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A Comparative analysis on Aristotle and Plato's Concept of Ideal States

Introduction:

Aristotle and Plato were two great Western philosophers belonging to Athens - modern day Italy. Initially, the theory of Ideal State was presented by Plato, then his student Aristotle also proposed his own theory about an ideal state. The concepts of both philosophers are similar and different at the same time. Following is a Comparative analysis of the Concept of ideal State presented by both the philosophers.

Plato

Aristotle

(a) on Rulers

(a) on Ruler

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Plato believed that the purpose of State is to achieve virtue or good and this can only be achieved if the ruler is virtuous means he is truly knowledgeable; therefore, Plato proposed the Rule of a philosopher king who is supposed to pass a tough educational journey.

(2) Communism of property and family.

Plato believed that private property and family can corrupt the two important classes of an ideal State - the rulers and the courageous class - so he said

Contrary to Plato, Aristotle believed that there should be a Constitutional government. Aristotle prioritized rule of law over rule of a single person as this can lead to despotic rulership.

(2) Aristotle's views on Communism of property and family

In contrast, Aristotle believed that this is unrealistic and contrary to basic human needs to deprive them from owning property and family; that's why, Aristotle rejected Communism.

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that there must be Communism of the private property and family to negate or discourage any kind of Corruption and Nepotism in the ideal State.

(3) Plato's Gender Indiscriminatory approach

In his theory, Plato did not specify any gender roles. He took an inclusive approach considering women equal to men in his ideal State. Plato is also sometimes referred as first feminist in the West.

in his ideal State. Aristotle was of the opinion that property, family and quest for property are two important components of human growth.

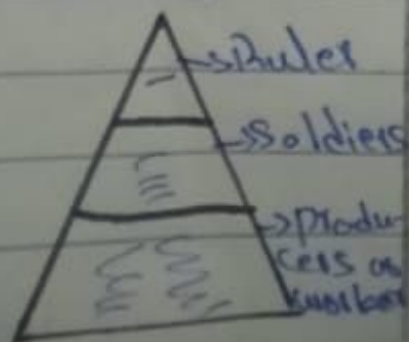
(3) Aristotle's Concept was exclusive.

Unlike Plato, Aristotle did not consider equal to men in his ideal State. In his works, no separate consideration for women is mentioned as it is in the case of Plato.

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(4) Division of the Society and functional specialization

Plato was of the opinion that the Society is like a human body. It is divided into 3 classes. firstly, those with high level of wisdom are supposed to be rulers. In second category, there are people with high level of courage who are supposed to defend the State. lastly, the people with high level of appetite should be producers.



(4) Aristotle's views on classification of state Society

Like Plato, Aristotle also divided the Society and its people based on their work and age group. He stated that the young people should contribute for the defence of the state while the mature ones should do legislation. According to him the elderly people should do preaching and prayers as their final duty in the ideal state.

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(6) Classification of Explanation of the Political Structure of the State

Plato did not give any detailed explanation about the political form and structure of the ideal state. He was only of the opinion that there should be a philosopher king responsible for all the functions, like law making, implementation and law explanation.

(6) Aristotle's Views on the classification and explanation of states political system.

Aristotle gave a very detailed explanation and classification of the political system and structure of the state.

According to Aristotle, there should be a constitutional government and rule of law. He also classified the good and perverted forms of government, like if it is monarchy, then good but when it perverts it becomes tyranny and ruler rules for his self interest. His classification was based on two things - number of rulers and purpose of the rule.

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(5) Views on physical structure of State

Plato did not give any specific recommendations about the physical structure of his ideal state.

(5) Aristotle's views on the physical structure of his ideal state

Unlike Plato, Aristotle gave a comprehensive outline of his ideal state. According to Aristotle, the physical body of the state should not be so small that make it difficult for inhabitants to live properly. At the same time it should not be so big that it is ungovernable. About geography, Aristotle stated that an ideal state should not be landlocked as it limits its access to trade. However, he also said that state should not be situated close to coastline as it can expose the state to foreign invasions.

(7) Conclusion

The Concepts of States presented by Plato and Aristotle have similarities and differences at the same time. Aristotle agrees to a number of factors with his teacher Plato, for instance, both of them believe that education is source of virtue and it should be state governed.

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Q No 3

J.J Rousseau's Theory of Social Contract

Introduction

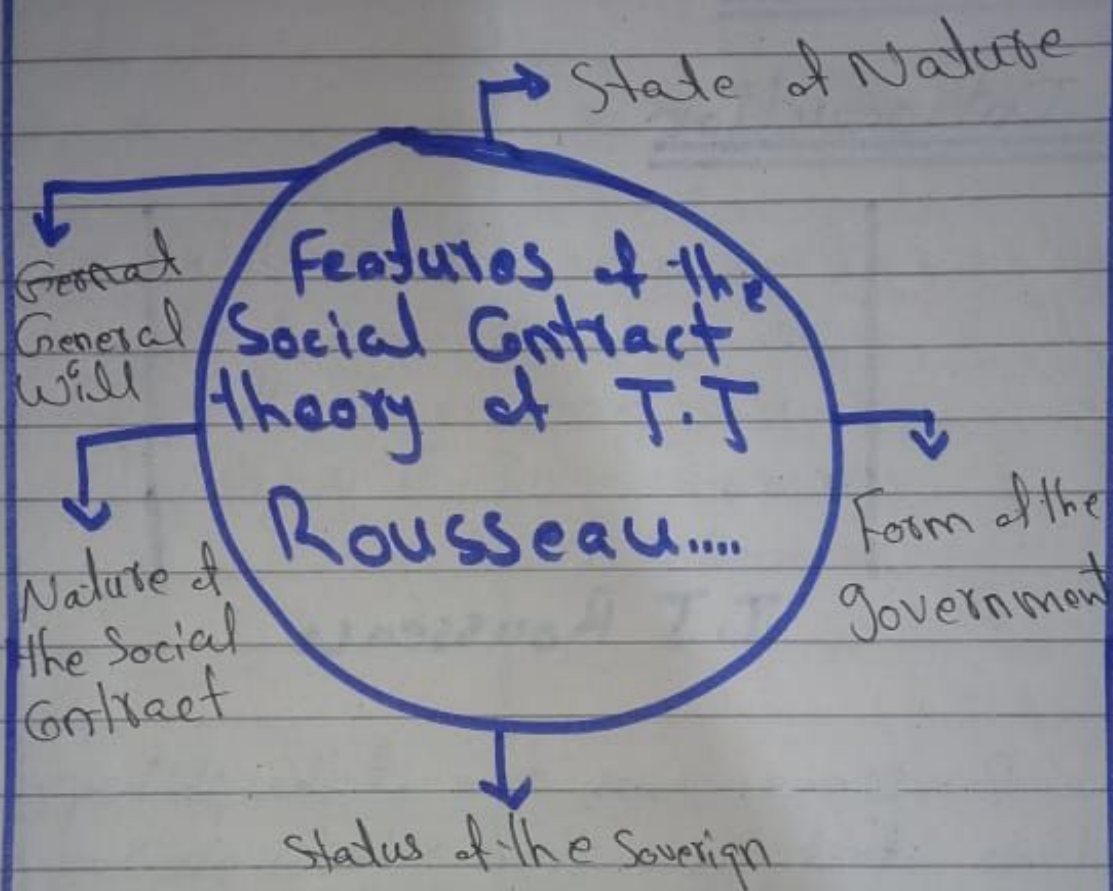
Man in the State of Nature was good and peace loving, but the emergence of the menace of private property promoted chaos

J.J Rousseau

Rousseau was one of the philosophers that gave their views on Social Contract theory. The Social Contract theory explains the emergence of State through a social contract between the ruler and the ruled. Contrary to the views of other two Social Contractualist philosophers, J.J Rousseau's view

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of the emergence of State are totally different. Following are the key features of Rousseau's Theory of Social Contract.



(i) State of Nature

State of Nature is the backbone of the theory of Social Contract. All the three philosopher explain

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(3) Concept of General Will

According to Rousseau the general will is representation of people like a Committee that creates a government on public mandate. As he said, "General will does not necessarily mean the will of all but it is for all". This illustrates that general will does not mean the will of all people but it is for the welfare of all the people.

(4) Form of Government.

J.J. Rousseau presented a popular sovereignty concept which means government of the people and the governing body governs with the consent of the people. This setup is more or less like a parliamentary democracy where people vote and their representatives

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it differently. For instance Thomas Hobbes described the state of Nature as "Nasty, Brutish and War of All against All". However, Rousseau Contradicts with this view. According to him, state of Nature was good peaceful, but it perverted with the emergence of private property and family.

(5) Nature of the Social Contract

As the state of Nature perverted the people felt the need of a Sovereign power to govern them and ensure peace and stability. Therefore, the people come to a contract that empowered a sovereign to rule. However, Rousseau's Sovereign is very different from the concept of Sovereign presented by John Locke and Thomas Hobbes. According to Rousseau the contract is bilateral means ruler and the ruled are bound to it. The Sovereign is created by general will.

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from government on their behalf.

(6) Status of the Sovereign

As presented by Rousseau, his Sovereign is absolutely powerful. The Sovereign is indivisible, irremovable and irreplaceable. He is so powerful because he is the Sovereign chosen by the people in general. According to Rousseau, since the Sovereign is the choice of the people he cannot be wronged and therefore cannot be replaced unless people want.

Yes, I do agree with his Rationale.

J.J. Rousseau's Theory is based on solid logical arguments like he says private property is responsible for corrupting human

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nature which is quite true as people are fighting to acquire more and more wealth. Similarly, his concept of popular Sovereignty is very much relevant in the modern times as well as there are representative governments today.

Conclusion

In Conclusion, J.J. Rousseau's theory is one of the strongest theory for the explanation of the origin of State. His views on State of Nature, Sovereignty and the Contract are logical and are still relevant in the modern times. This clearly illustrates that the Rousseau's rationale about the Origin of State is ultimately true.

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Q No 8

Short Notes

(A)

As the founding father of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Jinnah once said, "No nation can progress unless their women work side by side with their men". Women are half of the world's population; therefore, it is necessary that they should be given due chances and opportunities to play their role in an effective manner. As history bears witness that whenever women were given chance they had made history. For instance, Benazir Bhutto became the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan making history. Therefore, women should be treated like equal humans like men and be given due share in policy making and other

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fields. Since women are underprivileged unlike men, that's why, the government should launch specialized programs as Bangladesh did by providing business opportunities to the women. Thus, women need to be empowered to ensure prosperity and development.

(B)

Human rights have always remained a topic of debate. There have been made a number of attempts to ensure and protect human rights. For instance, the Signing of Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by UN was a great measure in the historical debate of human rights. However, despite a number of Conventions and efforts, there are human rights violations. As in point,

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for eliminating Hamas, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) killed thousands of Palestinian people through deliberate attacks. Apart from direct attacks, according to UN, there is a crisis of food and other necessities that are adding fuel to the fire. Despite these horrific records, there is no country to protect the Palestinians from Israeli bombardment. Moreover, there are other states like India who are continuously violating human rights. According to Amnesty International, last year over 50 Kashmiri youths were killed extrajudicially. Thus, it is good that certain measures have been taken to ensure the provision and protection of human rights, but if not implemented properly, these efforts will be proved futile; Therefore, it is necessary that all the signatories of UDHR should come together and form a mechanism to

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ensure every state's Compliance to
the Document.