

Transparency 2

Key Ideas of Aristotle

“When several villages are united in a single complete community, large enough to be nearly or quite self-sufficing, the state comes into existence, originating in the bare needs of life, and continuing in existence for the sake of a good life.”

–Aristotle, *Politics*

Key Ideas of Aristotle

- Preferred government by the many, not by the few
- Suspicious of democracy, which he thought could lead to mob rule
- Favored constitutional government ruled by the middle class; the goal of this government was to establish just and stable rule
- Thought the city-state represented the best and most natural form of human community
- Believed even rulers must be subject to the law
- Despised tyranny
- Believed in pursuing the “golden mean,” which was a moderate course between extremes
- Promoted reason as the guiding force for learning