

QNO2) Explain the contribution of Aristotle regarding state and governance. Examine its relevancy in the present time.

1- Introduction:

Aristotle was born in 384 BC in Stagira, Greece and he died in 322 BC in Chalcis, Greece. Unlike Plato, Aristotle was embroiled in the politics of his day; indeed he died in exile because the Athenians suspected his loyalty when they revolt against Macedonian rule in 323 BCE. He tutored Alexander the Great. He did contribute in the society. He gave many concepts in the society. His biggest contribution was the ideal state and government structure. Although, he was student of Plato, but there were some contradictions of Aristotle with Plato's view.

2- Aristotle and his view on state:

Aristotle views the state as natural. According to him, the state is a necessary condition for all humans. Like Plato, he does not differentiate between state or society and in a similar fashion, considers it to be essential for good life. Thus, in his view, thus in his view, the state is a necessary condition of a good life.

2.1 Importance of state according to Aristotle

Any human being cannot survive in isolation, and thus, a man and a woman establish a household. A village is formed when a family

expands itself, and when many such villages are formed, a state comes into existence. As and when a state is formed and society is organised, human beings can meet their needs. It is for the same reason that the existence of state is important and natural as the presence of a family or village.

2.2 State is natural as human being:

According to him, there is no difference between an animal or a human being, other than the fact that a human being has the desire and a sense of living a good life. This means that the human beings become different from animals only if they exist in a state. It is the same desire to lead a good life that makes the formation of a state a natural thing to occur.

2.3 Characteristics of Aristotle's ideal state:

Following are the characteristics of the ideal state of the Aristotle

2.3.1 Population:

According to the Aristotle if the population is more than law and order situation of a state would be ruined and if the population is less, than it cannot be defended. According to him the population figure should be somewhat in between 15000 - 100000 in Greece.

2.3.2 Territory:

According to Aristotle in the large territory it is difficult to implement the law and if the territory would be small it is difficult to defend it. According to him the ideal territory should be when ruler climbs the mountain he can see the entire area of the territory.

2.3.3 Geography/Location:

According to Aristotle, the ideal state cannot be land lock state. The ideal state must have sea route for trade. When there would be more trade, more revenue would be generated, so, the economy of the country would be strong. But the ideal state must not be so close to the sea, that enemy could attack the state.

2.3.4 Division of Society:

According to Aristotle, the society be divided into 2 classes

- Citizens
- Slaves

He supported slavery. He said slavery is natural. Some are born to be ruled and some are born for rule.

2.3.5 Division of Task:

According to Aristotle there are six important tasks to be divided:

Arts
Craft
Agriculture

} It should be done by slaves.

Defense
Ruling
Religion

} It should be done by citizens.

2.3.6 Division of work according to age:

According to Aristotle, the task or work should be divided among people according to their age.

- Defense → It should be done by youth
- Ruling → It should be done by middle age people.
- Religion → It should be done by old age people.

2.3.7 Education:

According to the Aristotle there must be state control education. There must not be privatization of education. Moreover, the education should be limited to the male candidates.

2.3.8 Property:

According to the Aristotle, there must be division of property. So that no one

will be rich and poor. So, one cannot snatch the others property.

2.3.9 Rule of Law:

According to the Aristotle, the rule of law is different than the Plato's rule of law. He ^{said proper} "defining the constitution" ^{should be there}. For him there must be definite laws to run the state and no one would be above the law.

3 Aristotle's view on governance:

Aristotle believed that there were three genuine forms of government and three corrupted forms of government. Therefore, he gave the theory on governance so, that it would be easy to run a state.

3.1 Main idea of Aristotle's politics or governance:

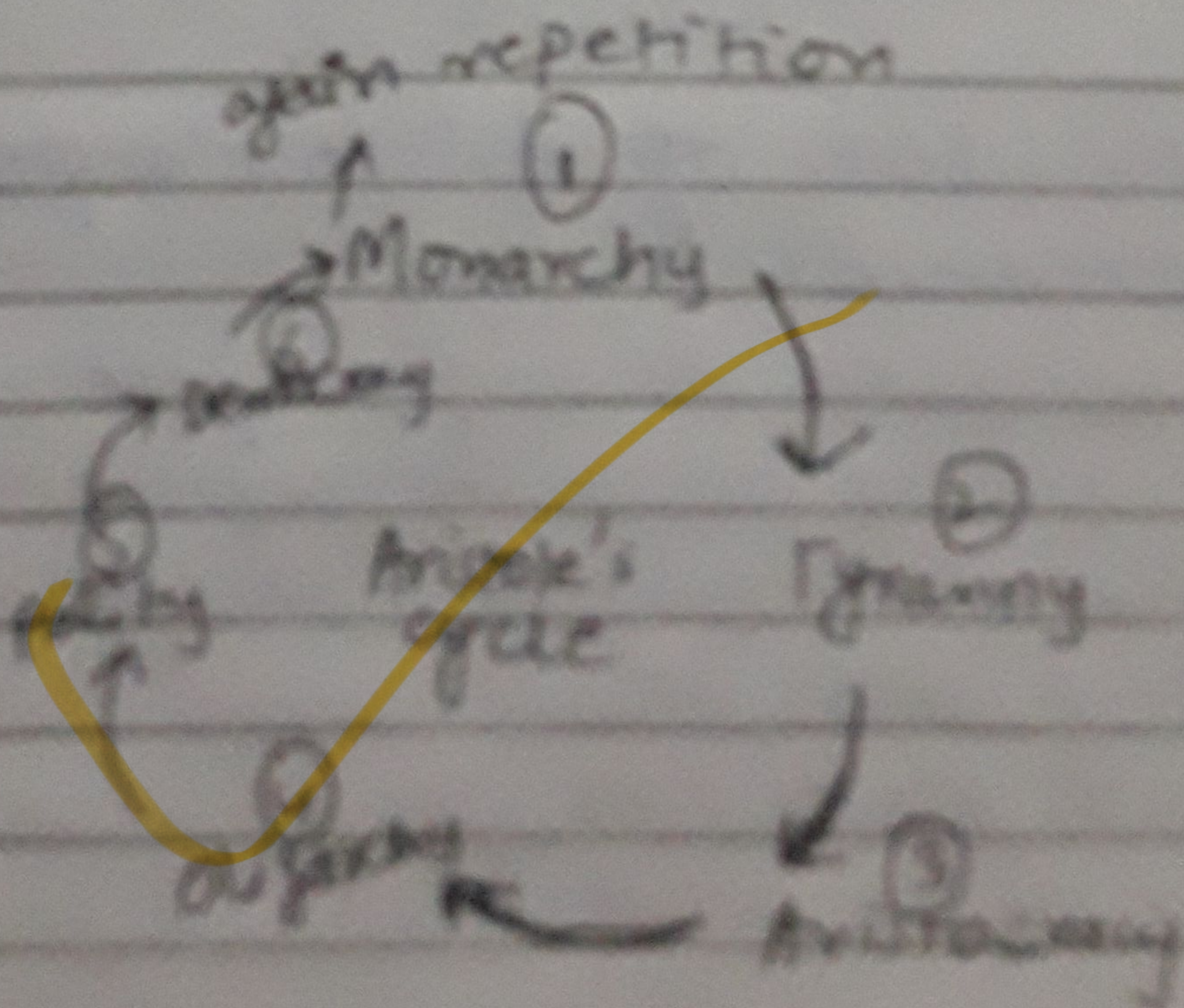
The main idea of Aristotle's politics is that government exists to promote and foster virtue in a way that leads to the good life of its citizens. Virtuous citizens are prepared to live together under common laws and contribute to their community.

3.2 Characteristics of concept of governance given by Aristotle:

Aristotle gave forms of governance then classified them in genuine and corrupted forms.

Sr. No	Number of Rulers	Good one	Bad one
1-	One	Monarchy	Tyranny
2-	Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
3-	Many	Polity	Democracy

"Classification of Government by Aristotle"



forms of government come through a cycle called as Aristotle's cycle.

Date: _____

3.2.1 Monarchy:

According to Aristotle one person is ruling, who is not corrupt. Because he wants people to respect him and gave him honor. So people are getting benefits. It is monarchy and is stable government.

3.2.2 Tyranny:

As the monarchy runs in heridity. May be the next king, who would be ruling by creating deference in people. The king might be working for his own benefits. There would be brutalities. It is called as Tyranny.

3.2.3 Aristocracy:

Whenever there is injustice or brutalities, there is revolution. To end this tyranny, people will stand against brutality and may lay the another foundation of government which would be in favour of people. So it would be converted into the aristocracy and it would also be a stable government.

3.2.4 Oligarchy:

When the aristocracy would be destabilize, then powers would be confined in some hands. This type of system is called oligarchy.

3.2.5

Polity:

when different people would be representing instead of confiding the power in few hands. There would be a system called as polity.

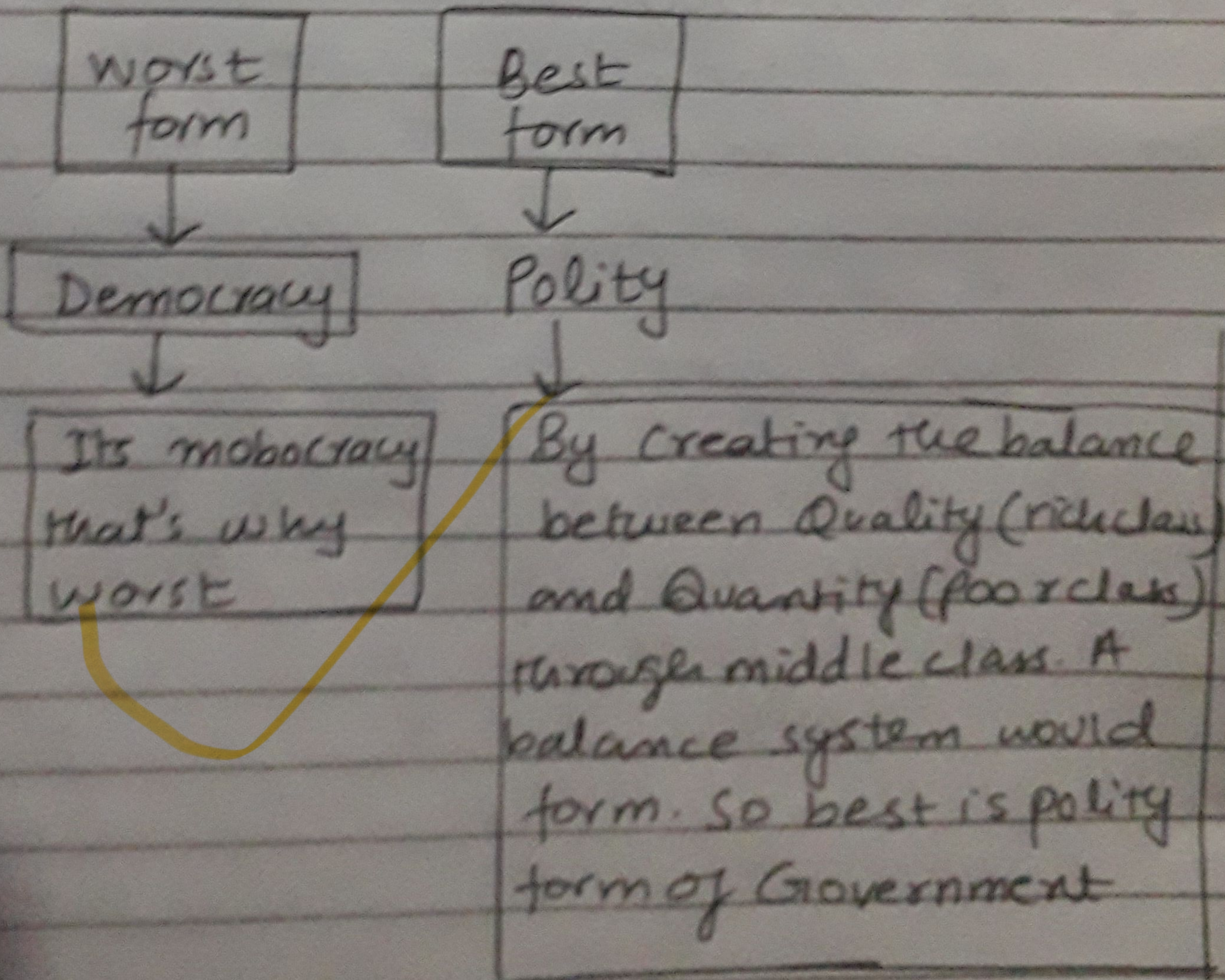
3.2.6

Democracy:

With the passage of time, the system of polity would be converted into another system known as democracy. There will be anarchy. Person will establish and maintain law and order and again monarchy would be started.

3.3

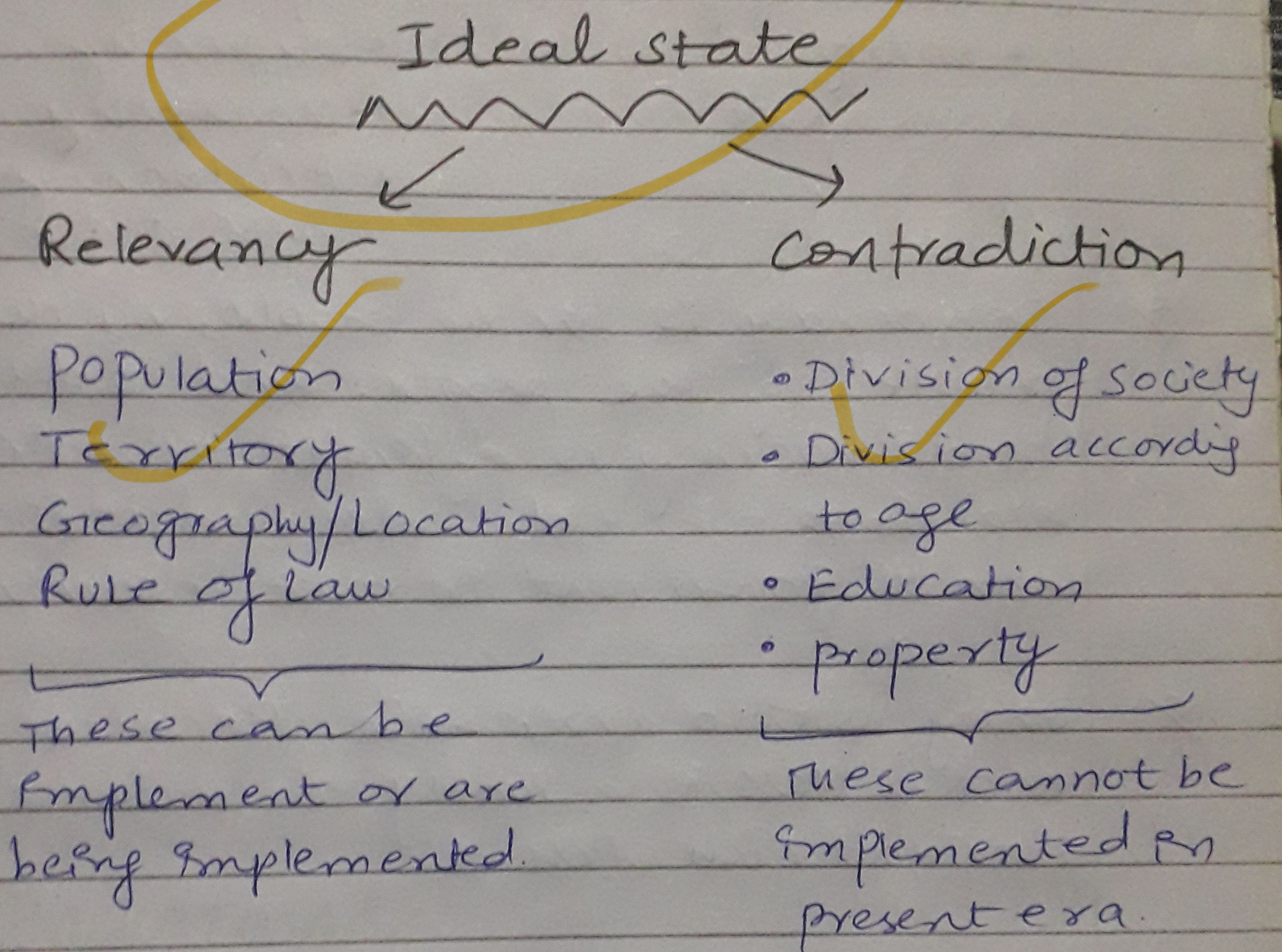
End Result of forms of Government



4

Relevancy in the present time:

The Aristotle's theory is relevant in present time up to some extent. But some points are contradictory in present era.



Division of Society	Division according to age	Education	property
↓	↓	↓	↓
If it will be so. Then there would be no concept of merit.	If it will be so, state will lose experienced people	If it will be so, more than half of the population would be illiterate	If it will be so. No one will work for the country.

Form of government

Relevant

- Democracy
- Polity

Contradiction

- Tyranny
- Oligarchy
- Monarchy
- Aristocracy

✓ Democracy is for the people, by the people, of the people. and today concept of democracy is different than Aristotle's era. So this is applicable and it is currently form of government in most of countries

✓ Polity is also applicable. Because the middle class is actually the balance between poor and rich class.

Tyranny, Oligarchy, Monarchy, Aristocracy

↓	↓	↓	↓
brutal	could be brutal	could be brutal	law and order issues

so not applicable.

QNO4) Explain the Religo-political philosophy of Shah waliullah and influence of nationalism?

1- Introduction:

Shah waliullah was born in 1702 in Delhi and died in 1762. He was a muslim and received a traditional islamic education from his father. He memorized Quran at the age of seven. He reached adulthood at the time of disillusionment following the death in 1707 of Aurangzeb, the last Mughal emperor of India. As the large areas of empire had been lost to Hindu and Sikh rulers of the Deccan and the Punjab, Indian Muslims had to accept the rule of non-Muslims. So, this challenge occupied waliullah's adult life.

2- Background:

Shah waliullah was one of the greatest original thinkers of Muslim India. He was deeply troubled at the situation of Muslim and Islam in India. Muslims lost their political and economic power. There were civil wars going on, loss of life, culture and resources. There was resurgence of Hindu power. Conspiracies and betrayal of muslim elite was there. Muslim nobility was degenerating and future of Islam and Muslims in India were at stake.

3- Sources of Shah Waliullah thoughts:

The pivotal point on which revolves the philosophical thought of Shah Waliullah is religion. He believed that the Muslim polity should be restored to its former splendour by a policy of religious reform that would harmonize the religious ideals of Islam with the changing social and economic conditions of India.

4- Shah Waliullah's Religious philosophy:

As Shah Waliullah hail from a noble family, being a Muslim scholar of eighteenth-century he made an immense contribution in the religious life of Muslim community. His philosophy of religion became one of the standard for bringing reform movement in sub-continent.

4.1 Religion is Source of Strength and Power

According to Shah Waliullah religion was the true sole source of strength and power for the Muslims. The decline of Muslims was the direct result of their apathy towards it. His chief concern, therefore, was to call the Muslims back to the teachings of Islam.

4.2 Islamic ideology:

He had a strong faith in the force and strength of Islamic ideology in which, he

believed if accepted fully and applied honestly, by the hope for peaceful and prosperous development of human race.

4.3 Islamic teachings:

Shah waliullah was fully aware of the gap between the pattern of life as enunciated in the Quran and the Sunnah and the one which the Muslims had devised for themselves. It can, therefore, be said that the Holy Quran and Sunnah formed the bedrock on which he raised the superstructure of his thought system.

4.4 Spreading understanding of Quran:

For people to understand the teachings of Quran, he translated the Quran. Shah waliullah translated Quran into Persian language with brief commentary notes. He has guidance from Quran for all reforms.

4.5 Preaching of pristine values of Islam

As the Muslim government at that time neglected religion. Muslims are lacking behind. Therefore he started preaching pristine values of Islam.

4.6 Religious writings

He was a prolific writer. So he wrote extensively on Fiqh and Hadith. He wrote

51 books; 23 in Arabic and 28 in Persian.

4.6 Brought unity among religious scholars:

He united different religious scholars on one page. e.g. Hanafi-Shafi-Maliki-Hambali-Sunni and Shia.

5- Political philosophy of Shah Waliullah

As Muslims were declining in every facet of life. Therefore he wrote and gave a lot of concepts.

- ① Right of property.
- ② All men are equal.
- ③ Head of state is like a manager of the state.
- ④ It is the duty of state to provide basic needs to its citizens.
- ⑤ Fundamental rights given to every citizen of the state.
- ⑥ Safeguard life, property, respect of every citizen.
- ⑦ Language and culture of every class and state should be promoted.

- ② Every state is an independent unit. No one is liable to interfere in the internal or external affairs of state.

6- Religious and political philosophy influenced nationalism in Subcontinent

Subcontinent was the place where many religions co-exist at the same time. Every religion has their own set of ideas, culture, norms, practices etc. The initial step was to wake up Muslims. As there was decline of Muslim emperors and nobility. It was to revive the position of Muslims. But people of other religions were also influenced. The thoughts of Shah Waliullah was not limited to Muslims. Rather other religions were also impacted. The points discussed earlier in the political thoughts are promoting nationalism. It is giving the chance to people from any religion to live together by practising their particular religion without any interference.

Conclusion:

As evident from the above religious and political thoughts of Shah Waliullah. His reform brought reform movement in the Subcontinent. As it was the wake-up call for Muslims.