

30-SECOND POLITICS

The 50 most thought-provoking
theories in politics, each explained
in half a minute



Editor
Steven L. Taylor



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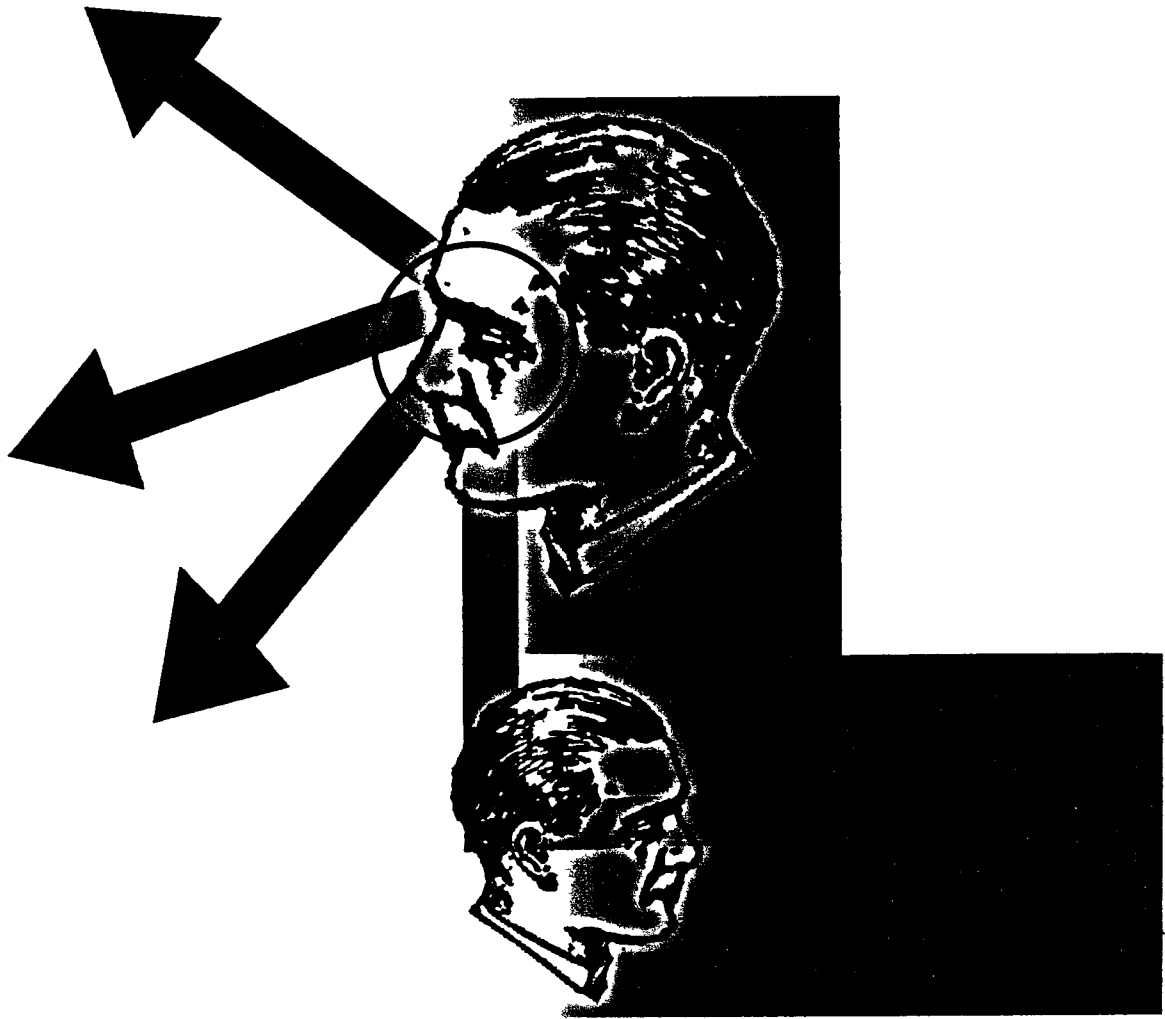


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3 - SECOND POLITICS

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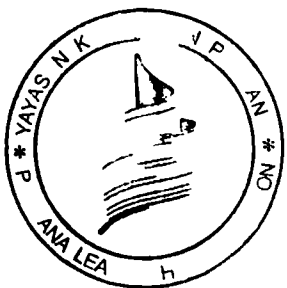
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INTRODUCTION

Steven L. Taylor

Much to the delight of political scientists everywhere, Aristotle once described the study of politics as the 'master science'. Of course, he did not do so for the purpose of boosting the egos of a bunch of academics, rather he was expressing the notion that studying the interactions of human beings within the confines of political life encompassed the study of practically everything. While perhaps a grandiose formulation on the one hand, on the other consider the following set of issues that fall under the general rubric of politics: war and peace, criminal justice, taxation, safety regulations, civil rights and liberties, trade, abortion, marriage and rules governing scientific enquiry (to name but a few). Given the significance of these types of issues, the rules and structures governing their contents and application directly shape our lives. Put another way: one's daily existence would be very different if one was born in North Korea versus in the South in terms both of material conditions as well as in the realm of rights and privileges. In short: politics matters. This book seeks to be an aid in sorting out the complexity of the political world and the language associated with it.

Aristotle provides a good place to start such a discussion, as he created a simple yet useful typology for classifying **regime types** by looking at the question of who governs: the one, the few or the many. This approach forms the foundation of the opening chapters of this book. The first chapter, *Who Governs?*, details what government by the one, few or many might look like in basic terms. The second, *Rule by the Few*, goes on to examine specifically