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Political Science - I

Part - A

Question. No. 01

THEORY OF SEPRATION OF POWER

by Montesquieu

Montesquies was considered to be the Aristotle of the 18th century. He wrote his famous book known as the 'Spirit of laws'. In this, he wrote on working of the political systems and their relations. He presented his various theories on subject of separation of power between the government functions and their checks and balances, judicial independence, judicial activism and parliamentary supremacy.

Montesquie's famous theory was 'the separation of power' between the three pillars of the government functions. He formulated the tripartite division of government working. He developed this idea of three pillars and their separate distinct role while he was in the United Kingdom. He observed that the people enjoyed civil rights and liberty. Observing the functions of the state he concluded that it

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was the structure of government working that people enjoyed their fundamental rights protection. He observed that the government had three pillars

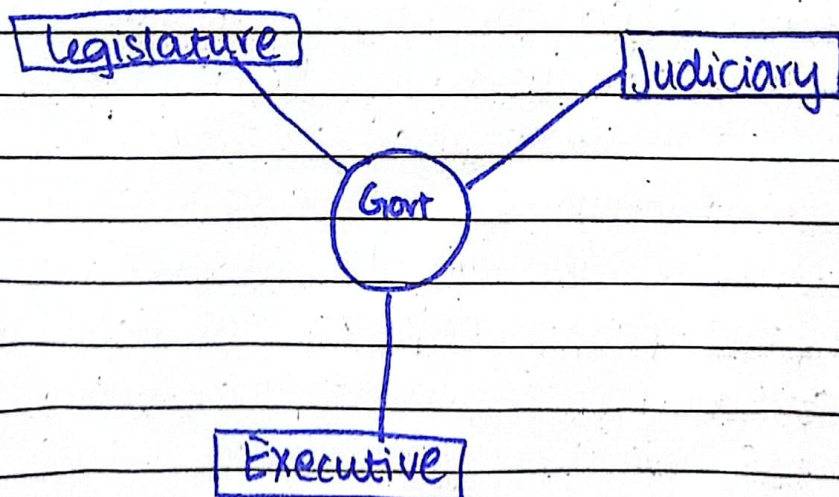
- i- legislature — law making body

- ii- Executive — law implementation body

- iii- Judiciary — law interpretation body.

He observed their separate distinct role independent of each other to maintain justice and fairplay while having 'the checks and Balances' of each pillar on every other pillar maintained no body as absolute authority because

'Absolute power corrupts Absolutely'



'The TRICOTOMY OF POWER'

Theoretical framework:

Montesquieu proposed that separation of power proposed ensures individual liberty, while if there is any two powers amalgamated, the system becomes unstable, he proposed that

i- if there is only legislature and executive exercising power, will lead to tyranny.

Executive - legislature = Tyranny

ii- Judiciary and ^{Legislature} executive leads to excessive control of judicial control on government function and individual liberty.

iii- Judiciary and ^{executive} legislature leads to oppression by judges

iv- And the mix of all three pillars leads No individual liberty at all.

**Executive - legislature - Judiciary =
No Liberty**

'le pouvoir asserti le pouvoir'

because

'Power halts Power'

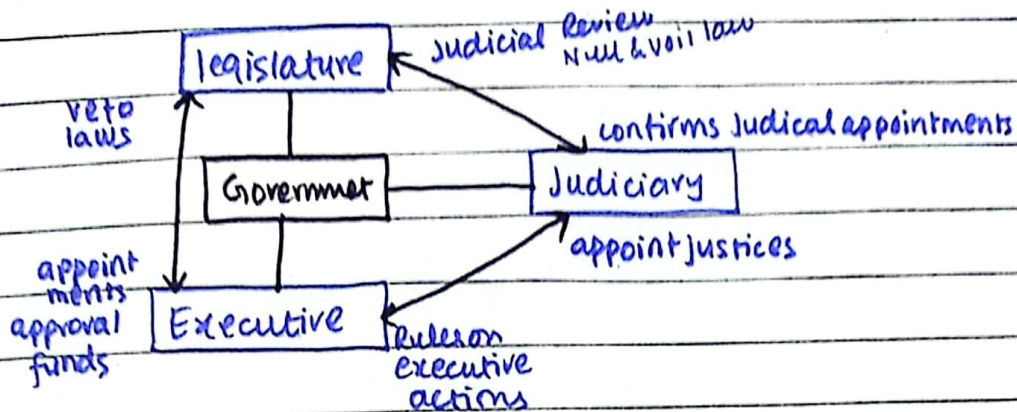
- But he observed that people in the United Kingdom still enjoyed their individual liberty. He deeply studied the institutions and wondered if complete separation of power was possible. So he proposed his Theory of 'Checks and Balances'

'THEORY OF CHECKS AND BALANCES'

Montesquieu proposed that

- Judiciary is independent of control of other branches, except that legislature can be supreme court of appeal in order to mitigate sentence of law
- The executive office have no right to enter law making process but can veto over legislation
- Legislature can examine how executive executes law but have no right to stay executive.

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Contemporary Example of Separation of power and checks And Balances:

THE US CONSTITUTION

One of the modern political systems that interpreted and implemented this doctrine of separation of power and checks and balances is the US constitution. Following are the pillars of US Political system.

- Legislature → The US congress
- Executive → The White House; President and his cabinet.
- Judiciary → The Supreme court

Working of the US political system and the checks and Balances

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- The Congress deals with the law making process

- The white house deals with exercising executive powers

- The Supreme Court deals the judicial system.

Checks & Balances:

- **Executive check on legislature**

- The president has the power to VETO any law formulated by legislature and return it to the congress for review.

- **legislature check on Executive:**

- Any appointment and foreign policy made by the president requires ratification from the congress e.g. establishment of league of Nations under the Treaty of verssile 1919.

- **Judiciary check on Executive & legislature:**

- The supreme court could challenged the law passed by congress and signed by president, can declare it 'Null and void'.

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So the Montesquieu's theory of separation of power highlights the importance of independent functions of the three pillars of the government under the light of checks and Balances. The US constitution is the best example of this doctrine of separation of Powers.

Q No. 03

KARL MARX Political Thought

Karl Marx was the founder of modern Socialism. His theory ~~Material~~ Material dialecticism came as a response to Hegel's dialectics of ideas. Marx proposed its not the conflict of ideas rather its class conflict that brings change and revolution. His theory is based upon materialism and he was the critique of Capitalism. He proposed the theory of surplus value to explain the exploitation of workers under Capitalism. His theory of Super class structure explain the conflict of materialism.

Marx divided the society into two classes i.e. the upper class and the lower class. He proposed

i- The upper class — the elite of the society i.e. bourgeois holds the means of production

ii- The lower class — the proletariat holds relation of production.

iii- The super structure of society that justifies the superior position of the society (the capitalist class)

Marx proposed that

' ANY change in forces of production will demand a change in relation of production.' ~ Karl Marx

Super Structure

Law
Govt
Media
Culture
Religion

1. Means of Produc.
2. Relation of Prodo

Economic Foundation

Functions of the Super Structure:

Karl Marx proposes that the Super Structure of class has two functions

① Justification of class difference of relations of production

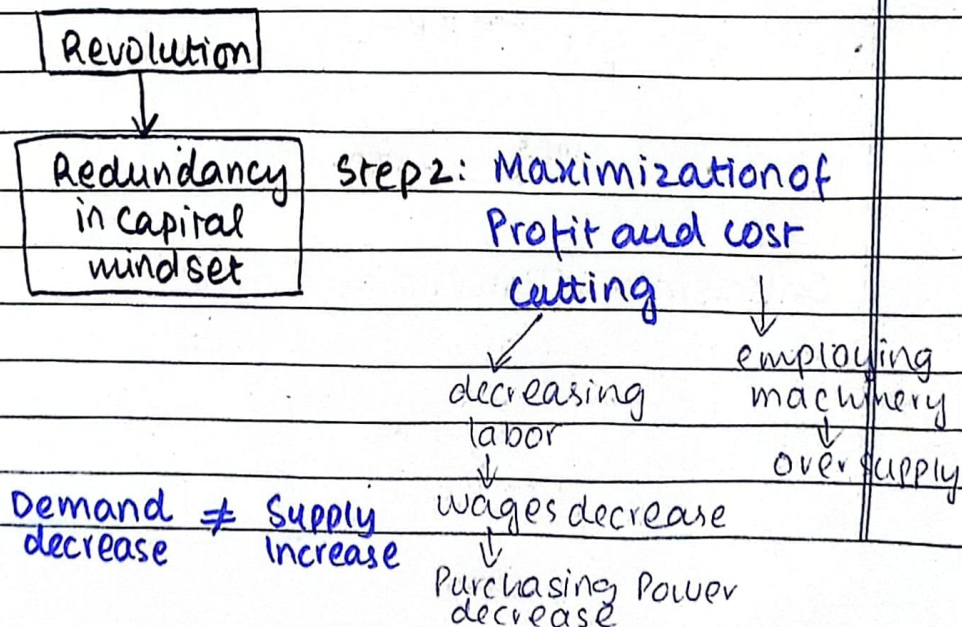
② maintains the Relation of Production — the hegemony of upper class and the exploitation of lower class

Process of Revolution and the classless Society:

→ Revolution

Step: 1 change is bound to happen

Marx proposed that the exploitation of lower class brings up revolution in capital societies



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as a result of the second step a revolution will follow

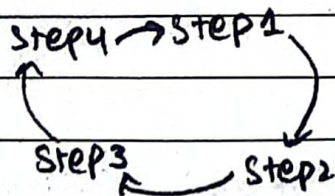
Step 3: Revolution

↓
dictatorship of
Proletariat
↓
a temporary
phase
↓
transitional phase

- The transitory phase will then eventually lead to a stateless society.

Step 4: Classless/ stateless Society:

the dictatorship of proletariat class eventually ends up in a stateless society and the circle will repeat.



Criticism and Conclusion:

- In reality the classless society does not occur the revolution occurs only to the proletariat dictatorship.
- On the other capitalism presented by Marx is not that exploitative

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• Marx has ignored the other factors like legal social which contributes to the class system.

Karl Marx class struggle and historical materialism defines the phases of revolution in a society. Marx opposes the Hegel's idea of dialects of ideas and proposes that in reality the conflict of materialism brings revolution.

SECTION-B

Question No. 6

Direct Democracy and Representative Democracy

A representative democracy is a system of government where citizen elect representative to vote on laws on their behalf. A direct democracy on other hand, is one where citizens vote on every issue themselves. The key difference between the two systems is who is voting on laws, elected officials or the citizen. Both systems aim to uphold democratic ideals, but their effectiveness in ensuring political accountability and citizen participation

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depends on the context and scale of their application.

Philosophical differences

Direct Democracy

- direct democracy is rooted in the ideals of classical democracy, such as practiced in ancient Athens, where citizens directly voted their opinions and voted on laws and policies.
- applicable in city-state nations like Athens.

Representative Democracy

- Representative democracy, on the other hand, evolved with idea of modern nation states. It is the idea of citizens delegate authority to representative who are tasked with making decisions on their behalf.
- applicable in modern nation states of today.

Practical differences

- In direct democracy, offers certain advantages such as promoting **maximum citizen engagement** and reflecting the pure will of people.
- Instruments like referendum and plebiscites allow **citizens to voice** their opinion directly on specific issues.
- However the system is **resource-intensive** time consuming, and not very practical.

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in modern societies.

Demerit: It also risks **populism** and the idea of 'majority is authority'.

Representative democracy:

*** Efficiency**

- In contrast, representative democracy is more efficient for large population and complex governance structure of the modern nation states.

*** Informed Decision-making**

- Elected officials deliberate and informed decision making on behalf of their constituents, bringing expertise and efficiency to process.

*** Demerit: Political Detachment of Representatives**

Representative candidates may not completely represent the needs of their people or may rather promote their self interests and get involved in corruption and lobbying.

POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

*** Direct democracy**

- Accountability lies directly with people themselves since citizens

collectively make decisions, there are limited mechanism for checking the consequence of their choices.

* Representative Democracy

- It provides structured accountability mechanism through state institutions like judiciary, elections and laws. Periodic elections allow citizens to evaluate and renew their trusted leaders.

Citizens Participation:

- Direct democracy maximizes citizens involvement by allowing them to directly influence government decision. However this level of engagement can be hindered by voter apathy and lack of knowledge about complex policy issues. Example: the execution of Socrates through democracy.
- Whereas representative democracy while indirect provides structured platform.

Modern day Context and Effectiveness

- In Modern day, due to the scale and complexity of state makes representative democracy more practical.
- Governing diverse population with varied interests requires system of balanced local and national priorities, which is more achievable through representative democracy.
- Technological advancement such as e-voting, could enhance direct democracy.

Direct democracy embodies the ideals of citizen participation but its practical limitation make it unsuitable for modern governance. whereas Representative democracy, despite its challenges offers a scalable efficient and accountable system.