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Q-2. Explain the contribution of Aristotle regarding the state and governance. Examine its relevancy in the present time.

Ans. Aristotle's contribution to the state and governance is highly appreciated. He explains both state and governance by his rationality and scientific bent of mind which is still being appreciated. His contribution to the state and governance left a mark in the history of political science which paved the way for the coming generations.

Aristotle propounded a theory of ideal state in response to his teacher Plato and he started his theory by explaining human

nature and profoundly discuss it further.

1. Context

Aristotle was the disciple of Plato and studied in his institute "Academy". Plato gave a theory of state which Aristotle criticized and claimed that it is an unrealistic kind of state which is, in fact, a utopian state. He was greatly impressed by Plato's some ideas and thoughts but not completely followed his theory. Aristotle has a scientific bent of mind and so, he adopted a deductive approach to study state and his theory of state. He started his theory by explaining human nature.

2. Human Nature:

According to Aristotle, "Man is a social animal." He cannot live without

Society. He is social, rational and wise and takes part in society on the basis of his rationality.

3. Postulates of State:

According to Aristotle, there are three postulates of state.

- (i) - The state is an organic structure. It functions like an organ and all its parts work together to make it functional.
- (ii) - The state exists for the welfare of the people.
- (iii) - The state is the highest institute of all institutions.

4. Ideal State

Aristotle explains the state in the following manner.

1. Population

Aristotle says that the population of an

ideal state should be small not large. because the large population becomes difficult to control. It should be in such a number that the people should meet and see each other easily.

(2). Territory:-

Aristotle says that the territory should be moderate enough that it can be easily defended. To him, it should be as such that a ruler can easily look at it while standing over a cliff.

(3). Geographical Location:-

According to Aristotle, the state should not be a landlocked state. It should be near

the sea so that trade will be easy but not so close near that there is danger of attack from the rival.

(4) Education:-

Aristotle gives the state-controlled education in three stages, which are cradle stage, primary and middle stage. To him, the purpose of education is not just to gain knowledge but to seek pleasure and happiness. He gives importance to gymnastics, art, music, Maths, philosophy and military training.

(5) Division of Society:-

He divides the society into two classes, which are slaves and citizens. He says that slaves should control art and agriculture, while

the citizens should take
the responsibility of religion,
military and govt.

6) Property:-

Aristotle says that
property should be accessible
to all the people in
an ideal state because
it is the need of the
people to stay people away
from attaining property, will
lead to many problems
and unfair distribution.

7) Constitution:-

He says that a
Constitution is an integral
part of an ideal
state. It defines the
duties of the govt
and pertains fundamental
rights of the people. A
good constitution is that
Constitution which is

dynamic and should be amended due to the changes in the society.

5. Contribution to Governance

Aristotle contributes to governance in a very logical and defined way after observing almost 158 states and a lot of travelling. He observed many states and divides them into six groups. He explains the system of governance in two ways.

(i). Quantity:-

Aristotle defines the state in a number of rulers who govern them.

(ii). Quality:-

He defines the states by discussing the

interests of the ruler, whether the ruler governs or works for his own selfish interests or national interests.

<u>No of rulers</u>	<u>National Interests</u>	<u>Selfish Interests</u>
One	Monarchy	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many	Polity	Democracy

Aristotle explains these types of governance and gives a cycle of government.

He says that if a ruler works and governs for national interests, it is called Monarchy and that one ruler starts working for his own selfish interests and becomes corrupt, then the government is changed into tyranny.

He says that after
sometime, the tyranny is
succeeded by a few
people who work for the
public interest and this is
called aristocracy. Then, it
also gets perverted and
is change into oligarchy which
works for its own interests.

Then, after sometime,
oligarchy is overruled by
many people who work
for the welfare of
the society and this
is called polity and
those people get corrupt
and perverted and leads
to democracy. So, democracy
is that kind of government
which works for their
own selfish interests. After
a while, this democratic
form of government changes
into monarchy in which
only one ruler works.

for the welfare of the people and this cycle goes on like this.

According to Aristotle, the best form of government is Monarchy but not practicable and is not followed and polity is least ~~admirable~~ admirable by him but more practical form of government. He says that there is always a fear that the government will change into another form of government that means that there is not permanency in its nature.

(iii) - Revolution:-

Aristotle says that every government changes with the passage of time and this change is called revolution.

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(ii) - **Causes of Revolutions.**

There are two causes of revolution according to Aristotle.

1. General Causes:

To him, there are some general causes in some governments as the rulers becomes unable to provide the property rights of the people and not even give protection to it.

2. Particular Causes:

In democratic form of government, a group of people i.e. demagogues arise attack rich and build hatred among people against them which further leads to revolution.

(iii) - **Prevention of Revolution**

The revolution can be prevented in the following ways according to Aristotle.

- (ii). The government should maintain law and order in the society.
- (iii). It should not deceive the public at all.
- (iii). It should protect the public from foreign attack.
- (iv). There should be a public office which is transparent as well.
- (v). General offices should be open to public and there should be no monopoly.
- (vi). Education should be provided to all citizens.

3 - Relevancy to Modern Times

Aristotle's contribution to government and State has great relevancy in the modern ~~wa~~ age in many ways which are mentioned below.

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1. Organic View of State:

He gives an organic idea of state and says that the state is an organ and functions like an organ and all its institutions contribute and help the state to function in an efficient way. This is the most acceptable theory by the political scientists now-a-days.

2. Father of Political Science:

Aristotle is the first person who gave the systematic theory of political science. He paved the way for the coming people to study and observe political science in a new way and more deductive manner.

3. Classification of State:

He was the first person who classifies the state into six types which

is, in fact, kind of governments and it still helps people to identify them on his given classification. There are some governments who are monarchy, democratic etc as there is democracy in US, India and Pakistan and Monarchy in Indonesia.

4. Rise of Middle Class:-

Aristotle gave importance to middle class and said that it could play role in prevention of revolution. So, today, middle class is very powerful and can turn the tables at any time and anywhere.

5. Concept of distributive Justice:-

He gave concept of distributive justice that whoever does good to the state, the state should appreciate him. It means that state

Should appreciate one on the basis of one's contribution. So, today, every state acknowledges the contributions of its people and appreciates them by giving them various honours or privileges.

To conclude, it can be said that Aristotle gave a mammoth contribution in the field of political science by discussing state and governance and gave them new place and direction to stabilize. The part played by him in this regard is still relevant today in one way or the other.