

Question :

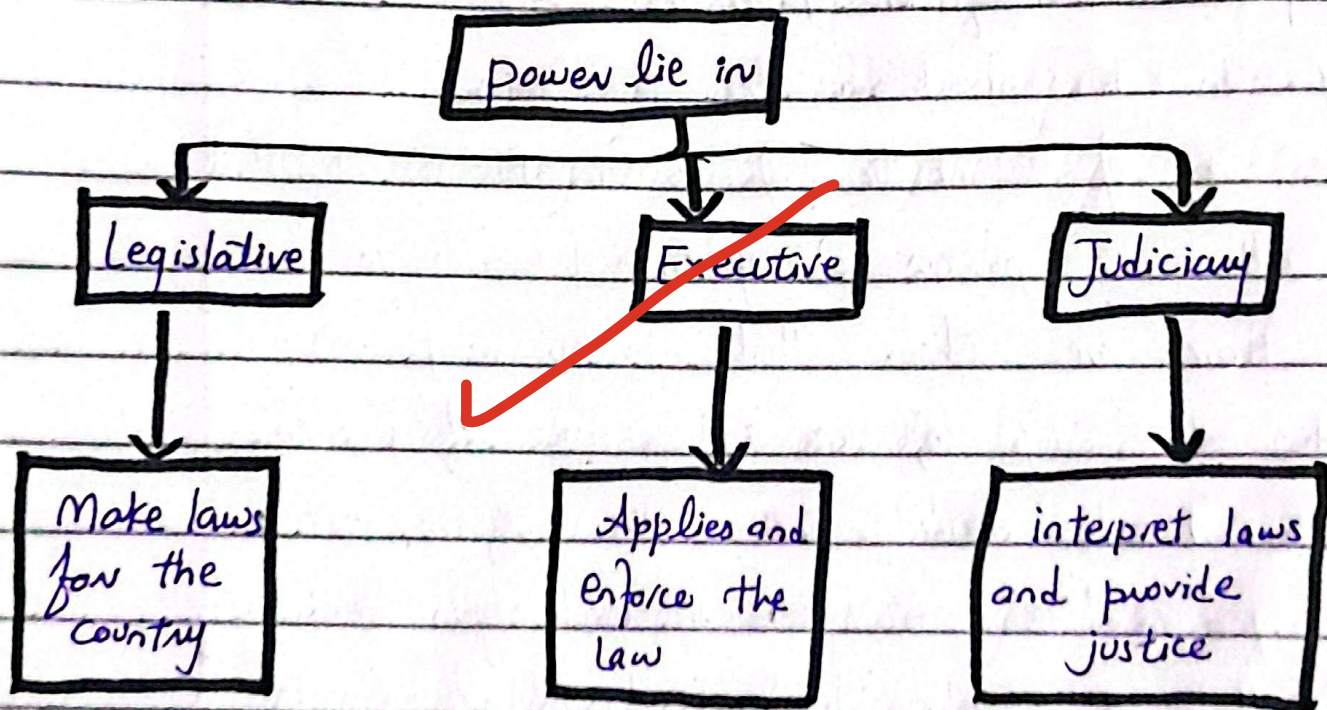
Explain Montesquieu's Theory of separation of powers. Why had he been called Aristotle of 18th century.

introduction.....

Montesquieu was a French philosopher of the 18th century. In his book *The spirit of laws*, he gave the theory of separation of powers. He said that when all the powers of government lies in one hand, there are chances that power may be misused. In order to stop injustice and misuse of power, power must be divided into three organs — executive, legislative and judiciary. Each organ work independently and also he introduced the checks and balance system to discourage the misuse of power. He use scientific approach to study the politics, introduced the classification of government system, laid the foundation of modern democratic countries, promoted the rule of law, protected the human rights that's why he was given by the title "Aristotle of 18th century".

THEORY OF SEPERATION OF POWERS

Montesquieu divides the power into three main organs.



(a). Legislative Power :

The legislative organ of the government has the duty to make laws for the country. He believed that lawmakers should not give power to enforce or judge law to avoid the misuse of power. In case of Pakistan The parliament acts as legislative body.

discuss these in more detail by giving subheadings.

(b) Executive Power :

Executive powers belongs to another organ, and its duty is to ensure that laws are carried out honestly. They enforce the law made by the legislature. For example in case of Pakistan, Prime Minister and the cabinet execute and manage the law across the country.

(c) Judicial Power :

The judicial branch is mainly responsible to interpret the law and provide justice according to the constitution. Montesquieu emphasis on ~~independent~~ the independence of judiciary from legislature & executive.

(d) Check and balances :

Montesquieu believe that each body of the government work independently within their limitations, and each body has right to check the power of others. For example legislature made law and the executive head can vote them and similarly judiciary can declare them unconstitutional.

(e). Rule of Law :

The congress have to make the law according to the constitution. The law must be same for everyone and none is above law. This principle ensure equality, justice and transparency in the society, and justice is not controlled by power but guided by the law.

(f). Protection of Rights & Liberty :

This separation of power provides freedom to all the citizens of the state. When power is divided individuals are safer from the abuse by ruler or government. Montesquieu tried his best to protect human's liberty.

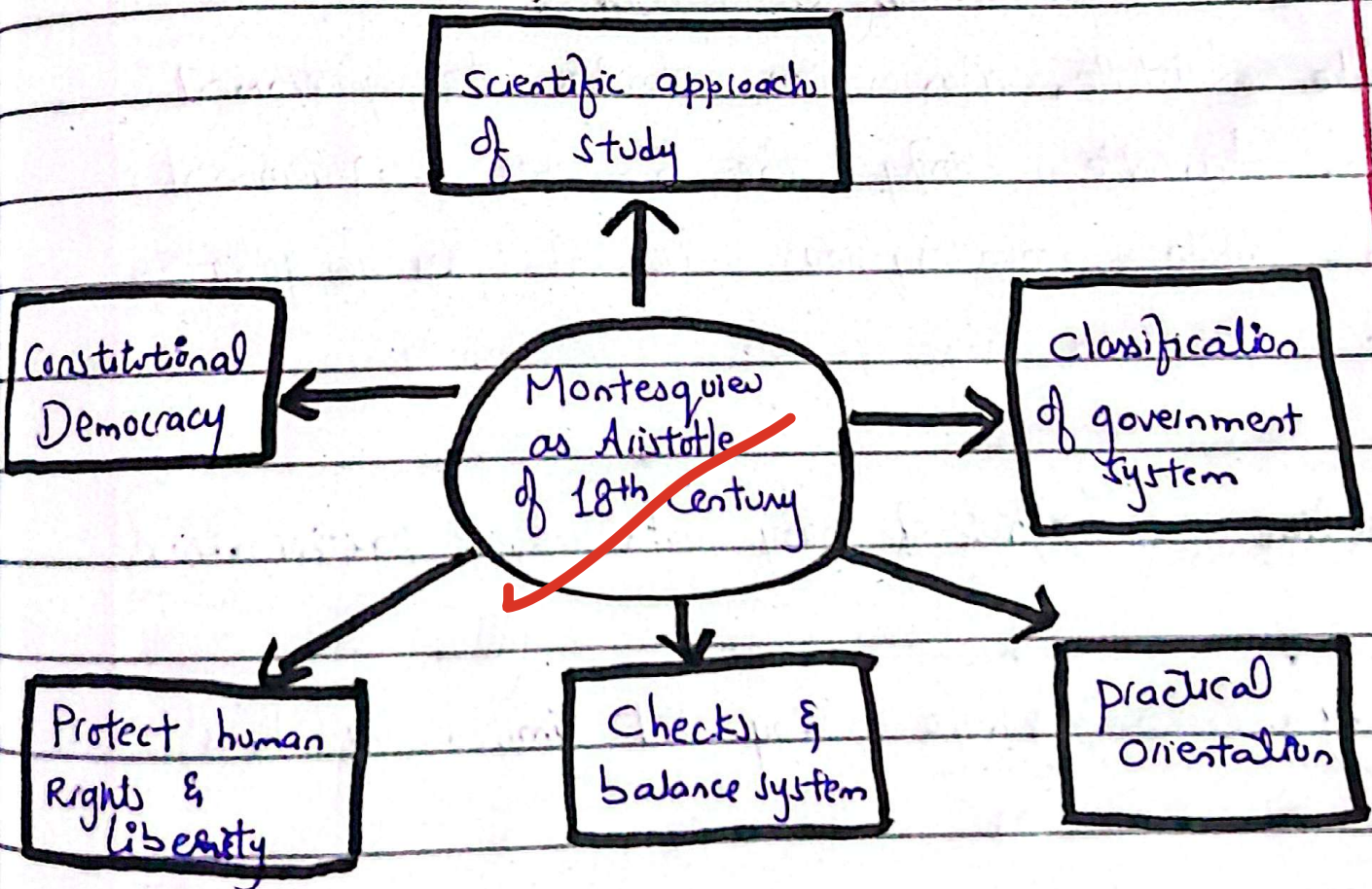
(g). Political Stability - Prevention of Tyranny :

When the power is divided and checked by each organ of the government there are chances that political stability is achieved and it prevents the power abuse and Tyranny.

Q2 Influence on Modern Democracies :

Montesquieu's Theory of separation of power has a strong influence on the modern democratic systems. The UK, France, India and even Pakistan all follow the principle of three branches of government. His work inspired constitutional designers to make constitution based on liberty, balance and accountability.

Montesquieu as Aristotle of 18th Century

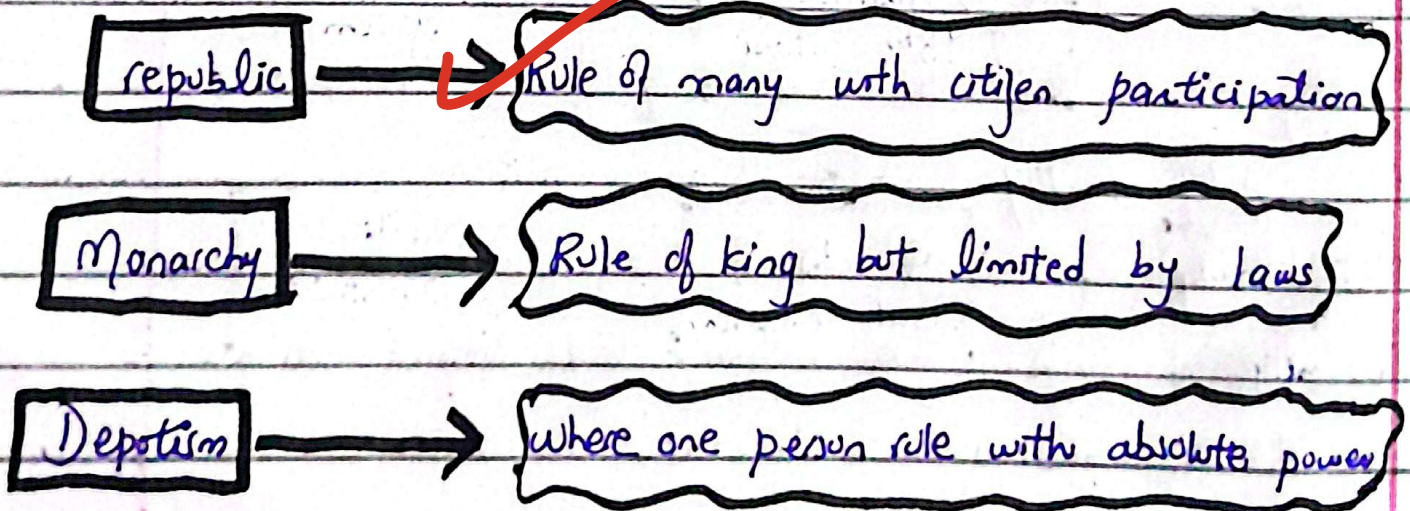


(a). Scientific Approach of study :

Like Aristotle, Montesquieu also use scientific approach to study the political systems and the forms of governments at that time. Montesquieu also study and observe the political power handling and on the basis of his research he introduced the concept of separation of powers.

(b). Classification of government system :

Like Aristotle, Montesquieu classifies the government systems. Aristotle classify the 6 types of government system while Montesquieu gave 3 types of government including republic, monarchy & despotism.



Type of Government	Aristotle's classification	Montesquieu's classification
Rule by one	Monarchy & Tyranny	Monarchy & Despotism
Rule by few	Aristocracy & Oligarchy	
Rule by many	Polity & Democracy	Republic

c) Practical Orientation :

Both philosophers studied the politics as it exists in real life, not as an abstract idea. Aristotle observed the system of Greece city states while Montesquieu studied the government system of France & England. The practical approach made political science useful for shaping real-world constitutions & policies.

d) Check & Balance System :

Both Aristotle and Montesquieu valued the balance of power in governance. Aristotle supported a mixed government and Montesquieu further divides power into three organs. Both introduced the concept of accountability in their work, in order to avoid Tyranny & Despotism.

(e). Protection of Human Rights & Liberty :

Aristotle and Montesquieu both view the human as being, loving, caring, supportive, and innocent. Both preserved the human basic rights to life, property and liberty. Both use government as a regulating body.

(f). Constitutional Democracy :

Both thinkers strongly agreed that the Constitution is supreme law that defines and limit to government power. Aristotle view Constitution as soul of state and Montesquieu viewed it as a guide of state, and he emphasised more separation of power to prevent the misuse of power.

(g). Founder of Political Science :

Aristotle is known as father of political science and Montesquieu is known as father of Modern Political Science. Both laid systematic framework, and guide modern thinkers.

Final Remarks

To conclude, Montesquieu's Theory of separation of power is one of the most important ideas in political science. He divided the government into three branches — Legislative, executive and judiciary — so that no one can misuse the power. He further protects the power by proposing the check and balance system. This will protect the individual freedom, life and liberty. Just like Aristotle, he studied the government systems and gave scientific and logical ideas about running them fairly. That's why he is often called as Aristotle of 18th century.

decent effort!