

Answer to Q 2

Introduction

Plato and Aristotle are the last two of the Great Greek triumvirate. It is said that Aristotle is great but ungrateful disciple of Plato. It is because of the fact that Aristotle did not blindly follow his master. Although he shared some political ideas - like both were against mob rule, both focused on education, and collective good and justice. However, they were in sharp contrast in certain areas. For instance, Plato's political ideas were buried under extremism, idealism, and his obsession with philosopher king. On the contrary, Aristotle

political ideas were based on moderation, pragmatism, and constitutionalism. The political ideas of both the political philosophers are part of today's world.

Similarities in the political ideas of Plato and Aristotle

- Both wanted to create a just society (Flute-player example)
- Both stood against 'mob rule'
- Both emphasised the role of education to improve society and state
- Both preferred collective good to individualism.
- These two - teacher-student were more different than alike.

Differences in the political ideas

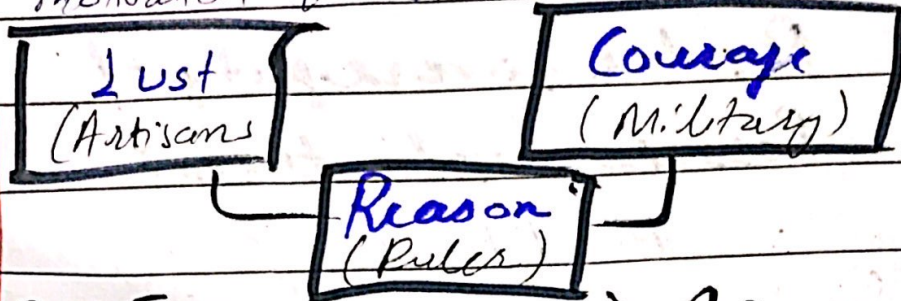
Plato	Aristotle
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Plato is extremist in his political approach. His view is narrow.	<p>In contrast, Aristotle's political ideas are moderate and look at things in broad perspective.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Plato is an idealist whose political ideas seem impractical (Ideal Republic does not and cannot exist)	<p>Aristotle's political ideas are pragmatic. He presented the possibilities of all forms of government - the constitutional one and the unconstitutional.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Plato believes that Philosophical king must rule	<p>Aristotle believes in constitutionalism and claims that</p>

with absolute authority, and not restricted by law. (present doctor-patient analogy)	rule without const. institution is the worst kind of rule and reflects doctor-patient analogy
→ Plato's political philosophy is bent to authoritarian rule	Aristotle prefers rule with mixed elements of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy
→ Plato presented theory of communism	Aristotle criticized it, and advocated private property
→ Plato deemed slavery to be natural institution.	Against slavery to keep human dignit. &

Relevance of Plato in contemporary world.

- ① Right man for the right job: bureaucratic efficiency
On the basis of aptitude

and expertise, one must choose the specific field. One should follow the motivation forces.



② Emphasis on justice

"Justice is giving to each man his due share" - Plato

One should get what one deserves for smooth functioning of state.

③ State as ultimate regulator

In all walks of life - politics, religion, education, family - state must interfere.

④ Concept of communism

Land, ^{property} cannot be owned,
no private family.

⑤ Able/wise ruler.

Philosopher King to rule.

The negative influence of Plato in today's world

- ① Popular sovereignty of Rousseau under threat

He, like his guru, Socrates, called it 'mob rule' and encouraged authoritarianism.

- ② Individualism endangered: the knife inside Mill

Individual liberties have no room in Plato's Ideal State.

- ③ Faulty education schemes: the ever changing aptitude

Not practical.

Relevance of Aristotle in contemporary world

- ① Apostle of moderation warns against extremism in politics

Unlike Plato, who

propagated rule by philosopher King.
Aristotle emphasized that both the elements
of oligarchy and democracy should
co-exist. This can be seen in today's states.

② Champion of constitutionalism

Today, the states - most
of them are run according
to constitution.

③ Emphasis on the importance of state

"Man is a social and political
animal" - Aristotle

According to him, "tyranny
is better than statelessness".

Political ideas of Plato and Aristotle: Lessons for Pakistan

Pakistan needs to
adopt the right man for

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the right job mantra. It should
also learn to uphold constitution
It should take lessons from
philosophers emphasis on education
and justice.

Conclusion

To sum up, Plato
and Aristotle shared some
similarities, but, Aristotle, in
many areas went in different
direction and bravely criticized
and corrected his teacher.
Moreover, both the political
philosophers are quite
relevant in today's age as
states take guidance from them
when are guided by fascism,
constitutionalism, extremism,
moderation and so on.

Answer to Q4

Introduction

The political philosophers like Locke propagated the right to stand against unjust, abusive and incompetent government.

This was in sharp contrast with principles of social contract theorists who considered revolution as a poison which can weaken and kill a state.

Hobbes would be most hurt with revolution, civil wars and factions sharing power. Therefore he placed power in Leviathan's hand to avoid chaos, civil wars, unstable government. However,

revolution, which has some negative impacts on state, is important for just rule, and popular sovereignty.

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Social Contract theories
of political philosophers
who are for or against
right to resist or revolution

Hobbes' and Locke's/ Rousseau's antithetical social contract

Hobbes	Locke/Rousseau
→ Human nature: selfish, hawkish, power-hungry	Rational, and compassionate
→ Sovereignty: Leviathan	Popular sovereignty
Autocracy	Democracy
→ Use of force	Consent
Concentration of power	Devolution of power
→ Unquestionable, irresponsible	Questionable and responsible
→ Exclusion political system	Inclusive
→ No individual liberty	Liberty there

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Owing to social contract,
or political philosophy, which
is people-centric and democratic,
social contract theorists, - Locke
and Rousseau give citizens
the right to revolution against
corrupt or incompetent government.

On the contrary, political
philosophers like Hobbes based
on their political mental make up
do not grant right to revolution.

Hobbes, Bodin, Machiavelli
and others think that revolution
can lead to chaos and anarchy
in the words of Thomas
Hobbes, "will move back to
the state of nature."

**Why Hobbes and other monarchists,
unlike Locke and Rousseau do not
give right to revolution.**

For various reasons, citizen

not allowed to stand against the incompetent government.

a) Hobbes believed men/masses cannot be trusted, as they are selfish and combative.

b) If power placed in their hands, they will abuse it, and it will create disorder.

c) Hobbes place all the powers, legislature, executive, judiciary in Leviathan hand.

d) Leviathan cannot be questioned, held accountable, or held responsible.

e) He has unlimited power.

Absolute monism (Bodin)

f) Non-conformity not allowed.

Power not devolved/shared

"To divide sovereignty is to destroy it."

— John C. Calhoun

Importance of Right to stand against government that fails to deliver

Although this right is against the principles of some contract theorists like Hobbes, it is important for various reasons

① It respects people's voice and choice

"To silence an opinion is to rob mankind." - J. S. Mill

To keep democracy alive, this right is important

② It ensures just rule

Authoritarian/abusive/exploitative rule can be tackled through this right

③ Checks authoritarian powers

"Absolute power corrupts

absolutely" Fascists, selfish monarchs, must be dethroned.

④ Crushes abusive status quo

Metternich was the champion of status quo, and restoration. Through revolution, Europe got rid of him.

⑤ Effective governance system

When a government fails to deliver, and perform efficiently, it should be stood against.

French Revolution that changed the fate of Europe

It ended centuries' of monarchy in France. It triggered series of revolutions - 1930-1948 - in Europe, and guided Europe in the direction of democracy.

Dark/downside of Revolution

① Spreads reign of terror

Blood is spilt throats
are guillotined, and terror
tears the society apart.

② Unstable government

The government is
likely to fall every now
and then.

③ Chaos, anarchy, statelessness

"Tyranny is better than
statelessness" - Aristotle.

When people stand against
government, the very foundation of
state crumbles.

④ Back to state of nature

Hobbes was against
revolution because he believed
that it will throw people
back to state of nature where
life is nasty, poor, brutish and
short.

Conclusion

To sum up, the right to stand against incompetent government which was propagated by democracy-long political philosophers is against some contract theory. Yet, it is important to maintain justice in the state, and for effective and efficient governance system which works for the betterment of citizen.