151>

**Some people claim that the goal of politics should be the pursuit of an ideal. Others argue that the goal should be finding common ground and reaching consensus.**

**Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain the reasoning your position you take. In developing and supporting your position you should address both of the views presented.**

What is the ultimate purpose or goal of politics supposed to be? There are two seemingly contradictory views on this question. One side argues that the ultimate goal of politics should be pursuing ideals, while the other regards finding common ground and reaching consensus as the goal. I tend to give my support to the former view on the nature of politics, while I object to the latter since it may result in many negative consequences.

Firstly, the ultimate goal of politics in my opinion should be constructing a world in which people can enjoy their lives and can fulfill their dreams by utilizing their talents and potentials to the maximum. In this light, this world is certainly idealistic. To understand why such an ideal world should be the goal of politics, one must first understand what politics stands for and where it originates. Politics rose from a contract between governors and citizens, where the people authorized the governors' power and governors, in return, provided essential services to the people. To promote the well being of the people was the ultimate intended goal of this contract, and it is through this contract that politics came into existence. Politics has inherited this contract's goal and should therefore strive to serve the people by constructing an ideal world.

On the contrary, it is dangerous to abide by the view that the goal of politics should be finding common ground and reaching consensus. When there is no ideal principle to guide our behavior, our moral ground becomes shaky. For example, in this pragmatic ideology, we may sacrifice innocent people for the sake of so-called consensus. Throughout human history, there are many incidents in which the countries collude in reaching peace and consensus, but at the cost of other small nations and in violation of the moral principles. From a humanitarian perspective, the result is undeniably tragic.

That being said, finding common ground and reaching consensus are still pivotal in politics. Without these, pursuing ideals could have disastrous political consequences. Similar examples can be readily found in the sporadic turbulence of the current society. These examples demonstrates how dangerous it can be when we commit ourselves to an ideal zealously without proper controls. Modern democracy based on negotiation and finding common ground, on the other hand, shows us the power of compromise and consensus.

To conclude, I believe that the goal of politics should be pursuing ideals rather than finding common ground and reaching consensus. However, even though common ground and consensus should not be the goal of politics, it does not mean that they are of no significance. On the contrary, common ground and compromise are essential in controlling zealousness and help us realize our ideals.

除去题目，只有454个字，但是分析和论证都比较充分的。