world.

45) Aristotelian democracy and Pakistan

History of democracy in Pakistan since its inception has gone through many ups and downs. It has faced many problems to become democratic amid facing military interventions as well. Pakistan, to become a strong and successful democracy still needs to fulfill the pre-requisites for a good democracy. This includes political consciousness among citizens, strong public opinion and fundamental rights as well. For democracy to flourish, Pakistan also needs to overcome the present political instability.

Traces of Aristotelian democracy have been

found in the democracy of Pakistan but unfortunately the entrenched but successful democracy. One can say that we are still far from achieving a stated ideal. In an opinion it was

Aristotle would rejoice in the grave to see both, Pakistan's National Assembly and the Senate, being populated by the rich. (Ahmed Javed, Aristotelian democracy and Pakistan, 2015).

Improve the references, paper presentation, headings quality and the relevance of arguments

⑤ Conclusion :-

Aristotle's contributions will always remain relevant because he formed the basis of philosophy and scientific ~~method~~ methods to serve the world political affairs. His most noteworthy effects can be found in his formation of a rationale framework, which still proves its relevance to the present time system of state and Governance.