

What is Aristotelian Classification of state?

### Introduction:

Aristotle was a student of Plato. Like him, he presented his own political philosophy and classified the state. He described the best form of government and the cycles of governments which evolved after a period of time. In his classification of govt, he gave the best forms of governments such as monarchy, aristocracy and polity. Along with that their perverted forms such as tyranny, oligarchy and democracy. In which he described the polity as the best form of government.

## Aristotle's Classification of state:

Aristotle has given the classification of government according to their number of rulers, good form and the bad form of that government.

No. of ruler	Good form	Bad form
1	Monarchy	Tyranny
few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
many	Polity	Democracy

Best form of government

1. Monarchy as good form of government by one ruler.

Aristotle has described that if the ruler or king rule the state that he rule according to constitution. The ruler give the rights to people and there is rule of law, then the monarchy is good form of government.

## 2- Tyranny as bad form of monarchy

In tyranny, the monarchy which is ruled by one ruler is turned into bad government. The ruler does not follow rule of law and the people are not given rights in state.

## 3. Aristocracy run by a few a good form of government.

In aristocracy, there is not one ruler like monarchy, but more than 1 people rule over it. In this form of government, the citizens enjoys the justice and rule of law prevails.

## 4. Oligarchy as a perverted form of aristocracy.

Aristotle describes the oligarchy is run by more than one ruler but it's bad form of government. It is despotic form of government. Citizens do not

enjoy freedom and rights.

### 5. Polity as best form of government by Aristotle:

Aristotle describes the polity as the best form of government in his classification of state. It is run by many people. Rights and powers are distributed in multiple people. Citizens enjoy freedom, equality and supremacy of constitution.

### 6. Democracy as perverted form of polity:

In his last form, Aristotle said it:

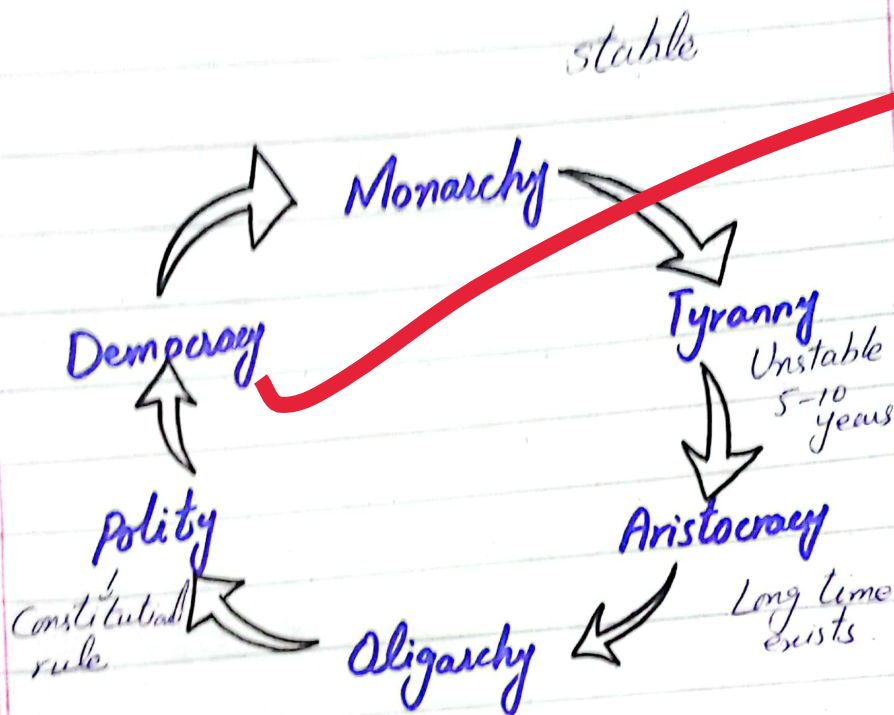
“

It is government of mob”

(Aristotle)

In this government, no law and justice exist.

# Aristotle's Cycle of state:



## Evolution of states from one form to another:

Aristotle has described that state never exists always in one form it changes

from one form to another. From monarchy it perverts into tyranny a rule of dictator. Next it transforms into aristocracy, a few people take control of state and later when they become corrupt, the state changes into oligarchy. Later by revolution, a constitutional government of multiple people emerges as polity. But when this form becomes corrupt. It transforms into mob as democracy.

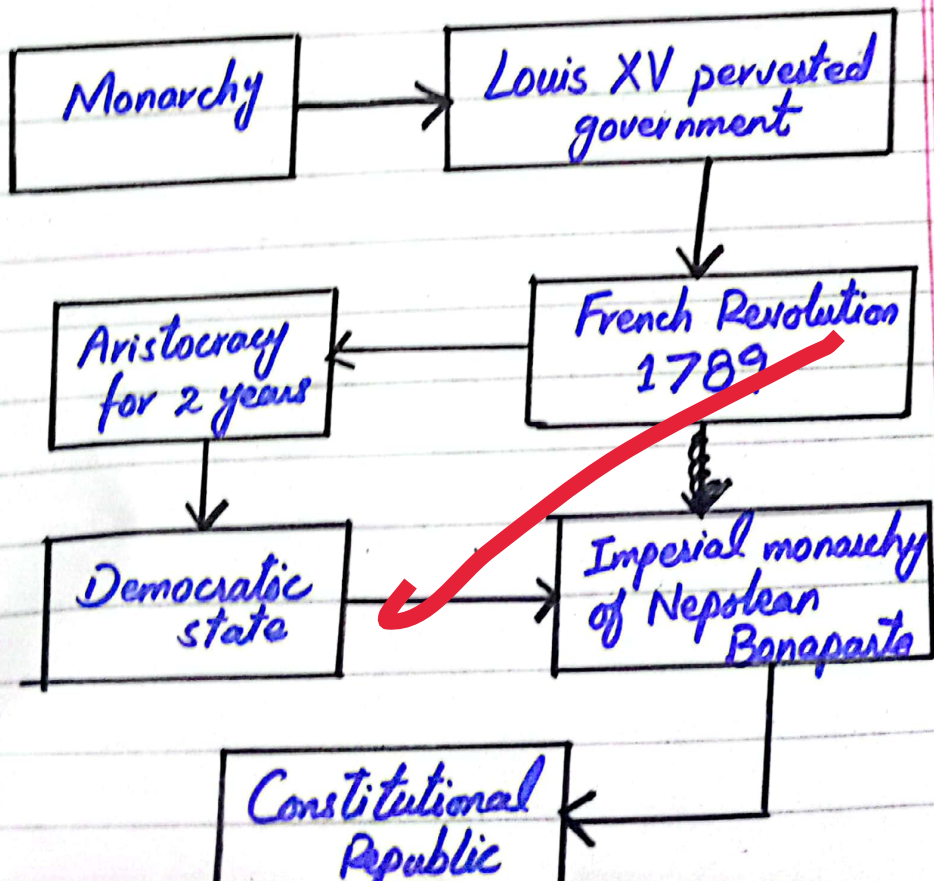
“ We shall only be concerned with that sort of life, which most men are able to share, and a sort of constitution, which most men are able to enjoy. ”

(Aristotle)

Example of Aristotle's cycle of states in real world:

Aristotle's cycle of states can be seen

France, before the French Revolution 1789, the France was ruled by Kings, whose government was perverted by King Louis XV. His monarchy was overthrown in French Revolution. Then the aristocracy established which lasted for 2 years and later democratic state established. The reign of terror was ended with the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. He established imperial monarchy. But it was overthrown and later it was constitutional Republic.



In any philosopher's question,  
what to write before conclusion  
criticism on his theory or, critical analysis  
or both?

## Critical Analysis:

Aristotle had describes the 6 forms of government and three of them as perverted form, but he could not succeeded to distinguish between state or government.

In addition, he called polity as best of government of many people but there is great confusion, it is now called democracy. Its case is

**England** which is monarchy, and **USA** which is republic. Both are democracies

Discuss the critical analysis in more detail. Add positives and negatives of this classification

## Conclusion:

In the political theory, Aristotle classified the states as monarchy, aristocracy and polity where there perverted forms are Tyranny, oligarchy and democracy - respectively. He stated that these state never remains same in one form. With the passage of time they evolve from one form to another just like the France.

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