

Pol science

Q) What is the Aristotle classification of state?

Introduction

"Man is by nature a political animal. He who does not live in a state or does not need a state is either an animal or beast"

Aristotle.

Aristotle is an ancient philosopher. He called state a natural form not an ideal form. He is called as a Father of Political Science. According to him state is comes into existence by observation and state is a natural. So he was the first philosopher to collaborate state and nature exist into each other and referred politics to political science. However, Aristotle was the father of biology and political science. He observed 158 constitution with in Greek city-state, and gave his theory of constitution in which he classify state. In this theory he describe the ideal and worst form of government.

2) Aristotle's classification of State

Aristotle in his "Theory of constitution" described the different forms of government. According to him State should be ruled by one, few and many individuals. He further divides these forms of government into perverted forms and normal forms. According to Aristotle the state which is ruled by one individual is a Monarchy and Tyranny. In Monarchy, King would engage with virtue and power. A King would rule government according to rule of law. On other hand, Tyranny is a perverted form of government. Furthermore, a state can be ruled by few individuals. It includes two forms, Aristocracy and Oligarchy, a normal form of government and a perverted form of government.

2.1) State ruled by many individuals
According to Aristotle State would be ruled by many individuals, Polity is the normal form of government and democracy is the perverted form of government.

No of Individuals	Name of Government	Form of Government
One	Monarchy	Normal form
One	Tyranny	Perverted form
Few	Aristocracy	Normal form
Few	Oligarchy	Perverted form
Many	Polity	Normal form
Many	Democracy	Perverted form

2.2) Monarchy: Ruled by one individual

Aristotle's classification of state was borrowed by Plato but Aristotle further explains the classification of state.

Monarchy According to him a best form of government but virtue and power cannot work together. So, it is an ideal form of government.

2.3) Tyranny: Ruled by one individual

This state also ruled by one individual but rules ruled in this state for his own

benefit. Hence, it is a perverted form of Monarchy.

3) State ruled by few individuals

Aristotle explains that state would be ruled by two or few individuals. He explains two theory in this context.

- ① Oligarchy 2) Aristocracy.

3.1) Aristocracy: A state ruled by few individuals

A form of government in which few individuals rule for the benefit of state and public.

It is a form in which national benefits are prior.

3.2) Oligarchy: A state ruled by few individuals

A perverted form of Aristocracy. A government ruled by few individuals which have their own benefits from state and fulfil their own desires.

4) State ruled by many individuals

A form of governments or constitution ruled by many individual for their own benefits and state benefits

He divided in form of government into two further forms

State ruled by many individuals

Polity

Democracy

4.1- Polity: ruled by many individuals

According to him this is a best particular form of government. A government in which a rule of middle class brings stability. Polity is offered as a today modern Democracy.

4.5) Democracy: ruled by many individuals

According to him it is a perverted form of polity in which many individuals gain their own benefits and fulfil their own desires. Democracy is a government by poor. Hence it is the second worst form of government

5) Aristotle best, partial, ideal and worst form of Government.

ideal form
Monarchy

Particular form
Polity

A best form of government but this is ideal form of government

2) bcz virtue and power cannot work together

A best particular form of government
It can bring stability in state

Worst form of Government

Tyranny

It is a worst form of government without rule and regulation.

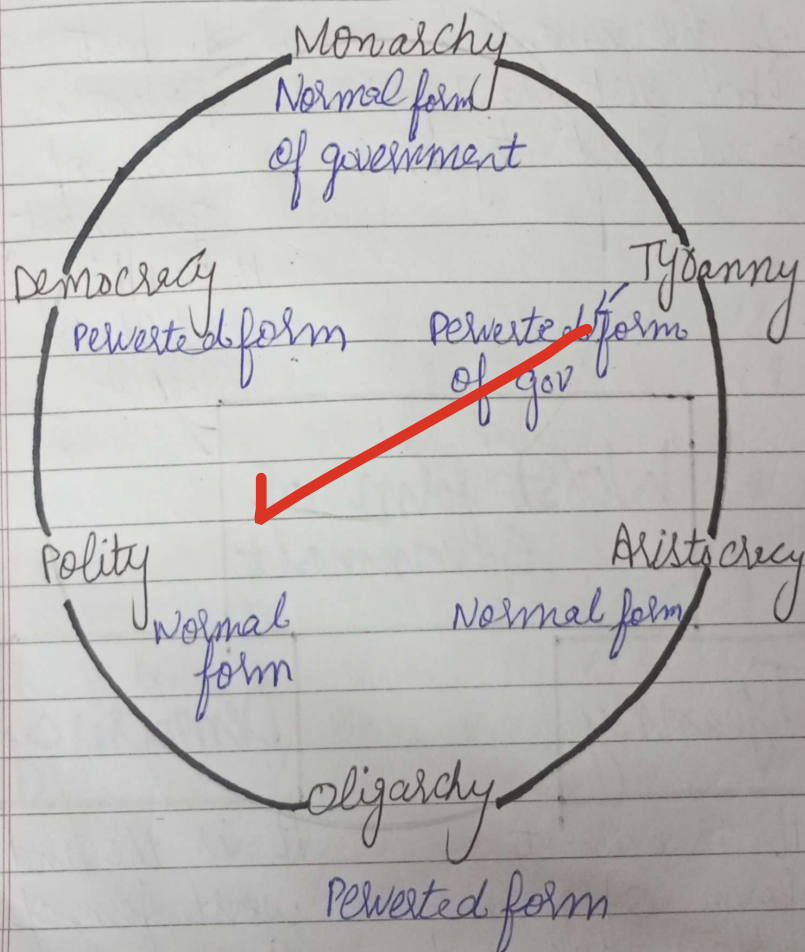
Democracy

It is the 2nd worst form of government
This is a government of fools

⑥

Aristotle: Theory of Revolution (classification of State)

Aristotle explains that State and forms of governments are not static. They change into each other in a cyclic form.



6.1

Monarchy converted into Tyranny

Aristotle explains that virtue and power cannot work together so Monarchy converted into Tyranny

Monarchy → Tyranny

According to him a slightest change in a government can bring revolutions. A Monarch King would face hypocrisy and jealousy by other leaders which is also a reason of change. Furthermore, An absolute power to Monarch turned him to Tyranny.

6.2) Tyranny convert into Aristocracy

An absolute King with power and virtue work with its own benefits, A revolution by few virtuous individuals which work from ~~everyday~~ State development kick out Tyranny and establish a Aristocracy

Tyranny — Aristocracy

6.3) Aristocracy convert into
Oligarchy

A class of few individuals become corrupt and it convert into oligarchy

Aristocracy — oligarchy

6.4) Oligarchy perverted
into polity

A patriotic class of many individual thrown oligarchy and turn it into polity.

Oligarchy — Polity

6.5) Polity perverted into Democracy

Polity class becomes corrupt and polity converted into Democracy.

Polity — Democracy

Pol Democracy is a government by poor turned again into Monarchy by virtus individuals and again started cycle of government.

7) Critical Evolution by
Other Philosophers

Various Philosophers criticize
Aristotle's classification of State

- 1) Machiavelli said that
"Aristotle's classification
of State is idealistic and
moralistic"
John Locke; he favoured
liberal democracy instead of
Aristotle's notion of polity"

According to Anarchist:
"State is the unnecessary
evil"

8) Critical Analysis:

Aristotle's classification of
State is not democratic,
he said that the democracy
is a government by poor
but in modern word democracy
is a best form of government
instead of worst form of government.

discuss this part in more detail.

9) Conclusion

Aristotle classifies
State into six forms,
some of the governments
are considered as the best
form of government and
some considered as a worst

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form of government. However, according
to rulers would be one, few
and many. Many philosophers
criticize his government and
called it as idealist form of
government. On the other hand,
some of government forms
are relevant to modern state
governments.
