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~~App. 2020~~

BATCH: 378.

Q: Give a Critical Analysis of Aristotle's classification of Governments.

Ans: Classification of Government
By Aristotle - Critical Analysis

1- INTRODUCTION:-

Aristotle (384 - 322 BC) was a famous Greek writer and critic. Aristotle focuses mainly on classification of government. He read 158 constitutions of his time. He classify government in his book "Politics" on the basis of two principles, one is based on number of rulers to be rule on a state while another is the benefits directed from this ruling (self-empowerment or social benefit). His classification of government is best illustrated in table below:-

No. of rulers	Whose	Benefited
	pure Form	Perverted Form
One	Monarchy	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many	Polity	Democracy

Aristotle favours polity the most, because in Polity rulers are selected by the people not on the basis of wealth or family rule. His classification of government is applicable in various modern contemporary states. His classification has various positive and negative consequences.

2. POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS OF ARISTOTLE CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT:-

Aristotle classification of government was applied in various states. According to Aristotle government should serve for the people not for their self-interest.

Following positive implications of Aristotle classification of government are:-

2.1) Ethical Basis of Government:-

Just society based on its government ruling system whether rulers govern state for personal interests or public good. This moral criterion remains relevant today in evaluating governments.

Scandinavian countries (Sweden) are often praised for governance focused on social welfare, transparency and public good, aligning with Aristotle's concept of polity.

2.2) Realistic Understanding of Corruption and Power

Aristotle accurately predicted how governments could deteriorate. His warnings about tyranny, Oligarchy, and populist democracy remain valid today. For instance Russia's oligarchic structure under Vladimir Putin aligns with Aristotle's concerns about wealth concentration in a few hands leading to power abuse.

2.3) Concept of a Mixed Government (Polity) as an ideal Model:-

Aristotle advocated for a mixed government that balances democracy, aristocracy, and monarchy to prevent corruption. Many political systems like U.S. Government combines democratic elections (House of Representatives), aristocratic

elements (Senate, Judiciary) and executive resembling polity - leadership (President), Aristotle's concept of

3. Weaknesses and Limitations of Aristotle's Classification:-

3.1) Elicit and Anti-Democratic Bias:-

Aristotle consider the democratic form of government as mob, But Modern ~~United~~ forms of government shows him as flaw by stabilizing government with people participation. For example U.S.A carried out democratic election and maintain individuals stability by rulers ruling.

3.2) Rigid and Simplistic Classification:-

Modern governments form a complex forms of government. They prove Aristotle's classification of government insufficient. For example China's Political system is a mix of autocracy

(one-party rule), oligarchy (influence of business elites), and controlled democracy (local elections), defying Aristotle's strict categories.

3.3) No Mechanism for institutional checks and Balances:-

While Aristotle recognized the dangers of corruption, he did not propose concrete mechanisms to prevent government failure.

(4) Relevance of Aristotle's Ideas IN THE MODERN WORLD:-

Aristotle's Classification of political systems or Government is still valid in today's era.

4.1) Tyranny and Autocracy:-

His Warnings about Tyranny apply to modern autocrats like Kim Jong-un and Vladimir Putin.

4.2) Oligarchy - Wealth concentration in politics, seen in the influence of billionaires and corporate lobbying in the U.S., aligns with Aristotle's concerns.

4.3) Popular Democracy - The rise of leaders who manipulate public opinion (e.g. Trump) reflects Aristotle's fears of mob rule.

5) Conclusion:-

Aristotle's classification of government has various positive and negative implications, but still it opens a door for a political system. He supports polity and Monarchy but it turns into Tyranny when corrupted as he says:

"Power Corrupts, Absolute

Power Corrupts Absolutely."

Modern world is inspired from Aristotle's view and embrace it and some make a blend and present it in a new way.