

Give a critical analysis of Aristotle's classification of Governments.

Introduction

Aristotle gave a classification of governments in his theory. According to his classification, Aristotle classified different forms of government on two basis; first was the number of rulers who ruled the government and second is the interest of rulers which may be general interest or selfish interest. Forms of governments according to Aristotle are; monarchy, aristocracy and polity for general interest, and tyranny, oligarchy and democracy in view of selfish interest. The number of rulers in these forms are one, few and many, respectively. Aristotle's classification of governments are very good but some experts criticize this classification because it lacks some necessities. As, Aristotle observed 158 states and then he made this classification of government, but in modern era it is not too much acceptable because this classification was valid for city-states of Greece at Aristotle's time. On the other hand, this classification plays an important role to know about the structure and abilities of different forms of governments.

Critical analysis of Aristotle's classification of governments

Aristotle, being a disciple of Plato, categorized government in different

forms. This classification has a huge/much importance in Political Science, but it also has some gaps. The critical analysis of Aristotle's classification of governments is given as, while keeping in mind the pivotal importance of this classification.

1 Classification is not suitable for modern time.

The classification of governments given by Aristotle is not suitable for modern time or modern states because it does not cover the many aspects of today's government structure. In modern time, different countries have different forms of governments and this classification does not cover the political system of the whole world.

2 It is for city-state

It was a culture and tradition of city-state at Aristotle's time. His classification of governments was very essential for city-state because these city-states were small and consist of less number of population. On the other hand, countries are very large and different nations are living in different countries. ^{at present time.} So, it is impossible to apply Aristotle's classification of governments.

3 Democracy is not bad

According to Aristotle, democracy is the worst form of government. It is a type of government in which many rulers

work for their self interest. But, it is contrast to present situation. Now, democracy is considered a good government form and many ^{developed} advanced countries has democratic system. Hence, it is ambiguous to follow Aristotle's classification of governments.

4 Different forms of government are not covered

Aristotle's classification of governments ~~is~~ does not cover other different forms such as federation, parliamentary system etc. In this way, this classification is not appropriate for the present world. Likewise, this classification is not suitable for some countries which have different forms of government in their political system. For example, America is a democratic country with presidential system. So, in this situation, Aristotle's classification of government is not fulfilled.

5 Cycle of states

With classification, Aristotle also suggested 'cycle of states' which means these states are not permanent and these may change to other form with revolution. Aristotle described a cycle in which one form of government is changed to another form in a proper manner. However, this cycle is not fulfill in the modern world. For example, Pakistan has different type of governments from time to time i.e. democratic

system, military rule. Hence, this cycle of state lacks importance now.

6 No difference between state, constitution and government

Aristotle did not differentiate between state, constitution and government. According to him, all these are same and did a same work. But, these three are different among one another and they have distinct meaning. State consists of public, constitution runs a state and government applies constitution in a state. Aristotle's classification lacks this concept and it is not according to a unique function of state, constitution and government.

7 Democracy relate with poor people

According to Aristotle, democracy is a form of government which is run by poor people. It is possible that a country is rich and it cannot consists of poor people in modern time. In this way, there is no concept of democracy in present time. On the other side, many countries are running with democracy in the world and these countries have not poor population i.e. United States of America. So, Aristotle's classification of government is not applied to the modern world.

8 Not include religion

Aristotle did not include religion in his classification of governments. As, most countries of the world give importance to

religion and draft a constitution while keeping in mind religious norms and laws, e.g. Pakistan gives importance to Islamic beliefs. For these type of countries, Aristotle's classification of governments is not appropriate.

9 Difficult to know about General Interest or Public Interest

Aristotle's classification of governments consists of General Interest and Public Interest of rulers. These interests are difficult to know in the present world, because rulers have different life styles and reputations as compared to the rulers of city-states of Aristotle's time. Therefore, his classification of governments is not suitable for today's rulers.

Conclusion

Aristotle is a founder of Political Science and he classified different forms of governments by observing different city-states of Greek. His classification keeps a importance and it give a new concept to Political Science. Although, Aristotle's classification of governments is very essential but some critics criticize this classification on the basis of political system of today's world. Because His classification was fit for city-states of that time and it is not match with present era. As there is some criticism on Aristotle's classification of governments, but still, it is a platform to know about political system and too much

concept of political system and governance structure lies in this classification. It is crucial to know this classification of governments in order to understand the political system and forms of governments.