

Question no 5

Introduction

Ibn Khaldun was a major political activist and scholar at the time of Muslim empire collapse. He witnessed the immediate rise and falls of Muslim empire especially at Abbasid Caliphate era when caliphate was weakened and other tribal societies were gaining power. The sultanat weakened due to emergence of strong tribal groups that were pushing the caliphate system towards the edge. Ibn Khaldun gave his famous theory of Asabiyyah, pointing and reflecting the socio-economic reasons behind rapid rise and falls of the government. Hence Khaldun is called as socialist philosopher and pioneer of the subject political economy as he mentioned these factors the very cause of fall of empires in a civilization.

Historical Context of Asabiyyah

- ① The major reason for his theory of Asabiyyah was miserable conditions of Muslim caliphate system. It was time

when muslims rule was weakened.
Abbasid Caliphate has ended.

② The second reason for his theory was clashes of tribes, that were in constant war of power struggle

③ The third reason was the Khuldan's witnessing of rapid rise and falls of the empires.

Ibn-Khuldan's Concept of Asabiyyah

To Ibn-Khuldan Asabiyyah was group solidarity and bondage of community for a common purpose. It was connection of people for power struggle.

Definition of Asabiyyah

The word Asabiyyah is a Arabic word which means 'Turban' which can be translated into urdu as پگڑی. The word "Asb" means piece of cloth rounded and collected on the head.

Linking Asabiyyah with group solidarity

In Khuldun's view the Asabiyyah is powerful ^{or powerful} society or group solidarity or community organization that is formed by people's general will and people's bondage. Just like the Turban, Asabiyyah is also united and collective form revolving around each other.

Asabiyyah's formation

According to Ibn Khuldun Asabiyyah is formed out ^{has} of two factors.

- ① The first factor is Human race, religious race, ethnic race, territorial race, that joins people to form group solidarity.
- ② Other factors can be ethnicities, languages, territory, and geographical similarities.

Factors strengthening Asabiyyah

There are two factors that strengthen and make Asabiyyah powerful in a organization.

Asabiyyah's strength

① People to people bond

② More people in a group, Asabiyyah

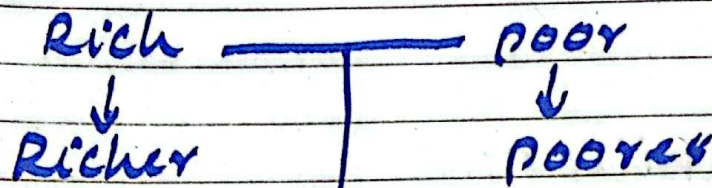
People to people bond, harmony, equality, self and community come along with the number of people in a society strengthens Asabiyyah.

Role of Economic factors in a Asabiyyah

Ibn Khaldun defined economic factors as the major cause of fall of civilizations. He explained that when civilizations get more economic wealth they indulge in luxuries and become fearless and unchallenged which becomes major reason behind their fall. He pinpointed the luxuries, extravagance and wealth accumulation as the cause behind Asabiyyah's fall.

His role of economic factors concept demonstrated the Mathew effect.

Malkew effect



Reasons

- unchallenged rule.
- wealth accumulation
- Extravagence
- luxuries.

↓
fall of Asabiyyah

Theory of Asabiyyah

Ibn Khaldun defined that a state carries several asabiyyah's in it. However, the only one becomes powerful by gaining people's legitimacy and inter-group bonds of people. This one, single Asabiyyah then rises above all by gaining strength of people. Ibn Khaldun then further explains the three stages of the rise of Asabiyyah.

Rise:

The Asabiyyah rises by gaining group solidarity with people to people.

bond and by gaining more number of people in a group. This Asabiyyah struggles and pushes other Asabiyyah to boundaries

Stability:

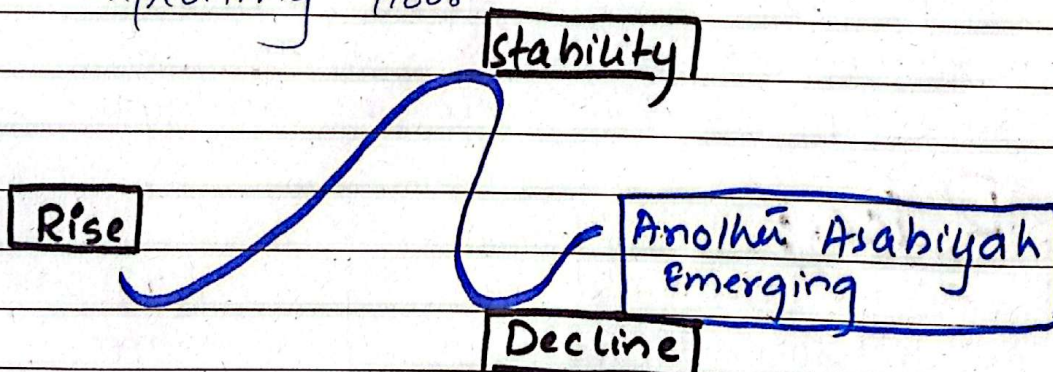
After becoming successful in the rise of power, the Asabiyyah maintains stability on the group by

1. Making civilized norms.
2. Maintaining fair laws.
3. reestablishes faith
4. becomes unchallenged
5. Promotes Art, culture and economy.

Decline:

After rise to a certain level the declining period starts when Asabiyyah

1. Indulges in extraluxuries activities
2. Enjoys extreme power
3. becomes fearless
4. run on impulses and desires
5. Promotes lawless activities, such as exploiting poor.



after decline of one Asabiyyah another Asabiyyah rises with same efforts and struggle. Hence, Ibn Khaldun said.

“The history of world is the history of clashes of Asabiyyah”

— Ibn-Khaldun

Conclusion.

In conclusion, Ibn Khaldun was a political scholar and a jurist who explained the socio-economic aspects of rise and fall of civilisations. He was interested to learn the causes behind the rapid changes in government and power struggles in tribe. He played a significant role in explaining the political-economic factors in the rise and fall of a civilisation.

Question no 4

Introduction

Aristotle was most known student of Plato. He studied in "Academy" which was run by Plato. Aristotle; however, educated in

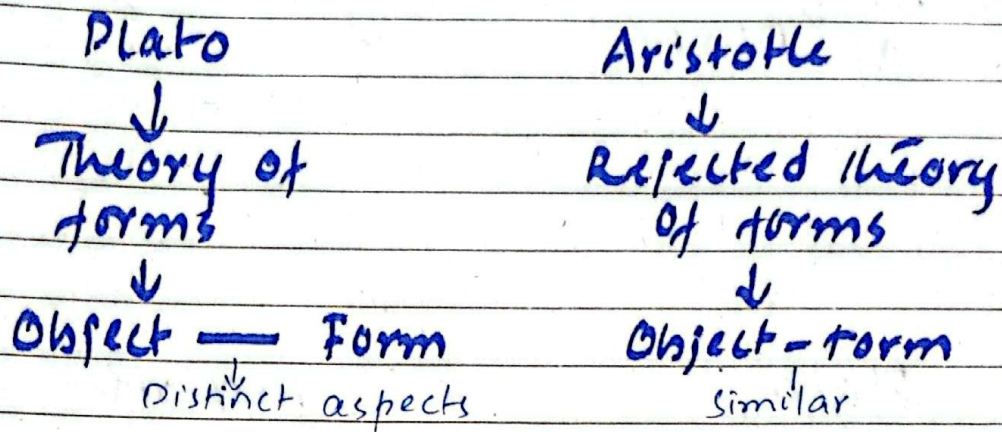
Plato's academy but had contradictory views against Plato. Aristotle was a great student but not grateful, this statement highlights the non-alienation of his ideas with his teacher. That was because of several reasons. Plato had different contextual history such as he was idealistic because of the influence of Socrates while Aristotle had his father's influence also because of his father's occupation as a practicing Doctor that shaped Aristotle's view of perceiving life with practicality.

Explaining Aristotle was a great but not a grateful student of Plato

1. Critique of Theory of Forms

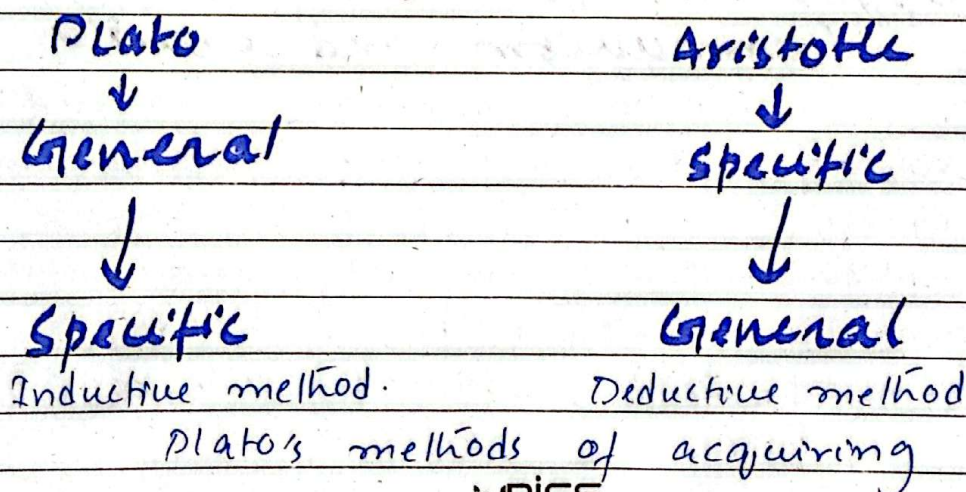
Plato had a distinct view of the nature based on his teacher - Socrates. Plato believed that every object possesses a soul that or undefined form inside which is contradictory to the visual state of that object. He explained it with famous analogy of cave. However, Aristotle totally opposed his idea and corrected it as, forms are

not distinct to object but they are same. He further questioned if the theory of forms is right then how do it explains mobility and development of an object.



2- Epistemological difference

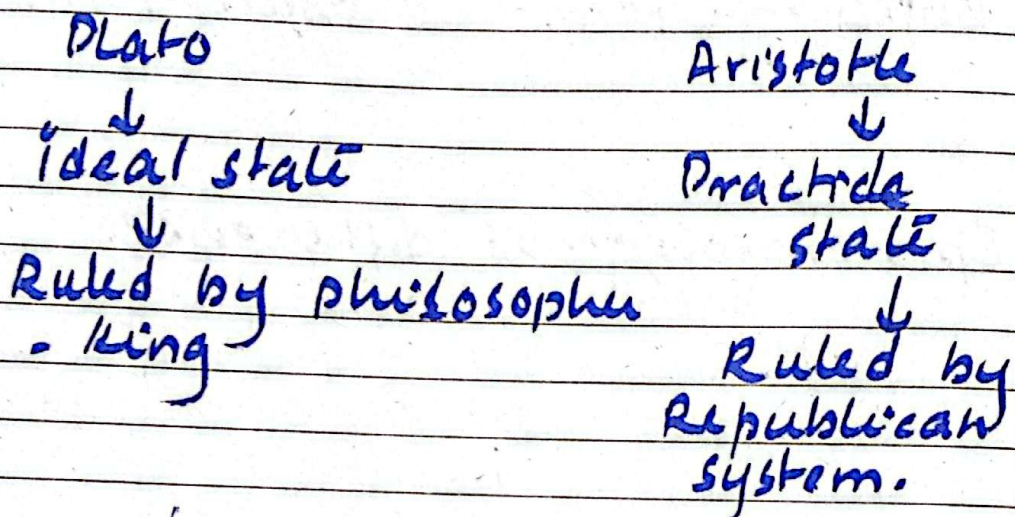
Aristotle argued about the deductive method of acquiring knowledge, while Plato's method of acquiring knowledge was with the specific general argumentation and questioning / dialogue.



knowledge was based on reasoning with help of dialogue while Aristotle believed on the factual data.

3- Critique of ideological approach of Plato

Aristotle opposed the ideal concepts of Plato of state. Aristotle believed on the practicality of the state system.



4- Opposition to theory of Communism and family

Aristotle believed the private property and family makes an individual responsible in a state. While, Plato believed that ^{in a} community and private property makes a person greedy and derives to unethical practices in a state.

Plato
 ↓
No private property
 ↳ causes greed

↓
No family wives, children
 ↳ Diverts attention

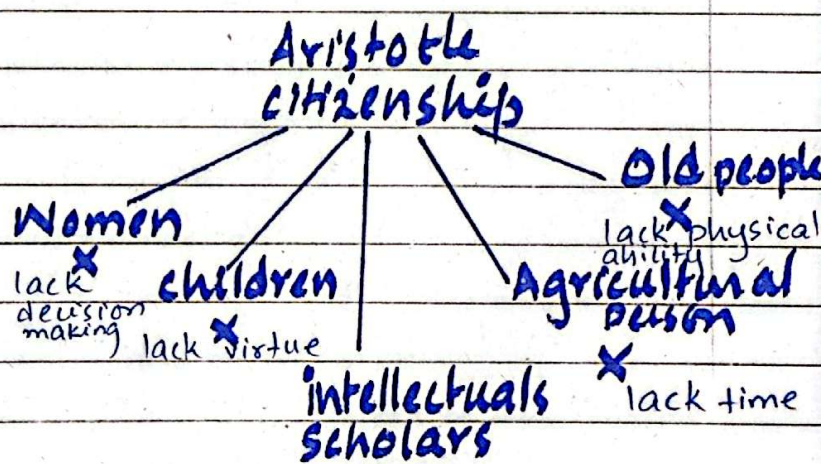
Aristotle
 ↓
Limited private property
 ↳ happiness, motivation factor

↓
Family, wife children
 ↳ Sense of responsibility and care

5- Aristotle promoted concept of citizenship

Plato's ideal state was completely governed by philosopher king who had a absolute power. It lacked the approach of citizenship. Plato's theory ruled state controlled process of economy and private life. While Aristotle promoted concept of citizenship although to a limited form.

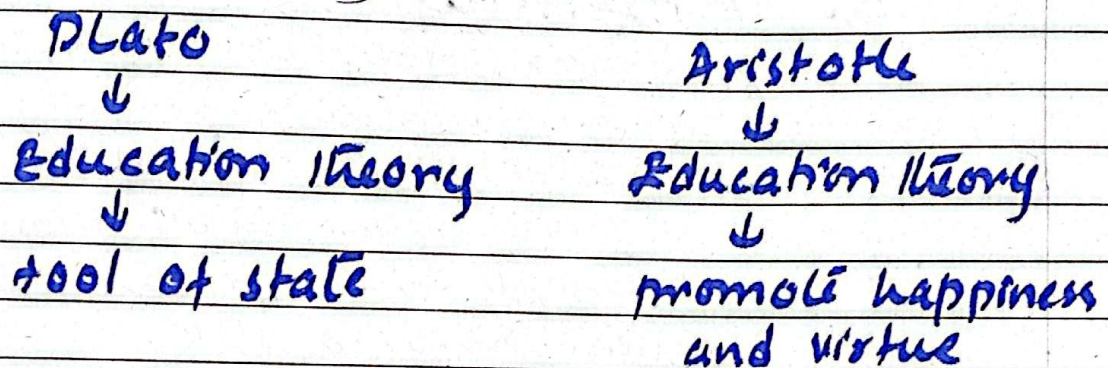
Plato
 ↓
No concept of citizenship



6- Critique on strict education system

Aristotle famously quote
"Education creates sound mind and sound body"

In Aristotle's view education and knowledge should promote human happiness and virtue. While, Plato was opposite of this notion in his view education was a tool to govern the state. Plato's education theory was strict system of forming state rather than promoting happiness.



7- Critique of Philosopher King

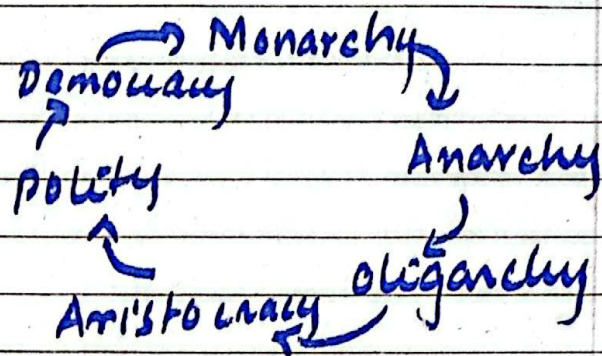
Aristotle doesnot promote the idea of philosopher king or an absolute authoritarian leader as Plato suggests.

The Philosopher king defined by Plato just should had the philosophical knowledge while Aristotle gave several types of government models that he said was evolving and changing. An absolute Monarch in his eyes

was impracticable to stand.

Plato
↓
Absolute
Authority
to Philosophus
king

Aristotle
↓
Defined instability
of an absolute
authority



Conclusion

Aristotle was great but ungrateful student of Plato as he did not continue the legacy of Plato's philosophical ideas but promoted his own empirical, practical and realistic approaches by denying to the existing knowledge given by his teacher.

Section - B

Question no 6

Introduction

The role of

propaganda and pressure groups can be significantly explained by their political influence on the masses. In contemporary political system the role of propaganda and pressure groups has significantly increased because of the Mass surveillance systems, smart cities, emerging censorship technologies, social media influences and digital tools. They play significant role in altering the public opinion, policy making and the democratic governance.

Defining Propaganda

Propaganda is the tactics used by governments, organisations and community groups to alter the public decisions. This alteration of public opinion is done by several tools such as;

1. Media.
2. Journalism
3. state policies
4. Literature
5. Surveillance tools
6. Censorship technologies.

Role of Propaganda

I. Public Opinion

Propaganda techniques by government, external organizations, internal media and several other platforms can and is used to change public opinion. For instance, In Nazi Germany Hitler used surveillance and propaganda techniques to enforce the spirit of nationalism from democracy.

Ex. Hitler propaganda.



Nazi Germany → from democratic struggle

US → Trump propaganda → Nationalism from democracy

II. Policy making

Propaganda techniques play significant role in changing policies and constructing them. Propaganda can be done by making policies such as smart cities. People are told that they are being developed for their protection but this can be used to spread propaganda by visualizing people's activities.

Ex - Smart cities in China

↳ 24/7 cameras and surveillance.

III Democratic governance

Propaganda can also turn democratic governance into complete authoritarian state by controlling people's mind through specific information. In 19th century Europe had been actually pushing monarchy aside and imposing democracy while nationalist's leader, ~~Messolini~~ and Hitlers turned the image of the democratic governance.

Ex. French revolution

↓
establishment of
democracy

↓
propaganda by Napoleon

Ex. Authoritarian states
Modhi's Hinduista policies → shift in
Democracy.

Defining Pressure groups

Pressure groups can be international, national and local organizations, political institutions or any influential groups that aim to bring changes in a state's processes. The main tools used by them to alter public opinion.

1. Lobbying

2. Raising awareness campaigns
3. Opposition to government
4. Mass protests
5. Vandalism and violence.

Role of Pressure groups

I. Public Opinion

Pressure groups can change public opinions by completely polarizing societies. It can drive masses towards polarized societies that can lead to zero-sum politics by altering rapid government decisions.

Ex. Pakistan's government



Pressure groups



change in public opinion
→ polarized societies

pole
1

pole
2

Ex. (Democracy)

Ex. (Socialism)



- ineffective government structures
- weak political institutions

III Policy making

Pressure groups can change policies within the states. For instance, the pressure groups in New York advocating for liberalism that had bring the Zohran Mohamadani as a New York mayor. This has demonstrated that advocacy for liberalism and individualism can promote the liberal ideas such as giving a Muslim chance to govern the state.

Ex: Liberalist pressure groups in west

↳ Bringing of Zohran Mohamadani



↳ A muslim mayor in west
↳ policy change

III Democratic governance

Pressure groups can bring significant change in democratic governance overall. Pressure groups can be the opposition in parliaments that can entirely shape the view of democratic governance for instance.

Ex: Pressure groups in Bangladesh



Altered the government structure by removing PM Sheikh Hasina

Conclusion

Pressure groups and propaganda has significantly altered the course of history and still manage to have major role in the democratic governance. They influence a democracy in state by changing public opinion and manipulating the minds of people.