

Abstract

This thesis is a critical examination in a comparative perspective between Plato and Aristotle, paying special emphasis about functions of a state between those two authors deriving knowledge from their own literature as well as other contemporary authors nowadays.

This thesis natural goal is to provide its readers a comprehensive idea about a cradle of democracy in Athens that shaped western political thought paying special attention between those two authors and their ideas about proper functions of a state. Then I provide my valuable insights about the topic, considering similarities, differences and my opinion.

The Athenian state, as it existed in ancient Athens, was one of the earliest and most influential examples of democracy in the history of Western civilization. The functions of the Athenian state can be understood through various institutions and mechanisms that governed different aspects of society and governance

It is important to note that while Athens was a democracy, it was not a modern representative democracy. The functions of the state were largely carried out by a small subset of the population—free male citizens. Women, slaves, and non-citizens had limited or no political rights or participation in the Athenian state. Additionally, Athens was just one city-state in ancient Greece, and the functions of other Greek city-states might have varied to some extent. In ancient Athens, the government system can be described as a direct democracy, where eligible male citizens had the opportunity to participate directly in decision-making and the administration of the state. The Athenian government underwent various changes over time, but the classical period (5th and 4th centuries BCE) is often regarded as the peak of Athenian democracy.

It's important to recognize that while Athens is renowned for its democracy, it was not a representative democracy like many modern systems. Instead, it was a direct democracy in which eligible citizens had the opportunity to directly participate in decision-making and governance.