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BA-3, Paper-6, Unit-2 (a)

Aristotle - State As Natural

Aristotle said, "Man is a political animal, destinated by nature for political life." This implies that, "The state is a creation of nature and man is by nature a political man. And he who by nature and not by mere accident is without a state, is either above humanity, or below it." The solitary man is either a beast or a God. State is a natural institution and not a conventional institution as the sophists supposed or as enunicated by the social contract theory. Surprisingly enough, contractualists like Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, totally forgot Aristotle's natural origin of state while dealing with the controversy about its origin.

Main points - (1) Origin in Gregariousness
(2) For the sake of life
(3) Logical Development of family
(4) Prefect form of association
(5) Moral self-sufficiency
(6) Natural destination
(7) Association of Associations
(8) Community of Good life
(9) Abiding place in scheme of things
(10) Organic theory of state
(11) Aims at Highest Good
(12)