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Critically evaluate Aristotle classification of State and Government

Outlines Introduction

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(a) Principles of Classification

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③ Defects in Classification

(a) Confuse State with Government

(b) Not valid for modern States

(c) Dr Leacock and Seely opinions

(i) not explaining difference
between Constitutional monarchy and
monarchy

(ii) fails to explain difference
between Constitutional monarchy
and democracy e.g UK

(iii) cannot explain presidential
and parliamentary form of
Government

(iv) cannot differentiate between
Unitary and Federal form of Gov

④ Conclusion

(1)

Introduction

Aristotal classification of State and Government is the first systematic but not scientific classification. It is different from J.A.R Marriott and Dr. Leacock classification because their classification are more comprehensive in nature.

Aristotle classify State and Government on the basis of number of people and how they exercise the supreme power of the state. It was criticize by many philosopher such as Dr. Leacock, Seely and Garner. Aristotle didnot give a comprehensive overview on state, such as to explain difference between Despotism and monarchy, democracy and Constitutional democracy, presidential and parliamentary, and federal and unitary form of government

Moreover, Aristotle's Classification is suitable for Greek City-states not for modern States.

(2) Explanation:

The Aristotelian Classification is based on two principles. The one form change into another when king use/exercised for self interest. So, people starts uprising and topple the government and then establish new form of government which are given in detail.

(a) Principles of Classification

⇒ The number of Peoples exercising supreme power in the state

⇒ The Supreme leaders or king exercise power for the welfare of state or for self interest.

(b) Forms of Government (Aristotelian)

Classification Graph: ~~dis~~ given below

Monarchy

When a single person exercise Supreme power

for the welfare of state and individual

Tyranny

When a king exercise Supreme

power to protect his own interest

Aristocracy

When few person exercise Supreme

for the welfare of state and individual

Oligarchy

The perverted form of

Aristocracy

Polity

When many people exercise Supreme

power for the welfare of state and individual

Democracy

The perverted

form of Polity

(S)**DEFECTS**

(a) Confuses State with Government

Aristotian classification confuses

the concept of state with

government. it cannot differentiate

between state and government

(b) Not valid/Suitable for modern state

It is only for Greek city-state

not valid for modern state because the domains and objectives of modern state are different from Greek City states.

(E) Dr Leacock and Seely opinions on Aristotle classification.

Dr. Leacock and Seely criticize Aristotelian classification in terms of modern forms of government such as, monarchy, constitutional monarchy, democracy and unitary and federal form of government.

(a) fails in differentiating between monarchy and constitutional monarchy. Aristotelian classification of state

and government fails to explain constitutional monarchy and monarchy.

(b) fails to explain constitutional monarchy and democracy.

Aristotelian classification cannot explain constitution and democracy difference.

E.g. UK has constitutional monarchy

but called a democracy.

(c) fails to explain parliamentary

and presidential form of government

The classification cannot give idea or explain the concept of parliamentary and presidential form of government.

(d) Cannot explain Unitary and federal form of gov
it cannot explain the unitary and federal form of government.

(4) Conclusion

In a nutshell, Aristotelian classification is valid for and old Greek City state but not suitable for modern states. Because the interest and objectives, problems and solution are quite different from old states. It is also merely to explain the constitution of state.