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Paper 1: Epistemology.

Aristotle (384 BC-322 BC), who was a Greek philosopher, believed that everything in the natural world has a purpose, a goal, this is the idea of teleology. He explained that through observation, we can reach the understanding of the world. He developed a concept, “golden mean”, which he used to explain the center between two extremes. Moreover, Aristotle stated that the best form of government would be a mixed constitution, and he thought that the achievement of happiness had great importance as well as courage and compassion. His philosophy was criticized and praised. It had a significant impact on the way of thinking, especially on Western. However, it was, and still being, criticized not only for its lack of applicability in certain situations but also because of its potential restrictiveness.

Aristotle analyzed the concept of teleology. He based his philosophy in this concept which affirms that everything in this world exists because it has a purpose or an end goal. He explained that every living or non-living object has a purpose, or telos, that guides its development and behavior. For example, the telos of an acorn is to become an oak tree and the purpose or telos of a human being is to live a virtuous life.

Aristotle's view of the world was deeply rooted in his empirical observations. He believed that his theory could be explained by observing and through experience, rather than just through pure reason or speculation. He also emphasized on the importance of causality, arguing that everything that exists is caused by something else.

One of Aristotle's most important contributions to philosophy was his idea of the "golden mean". It refers to the idea that virtue lies in finding a balance between excess and deficiency in our actions and emotions. According to Aristotle, every virtue represents a midpoint between two extremes - one of excess and the other of deficiency. For example, the virtue of courage lies between the extremes of recklessness (excess) and cowardice (deficiency). Similarly, the virtue of generosity lies between the extremes of wastefulness (excess) and stinginess (deficiency). Aristotle believed that finding this "golden mean" was essential to living a virtuous life. He also believed that the specific midpoint would vary depending on the situation and the individual involved. This means that what constitutes a virtuous act or emotion in one situation may not be the same as in another situation.

He also made great contribution to politics. He believed in the importance of ethics and politics and stated that the purpose or telos of human life was the achievement eudaimonia. He explained the concept of eudaimonia as happiness that could be reached by living a virtuous life including compassion, courage and honesty in it.

Aristotle's philosophy changed the thought and generated great advances although it was also hardly criticized. Aristotle's essentialist theory, which holds that things have fundamental qualities that characterize their essence, is excessively inflexible and does not account for the fluidity of identity that may occur in complex systems. This point of view has the potential to oversimplify and essentialize complex social identities. Moreover, Aristotle's teleology—the notion that everything in nature has a purpose—has come under fire for being unprovable and having the potential to result in a circular argument in which the goal of something is thought to be the goal of the item itself. Aristotle's philosophy, according to some detractors, is overly anthropocentric and places too much emphasis on human issues at the expense of the larger environment or other non-human things. In comparison to present knowledge, Aristotle's philosophy was founded on a limited grasp of science and the natural

world, and several of his worldviews have been proven false by new scientific findings. To conclude, he has been attacked for holding prejudices against gender and race, specifically his idea that women and non-Greeks were beneath males and Greeks.

Finally, I find Aristotle's philosophy to be very compelling and interesting. What really brought my attention is the importance he gives to empirical observation and his focus on politics and ethics. While I think there are valid critiques of his ideas, I believe that his contributions to philosophy have had a lasting impact and are still relevant today.

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