

Q2

## Introduction

Plato and Aristotle both are <sup>the</sup> most influential philosophers. They laid the foundation of western political thought. Both of them provided ideas for governance, leadership and relationship between state and citizen. They upheld division of societies for better functioning of the state. Plato gave concept of utopian state whereas ~~plato~~ Aristotle supported constitutional governance and rule of law. Both the philosophers emphasized role of education and its significance for state's leader. Their political thought continue to influence modern thought, providing insights into contemporary governance.

## Similarities in Political ideas of Plato and Aristotle

### ① Emphasize on role of education

Both political philosophers emphasized on the role of education for citizens as



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well as leadership. The education has significant role for moral development of citizens and building competency of rulers.

## ② Focus on ideal state

Plato and Aristotle gave characteristics of an ideal state. Plato ideal state contain strict division of society into producers, warriors and rulers based on their need and capability. Whereas, Aristotle's ideal state has specific range of population, territory and geographical location. Plato envisioned the utopian state in "The Republic" and Aristotle described various forms of government in the form of Aristotle cycle in his book "Politics".

## ③ Critics of democracy

Both of the philosophical thinkers criticised concept of democracy. Plato provided "rulers" class as the most wise and efficient but he also emphasized on "Aristocracy". On the other hand, Aristotle called democracy as "mobocracy" and he argued that democracy is the worst form of government because it prioritize quantity over quality and leads to chaos and mob rule.



## ④ Government and leadership by wise

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Both agreed on the concept of leadership by wise. Plato's leadership and governance is entrusted in most capable and competent few individuals. He considered them above law. Whereas, Aristotle emphasized on governance by few middle class because elite favor dictatorship and authoritarianism and lower class spread lawlessness. He argues that most capable are middle class that govern by system called polity.

## Differences in political ideas of Plato and Aristotle

### Plato

### Aristotle

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ① He supported concept of idealism, utopian vision of state.                             | ① Aristotle gave realism concept of state based on observation of existing states.            |
| ② Plato supported Aristocracy rule by meritocracy.                                       | ② Aristotle preferred a constitutional government "polity" (blend of democracy and oligarchy) |
| ③ Plato proposed communism of property and family for higher class i.e. Rulers and ruled | ③ He criticized idea of communism because it is against human nature and injustice            |



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| Plato   | Aristotle  |
|---|--|
| <p>④ Justice by Plato is division of specialization and work and strict non-interference.</p> | <p>④ Justice by Aristotle is fairness and equitable distribution</p>                       |
| <p>⑤ His model of governance consist of <b>producers, warriors and rulers</b></p>             | <p>⑤ Aristotle advocated for balance, empowering <b>middle class</b> for governance.</p>   |
| <p>⑥ Plato supported education for all i.e both male and female</p>                           | <p>⑥ Aristotle provided education for male only. He laid gender disparity in education</p> |

## Relevance of ideas of Plato and Aristotle in today's world

### Plato's Relevance

Plato's leadership emphasis on capability and aristocracy resonates need to modern world. His concerns for education are relative in today's world. Education is a state's responsibility for development for competent leadership can play significant role for a prosperous state. Plato's concerns for democracy highlight contemporary challenges of democratic government in today's world.

## Aristotle's Relevance

Aristotle was a great philosopher. His theory empowered role of middle class as rulers of state. This concept of constitutional governance and rejection of tyranny are important for modern states stability and progress. He emphasized significance of education which is also need of modern world. Hence, it offered guidance for good governance, justice system, competent leadership and democratic challenges of contemporary world.



Q3.

## Introduction

Niccolo Machiavelli, **father of modern politics**, gave philosophy of "**power politics**". His ideas supported pragmatic controversial view of politics. His principles focus on acquisition, maintenance and exercise of power. His powerful leadership is irrespective of moral considerations. The leadership manipulation and his advocacy for realism resonate strongly with in today's leadership concept of "**populism**".

Populism is a political approach that emphasize on direct connection of leadership with masses. Populist leader manipulate masses with emotional appeal and promises of major change. These traits of populism align with political framework of machiavelli.

## Principles of Niccolo Machiavelli and their relevance to present day Populism

### ① End justifies mean

Niccolo Machiavelli proposed the idea that state is not a mean to an end but it



is an end by itself and justifies the every mean.  
 He prioritized results over moral considerations.  
 He argued that leaders use every necessary tactics and actions to maintain and exercise their power.

This concept of Machiavelli aligns with today's populist leaders. These leaders manipulate and mobilize masses of population to maintain their influence. They use emotional rhetorics, misinformation or nationalist grievances to justify their controversial policies.

## ② Divide and Rule

Machiavelli views that a ruler can become powerful by using adversaries of division and their exploitation. He ensures that no ~~single~~ single group becomes too power.

Populist leaders of today's world polarize ~~both~~ societies creating an image of them as outsiders that arrived to protect them from corrupt politics. They show them as heroes or saviours, creating "us versus them" narratives. These tactics are utilized by populist leaders to weaken the opposition.

## ③ Centralization of Power Machiavelli's view of



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leadership that contains whole power, holding central authority to stabilize the state.

Populist leaders concentrate their power, they subjugate the traditional institutions such as media, judiciary to increase their influence.

#### ④ Appealing to the masses

Machiavelli's leadership thought understands significance of support of public for maintaining power.

Populist leaders manipulate masses through their tactics of promises regarding issues that resonate with majority such as jobs, inflation, subsidies, immigration and stability. They simplify simple complex issues through their slogans and promises. This approach reflects Machiavelli's advice to focus on popular support as a foundation of power.

#### ⑤ Flexibility and Adaptability

Machiavelli argued that leaders must be as cunning as fox and as brave as lion. He argued that a successful leader must have capability to adapt according to changing circumstances.



Populists in today's world frequently change their narratives, decisions and policies according to priorities of public. They focus more on short-term policies instead of strategic long-term policies.

This adaptability allows them to maintain their relevance, control and power.

## Challenges of Machiavelli's populism.

### ① Ethical concerns

Machiavelli's politics concerned with end disrupts ethical considerations. The detachment of politics from morality, as advocated by Machiavelli, raises questions about ethical implications of populist strategies.

### ② Disruption of democratic norms.

Machiavelli's political thought prioritize power over democratic principles, leading to authoritarian tendencies in populist regime.

### ③ Social Polarization

The divisive tactics advocated by Machiavelli's politics increases social polarization and radicalization.



④ Short term policies lacks sustainability of leadership

The populist leader's efforts to focus on popularity and short term policies leads to failure of true governance.

Conclusion

Machiavelli's principles of politics strike with modern day approach of populist leaders. It include tactics such as manipulation, rule of divide, control of power, increasing influence through emotional tactics. Through these approaches, a populist leader gain influence and weaken the opposition. The study of ~~the~~ Machiavelli's principles helps to analyze modern day politics and builds capacity to meet with challenges effectively.



## Introduction

Populism means appeal to the people, their manipulation on the basis of economic and social grievances. The populist rhetoric has become a norm in contemporary democracy. While it is often seen as a challenge to liberal democracy and rule of law, populism has appeared due to shortcomings of liberal democracy such as economic gaps, corruption, powerful elite and marginalization of common people. It may be inimical to liberal democracy and actual rights due to exploitation of public but at the same time it addresses contemporary challenges. Hence, it requires a balance with institutional strengthening and economic prosperity. The issues of liberal democracy such as political disconnection, globalization, scandals and inefficiencies of government have made populism to be acceptable norm in contemporary democracies.

Is Populism inimical to liberal democracy?

Populism can be both inimical and



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corrective to liberal democracy depending upon how it is practised.

### ① Threats to liberal democracy

Populist leaders can be a threat to liberal democracy.

#### ① Undermining freedom of speech

They subjugate opposition and critics calling them enemies of public. Hence populist discourage freedom of speech.

#### ② weakening of independent institutions

They often bypass or weaken institutions such as judicial system, media and other independent bodies that pose threat to their leadership.

#### ③ Compromise of minority rights

Populists focus on majority population and take actions in their favour. Hence, it compromise rights of minorities. Such as populist rhetorics against immigrants and minorities in several European populati countries.



### (1) Enhance division and polarization

populist leaders use tactics and rhetoric speeches against opposition creating "us vs them" concept. Therefore, they encourage polarization and division of society.

### (2) Corrective to liberal democracy

On the other hand, populism can be corrective to liberal democracy addressing genuine grievances.

### (a) Challenging elitism

Populism emerges as a response to elite governance. It poses challenges to elitism and address genuine issues of public.

### (b) Reviving political participation

It encourage public participation against elite leaders, increasing democratic engagement.

## Issues In Liberal Democracy That Fuel Populism

Several issues within liberal democracy have made populism an acceptable norm.



Education system  
Issues  
lack of R & D  
Solutions

(a) Economic disparities between elite class and public

The liberal democracies create a gap between elite <sup>class</sup> and public - the widened disparity produces grievances and concerns within public, giving populism an opportunity to rise and exploit these ~~con~~ grievances.

(b) Weakened democratic institutions

The weakened institutions fail to address challenges such as corruption, fraud, scandals and inefficiencies. These failures produce mistrust of public within democratic institutions. Hence, it allows populist leaders to make promises regarding strengthening of institutions and restoring ~~of~~ <sup>their</sup> efficiency.

(c) Political disconnection

In the modern democratic countries, public is totally disconnected from political leaders. This alienation of public leads to failure of leaders in addressing grassroots issues. Populist put themselves as "outsiders" who work only for will of people.



## Balancing populism and liberal democracy

### (a) Strengthening institutions

Reinforce the independence of institutions and ensure rule of law and system of checks and balance.

### (b) Addressing economic inequalities

Address the economic disparity by taking pragmatic initiatives and introduce policies to promote inclusive growth.

### (c) Ensuring public participation and political communication

Create mechanism to encourage public participation and role in decision making to rebuild trust of public in democratic institutions.

### (d) Regulating social media

Control spreading of misinformation and promote balanced discourse on social media platforms.

## Conclusion

The populism can be inimical to liberal democracy, fundamental rights and freedom of citizens, by exploiting them, due to their deficiencies. However, it can also be beneficial against elitism and authoritarianism.



Q7

## Introduction

Sovereignty is the supreme authority that holds specific territory of the state. It defines who holds the ultimate power to make decisions, run an administration and control resources.

Sovereignty can rest with the people (popular sovereignty), the parliament (parliamentary sovereignty) and the crown (monarchical sovereignty). Each arrangement has its advantages and disadvantages that affect state's development and prosperity.

## Sovereignty With the people

### (Popular Sovereignty)

#### Pros

#### ① Ensures legitimacy of democracy

The popular sovereignty ensures the power rests with people. It empowers public to make decisions in ~~there~~ their interests, fostering accountability and transparency.



## ② Protection of fundamental rights

Popular sovereignty encourage protection of rights of citizens, preventing risks of exploitation. People can directly influence laws and policies to safeguard their rights.

## ③ Prevention of tyranny

It prevents dictatorial rule as power stays within hands of public.

## ④ Participation and Inclusivity

Popular sovereignty allows people's participation in the public in the decision-making, influencing policies and administrative laws directly.

## Cons

### ① Inefficiency in the administration

Direct decision-making by the people strive for simplification of complex issues, making policies that prove ineffective.

### ② Risks of Populism

The political leaders may influence people through emotional approach leading to formation of short-sided policies.

### ③ Risks of manipulation and exploitation

leaders may exploit and manipulate public through propaganda and misinformation.



## Sovereignty with the Parliament (Parliamentary sovereignty)

### Pros.

#### ① Ensures Efficiency

Parliament consists of elected representative. They make pragmatic policies along with expertise ensuring effective policymaking.

#### ② Accountability and Transparency

The elected leaders are accountable to parliament and rule of law. Hence, it maintains electoral legitimacy.

#### ③ Flexibility in decision-making

The parliament formulate laws and policies and ensures its implementation according to societal needs, hence, there is flexibility in decision-making.

### Cons

#### ① Risk of Elitism and concentration of Power

The Parliamentary Sovereign concentrates the power and authority within elite representative. This will undermine public interest.



## Sovereignty with the Crown (monarchical sovereignty)

### Pros

#### ① Symbol of unity

It reflects cultural unity of the state, enhancing national identity where all political divide remains under monarch.

#### ② Ensures political stability and continuity

There is resistance to change in the regime that enables leaders focus on long-term policies.

#### ③ Efficiency in decision-making

The centralized authority is contacted and act swiftly in case of emergency situations within the state.

### Cons

#### ① Authoritarian regime

The system of monarchy concentrates powers, that is unchecked, within few leaders.

#### ② Lack of accountability and rule of law

Monarchs are not elected, they are mostly hierarchical and they are mostly not accountable before people. Monarchs are considered above rule of law. Hence monarchical sovereignty risks rights of common people.