

Qno:2 Write a comparative analysis on Aristotle's and Plato's concept of ideal city-state.

Introduction:

Plato was born in Athens at a time of extreme political instability. He was the first one to lay the foundations of Western political thought in his first true university, Academy. Here, he used to deliver lectures on political philosophies such as Theory of Forms, Justice, Tripartite Soul, philosopher-king ruling city-state and so on. Later, his disciple Aristotle opened his own Academy, Lyceum wherein he refined some of his teacher's political thoughts. Thus, Plato was a radical, idealist thinker, while his student, Aristotle, was moderate and conservative. He studied 158 Constitutions and propounded theory of best constitution to further support his theory of ideal state (polis).

② Comparative Analysis of City states

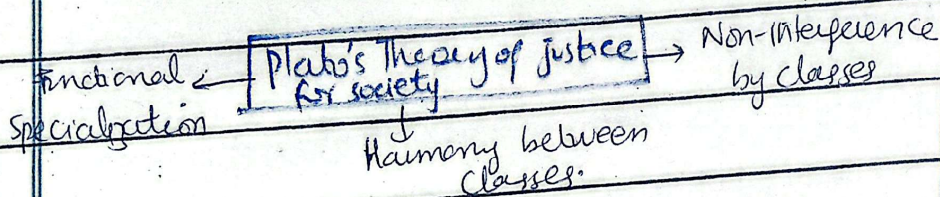
(i) Plato's Ideal City state

compare the two side by side under similar headings.

(a) Justice and Form of the Good

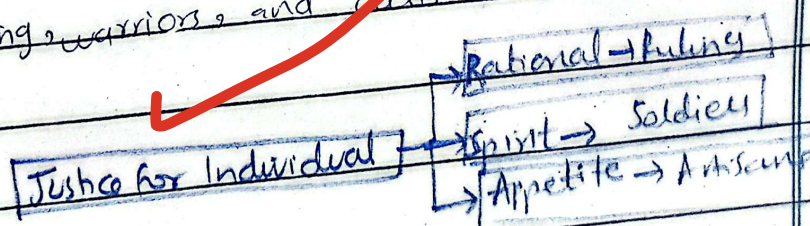
According to Plato, the ideal city-state should be based on the ideal of justice wherein the form of the Good is realized in political life.

"State is a magnified form of individual?" — Plato



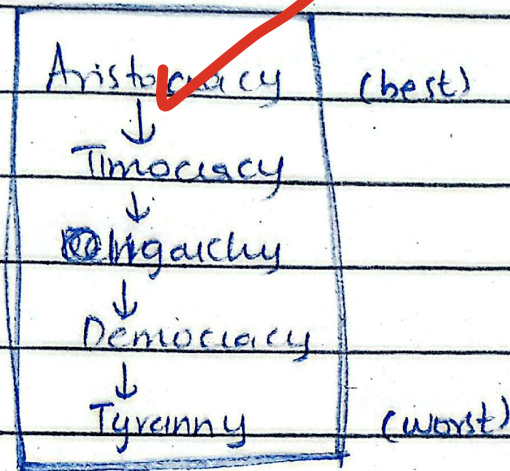
(b) Tripartite Class Structure

Plato's classification of society into 3 classes is based on his soul analogy. Just like soul has Rational, Spiritual and appetitive parts, class structure could be ruling, warriors, and artisans class.



(C) Theory of Regime Decline

According to Plato, the purpose of state should be to cultivate virtue in society. When that virtue decays, the whole city-state crumbles down.



(D) Ideal Aristocracy (Rule of the Best)

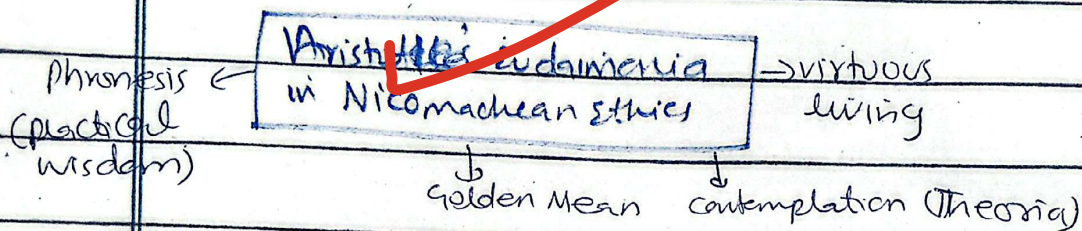
Plato did not think of aristocracy in its hereditary sense, but a philosopher-king-led rule based on merit. In Republic, his ship of state metaphor imagines an ideal city-state ruled by the best among the worst.

add more arguments.....

(b) Aristotle's Ideal City-State

(i) State to Achieve Eudaimonia

The city-state (polity) exists so that citizens achieve flourishing through virtuous action together.



(ii) Mixed Constitution

Since Aristotle studied some 153 constitutions of his time, he advocated for a mixed constitution in ideal city-state. Taking the out of them ~~and~~ (stability of oligarchy and inclusivity of democracy) would constitute a polity.

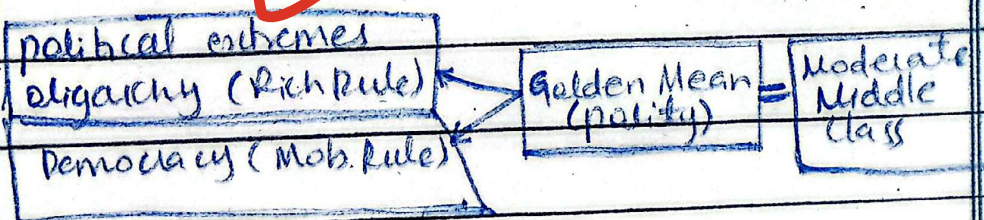
- Democracy
- Oligarchy
- Aristocracy
- Monarchy
- Tyranny

(C) Theory of Justice

According to Aristotle, the most important feature of an ideal city is justice. There are two types of justice: distributive and collective justice. The first deals with the giving according to merit. While the second one deals with commercial transactions through courts.

(D) Theory of Golden Mean

Aristotle advocated for mean and moderate affairs in an ideal state. It should not be addled with extremes and factionalism. The best system strikes that mean between vices of oligarchy and democracy.



Main comparison of Plato and Aristotle

(1) Plato's Ideal state is too Utopian
While Aristotle's is Pragmatic

Plato's kallipolis is a utopian blueprint of an ideal state having the perfect forms. However, Aristotle's polity is a best feasible regime to secure stability.

(2) Plato's Ideal state is based on rigid hierarchy, while Aristotle's is flexible

Plato's strict tripartite castes have no social mobility. However, Aristotle's mixed constitution encourages fluid roles. He also talks of robust middle class to cushion extremes in society and state.

(3) Plato's source of legitimacy is Forms of Good, while Aristotle's is Consent

only those who know the Form of good are fit to rule. However, for

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Aristotle's legitimacy derives from consent of the governed which is a balance of one, few, and many under a mixed constitution.

(4) Plato's Ideal state is ^{un}stable and static, while Aristotle's is stable and Adaptive.

Ideal state of Plato is static and any deviation through regime decay leads inevitably to worst forms (tyranny).

While Aristotle's polity has internal checks to guard against extremes.

add more arguments in this part...

Critical Analysis

Plato's ideal city-state offers a moral compass while Aristotle's polity offers a pragmatic map to reach there. However, in order to develop a robust political order today, Plato's normative and Aristotle's empirical theories on state and society should be blended to get the best out of both.

Conclusion

Thus, it could be concluded from the above discussion that Plato is an idealist and desires a perfect city-state of Forms. Whereas,

Aristotle takes on a pragmatic approach to state and society. His polity is flexible and stable realistic ideal state which emphasizes on civic virtue and constitutional supremacy.

Even today, robust modern political system should blend their strengths and avoid their weaknesses.

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