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Aristophanes's plays contribution to mankind

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Democracy is the form of government which is elected by majority vote from free and fair election and which people have ability to say and express an opinion equally.¹ The origin of this political system was in Ancient Greece.² Aristophanes was a great person who lived in Ancient Greece. He wrote plays that caricatured politicians and injustice governors. He was the role model for expressing his aspects towards such politicians. This shows the master of presenting point of view that is one of the democratic principles.

Aristophanes used satire writing in his plays as a device to fight against corruption. According to *The Wasps* (422 BC) that is about ridicule the Courts of Justice, abusing of function, shows helping inspection indirectly.³ In *The Knights* (424 BC), he mocked the Cleon Athenian leader and attacked the policy of the government party.⁴ Likewise, the opposition's inspection in parliament or the opposition parties do censure debate. They are able to express fact that was searched scrupulously to clarify how the government does process corruptibly or misuses the power. As a result of justice procedure, culprit is also able to vindicate an allegation with the judge. Likewise, film-maker these days may make movie in order to tell

¹ Democracy-building Contributor. "Definition of Democracy." Democracy-building. 16 September 2012, <<http://www.democracy-building.info/definition-democracy.html>>

² Businessdictionary Contributor. "Democracy." Businessdictionary. 16 September 2012, <<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/democracy.html>>

³ Theatrehistory Contributor. "The Wasps." Theatrehistory. 12 September 2012, <<http://www.theatrehistory.com/ancient/bates030.html>>

⁴ Unknown. "Aristophanes." Ancientgreece. 12 September 2012, <<http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/People/Aristophanes/>>

others the truth that main media do not inform as a result of government controlling. For instance, film-maker of Fahrenheit 9/11 would like to stimulate Americans to recognize its insecure system fear and uncertainty in America. The movie's highlight is when some Saudis secretly safely flown out of America after the 9/11 incident.⁵ The filmmaker made the movie to present another fact that no one dares to reveal.

In the same way, because of democratic processes--which have to take advices from people--ensure that whatever will occur from their objectives, people must do anything through one for conforming to the principle. For example, the real estate firm would like to build condominium in outlying district where sky train passes; in order to follow the law, the firm has to create the meeting that invites villagers nearby the condominium area in order to inform the neighborhood that a new type of accommodation will be built near to the condo, and also inform them of the projects' effect on their lives such as air pollution during construction, traffic congestion, and etc.

One of his burlesque plays, *Lysistrata* (411 BC), constitutes his aspect on women striving to bring peace for their sons' survival.⁶ It reflects women's struggle to have equality in the society, which results in women rights request through forums, polls, conversation program on television and etc. This is one of the many ways to use democracy system beneficially. In case, using public stage, women are able to share idea that they wish to happen in the society or change to be what they desired.

Moreover, the *Plutus*, the last piece of Aristophanes which was written in 388 BC, consists of his viewpoint on the problem of new social remedies, the equalization

⁵ rAjOo. "Fahreheit 9/11." Imdb. 16 September 2012, <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0361596/>>

⁶ "Aristophanes." Ancientgreece. 12 September 2012, <<http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/People/Aristophanes/>>

of affluence, and the political equality of women without personal satire his style saving moral aim.⁷ His viewpoint presents society that the main social problems still remains in many countries around the world. To illustrate this clearly, let's bring up the case of the recent quarrel in Egypt: Because of the ferocious regime of the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that caused unemployment, unsatisfied minimum wage, inflation, lacking of free election, domestic economic problems and other political social problems,⁸ millions of furious demonstrators forced him to resign the office by spreading majority thoughts writing denunciation through mass protestor. The ending was the surrendering of Mubarak. One of the good way to solve these problems is that the government should provide opportunity that allows people to share their problems and solutions. When they gather enough thoughts and methods, they will meet with the resolution.

Furthermore, Aristophanes taught mankind that ones should express their own opinions; otherwise, they cannot build strong democracy in the world. Law in free democratic nations like the United States of America allow their citizens to be able to say, think, act or do anything they want without breaking the others' rights. Therefore, the United States of America is known as the most liberal and democratic country in the world.

Even though Aristophanes had died for a long time, he has not been forgotten; Aristophanes's works still remain and have everlasting effect in the society nowadays. His works stated above reflect the perspectives of the people in the old days to

⁷ "Plutus." Theatre database. 12 September 2012, http://www.theatredatabase.com/ancient/aristophanes_012.html

⁸ Wikipedia Contributor. "2011–2012 Egyptian revolution." Wikipedia. 17 September 2012, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011%E2%80%932012_Egyptian_revolution>

democracy. Aristophanes's philosophies encourage mankind to think and express themselves freely according to democratic approach.