



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
DURGAPUR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE
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One Day State Level Webinar On

“Political Thinking in Ancient Greece: From Sophists to the Stoics”

Organized by

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
IN COLLABORATION WITH
IQAC, DURGAPUR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE

Date: 22nd JUNE, 2021

From 1.00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

RESOURCE PERSON:



Dr. Arun Kanti Jana
Professor
Department of Political
Science
University of North Bengal

CHIEF PATRON



DR. DEBNATH PALIT, PRINCIPAL,
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Concept Note:

It is in the middle of the 5th century BC in Ancient Greece the Sophists arrived and the Sophists turned the attention of philosophy from natural events to the human civilization and society. The Sophists had no ideology and were a group of professional teachers who sought to produce the sophisticated man. Plato though differed with the Sophists but was influenced strongly by them in the subject matter. Plato's works include; The Republic, Statesman and the Laws out of which The Republic is the most appreciated one in which he attempted to construct a just state.

Aristotle Plato's pupil wrote extensively though most of them are lost. The works which survive are the two *Ethics* and *Politics*. Out of the three works which survive in the form of books Aristotle's *Politics* is considered as one of the classics in western political philosophy. The two other books of Aristotle, which are also important, they are *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Eudemian Ethics*. In his *Politics* he discusses many of the issues and he must have heard about these issues from the moment he entered the Academy and heard such works as the "Republic". But though he was influenced by the teachings of Plato in several important respects he is different from Plato. The most important difference is that he unlike Plato he was not obsessed with the idea of constructing an ideal state. *Politics* in fact consists of VIII Books and what makes it interesting is that the range of discussions contained in this work is very wide and is highly original. As one author stated that the 'discussion in the *Politics* ranges over the whole field of what today we should call sociology.' After the death of Aristotle the Greek city states collapsed and Greek thinking took the form of Epicureanism, Stoicism and Cynicism.

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