Dr. Pragya Rai, Asst. Prof. Pol. Science, Maharaja Collg

[redacted] BA-3, Paper-6 Unit-2(a2) TUESDAY 14

195-170
Week 29

Aristotle – Organic theory of State

The state is an organism, according to Aristotle. Like an organism it is composed of diverse parts interdependent on each other. They share in full the life of the organism and live because of their relation to the whole. Aristotle drew a close analogy between human organism and the state. It is not possible to understand the rights and duties of man apart from his relation to the state. However, Aristotle's organic conception of the state does not regard the state as a super-being, distinct from and above the citizens as enunciated by Hegel. Aristotle did not believe in absolutism, although state and society were the same thing for him. To him, the State was prior to man. He said, "The state has no end other than the promotion of the happy or virtuous life of the citizens. It is necessary for the development of the human personality but has no independent purpose of its ow."

AUGUST 2009
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