

SECTION - A

QUESTION No 2

Describe the main similarities and differences in the Political ideas of Plato and Aristotle. How they are relevant today. Describe.

Introduction

Plato and Aristotle are the two most influential western political philosophers. Aristotle was the student of Plato and he learnt a lot about the political philosophy from his teacher. So, there exists some similarities between the political views of both philosophers but the differences between their political views outweigh the similarities as there is a famous quotation about Aristotle that "Aristotle was a great but not greatful student of Plato". Hence, Aristotle's political philosophy,

has some influences of Plato but the differences are more than similarities.

Similarities in the Political Ideas of Plato and Aristotle

1- Questioning the means of Attaining Knowledge

Both Plato and Aristotle posed questions on how the knowledge is acquired. They both thought on whether it is through empiricism or rationalism.

2- Belief in the Role of Reason

Both Plato and Aristotle that believed that reason must be the driving force for taking the decisions.

of life. Even though both differentiated on the view of, 'who will use the reason' as for Plato, it should be the philosopher king, but Aristotle believed in the use of reason by the citizens.

3- Thinking about Common Good

Both Plato and Aristotle, in their political ideas think about the common good; about the rights and duties of citizens and about peace and harmony. Even though, they acquired different methods for the attainment of common good.

4- Connecting Politics with Ethics.

Plato and Aristotle both connected politics with ethics as they see political ideals as a way to attain ethics in the society.

Differences between the Political Ideals of Plato and Aristotle

Following are the major differences between the political ideas of Plato and Aristotle.

Differences	Plato	Aristotle
(i) In Philosophy	Idealism/ Rationalism	Empiricism
(ii) Method	Inductive Reasoning	Deductive Reasoning/ Scientific Method.
(iii) In Ethics	Knowing right, is automatically doing right	knowing right is not enough, one has to choose b/w right and wrong.
(iv) In Science	Focused on Maths, geometry, Athletics, physical health	Focused on science subjects by using scientific methods.

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v) In Political Theory	Utopian society ruled by philosopher king.	A Society where all individuals work for the collective good.
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Relevance of Plato and Aristotle in Today's World

Plato's Relevance:

- i- He is considered as a first feminist as he made education compulsory for women.
- ii- He was the first in providing any political theory, so if it has loopholes but it will be studied forever.
- iii- He rejected the conception of early childhood marriages which is a modern phenomenon.

Aristotle's Relevance

- i- He introduced scientific method in the analysis of politics which is used in today's world.
- ii- He focused on the development of intellect of citizen which is relevant today as well.
- iii- He introduced realism, pragmatism and empiricism which are also used in the modern world.

Conclusion

In sum, Plato and Aristotle have both similarities and differences in their political ideas but the differences outweigh the similarities. Moreover, they are not outdated or irrelevant in the modern world. They ^{are} relevant in today's world as well.

Question No 3

If Machiavelli is considered the citizen of all states and all ages, how his principles of politics are relevant to the present day, populism. Discuss.

Introduction:

Niccolo Machiavelli is often considered as the citizen of all states and contemporary to all ages because of the philosophical ideals, he gave to the rulers of the world.

His principles of politics like theory of power, his conception of end justifies the means, manipulation of public opinion, creation of love and fear, rejection to the concept of morality of ruler, his focus on the leadership qualities of a prince are all such principles

that are relevant to the modern day populism around the world.

Machiavelli's Principles of Politics and their Relevance in Present-day Populism

Following are some of the major principles of politics which Machiavelli devised and are relevant in the present day populism.

1- Theory of Power Politics

Machiavelli stated that there is no moral ground on which to judge the difference between the legitimate or illegitimate use of power. Whoever has the right to exercise power for his good can

exercise it without thinking about the other side.

Present-day Populism, the modern populists are using Machiavelli's theory of power to enhance and strengthen their control over the world.

Donald Trump oftenly use his power to push the traditional democratic norms for promoting his personal political agenda.

2- End Justifies the Means

Machiavelli was of the believe that it is not the means that justify ends but rather vice versa. He believed that for the attainment and security of any goal, the leader can use any mean to justify this end.

In Present-day Populism, it is also seen that the populist rulers behave nasty, brutish and mean for justifying their ends.

Israel's PM, Netanyahu is a perfect example of a present day populist who for justifying his means, is killing hundreds and thousands of Palestinians, destroying their land and expelling their people.

3- Creating Love and Fear

Machiavelli believed that a ruler should develop both the feelings of love and fear in the public.

Through love, they will not try to overthrow and through fear, they remain scared of him.

In present-day populism, it

is evident that the rulers created both the feeling of love and fear to secure their interests.

North Korean political leaders use this tactic to control public.

4- Manipulation of Public opinion

Machiavelli advised the prince to manipulate public opinion in order to attain his desired goals. Manipulation is widely used in the present day, populist rules through which the people get manipulated as they thrust the populist leader as a demigod.

India PM, Nirendra Modi, oftenly use this tactics by coming in direct contact with the people through campaigns or social media accounts and use the narrative of Akhand

Bharat to divert their attentions from real time issues and manipulate their opinions.

5- Developing Authoritarian Tendencies

Many populist leaders in present days have adopted authoritarian practices, undermining democratic checks and balances, attacking media, judicial independence and concentrating power in the executive.

Vladimir Putin in Russia and Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey, have centralized the power by limiting press and electronic media, undermining opposition parties to protect their sovereignty.

Conclusion:

In short, it is right to consider Machiavelli as the citizen of all states and all ages because his principles provide a robust framework for understanding the political behaviours of present-day populist leaders around the world. They create their hegemony by standing and affirming to the principles given by Machiavelli. So, Machiavelli's ideas were intended for the monarchs and rulers of this time, their applicability to contemporary populism demonstrate their relevance in the present day populist world.

Section B

Question No 8

Differentiate the following:

a- Public Opinion and Propaganda

P Differences Between Public Opinion and Propaganda

Public Opinion

Propaganda

Definition It refers to the collective attitudes, beliefs and perceptions of the general public

Propaganda is a form of communication through which public opinion is influenced.

Agents of Communication Public opinion is often spread through news, social media, surveys, polls etc

They are also communicated but through one-sided exaggerated viewpoint.

Nature Public opinion is often organic and developed through common consciousness

Propaganda is often artificial and created discourse by governments or political parties.

Purpose Purpose of public opinion is to reflect the collective will of the society, giving insights of the people's issues.

Purpose of propoganda is to persuade and manipulate the audience and to change / divert their viewpoint in a certain desired direction.

Agencies of influence Public opinion is often influence by family, peer groups, social gathering, friends and community.

Propaganda is generally influenced by the larger structures like political parties, mass media, government institutions etc.

b- Political Parties and Pressure groups.

Differences Between Political parties and Pressure Groups

Following are some of the major differences between political parties and pressure groups.

Political Parties

Pressure Groups

Definition They are organized group of people who share common political ideologies and seek political power.

They are basically, interest groups and organization that aim to influence the government's decision and policy making processes.

Examples The Democratic Party (USA)
The Labour Party (UK)
BJP (India)
PTI, PPP, PML (Pakistan)

NRA (National Rifle Association) USA.
Green peace etc.

Primary Goals To win elections, to gain political power and to shape public policy.

Influence govt.'s policies, through direct or indirect control and to make government decisions in their favour.

Influence Elections, media campaigns, rallies, political speeches.

Lobbying, protests, media engagement, public awareness.

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Political Parties

Pressure Groups

Scope of Services
They have a broad range of services which they incentive if come to government positions including education, health, governance, taxation, security, trade, economy etc.

They are issue specified. Their scope is narrowed as ~~the~~ a single pressure group mainly focuses a single issue. For example: women rights, labour rights, environment protection, climate change etc.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, the major differences between public opinion and propaganda lies in their working, agents of communication nature, purpose and agencies through which they are conducted. While the major differences between political parties and pressure groups lies in their working, scope, services goals and influences they made.