



A HISTORY  
OF  
POLITICAL THOUGHT

[PLATO TO BURKE]

BY

DR. SUKHBIR SINGH

M. A., Ph. D.

*Professor & Head of the Political Sc. Dept.*

**Raja Balwant Singh College, Agra.**



# CONTENTS

1. Political Thought before the Sophists.  
The Milesian School, The Metaphysical School, The School of Vitality and Flex, The Eleatic School, The Atomist School. 1—15
2. Political Thought of the Sophists.  
A new reaction sets in, Factors,—leading to this—reaction, Who were the sophists, The General characteristic of the Sophists, Political Ideas of the Sophists, Protagoras of Abdera, Antiphon, The Sophists Callicles, The asymachus of Chalcædon, Gorgias of Sicily, Other minor Sophists, Plato's Condemnation of Sophists, The importance of the Sophists. 16—27
3. The Political Ideas of Socrates.  
Life and times of Socrates, Socrates as the God father of the Western Philosophy, The method and Doctrine of Socrates, Socratic Philosophy of 'Know Thyself,' His attack on Democracy, Socratic Doctrine of Aristocracy of Intellect, The Conservatism and Radicalism of Socrates, The Death of Socrates, The Place of Socrates in the History of Political Thought. 28—40
4. Political Philosophy of Plato.  
The life of Plato, The times of Plato, The Socratic influence on Plato, The works of Plato, The form and method of Platonic Dialogues. 41—56
5. Plato—The Republic.  
The Republic, The main division of the Republic, Contents of the Republic, A Treatise on Human Psychology,



ii Contents

A Treatise on Political Economy, A Treatise on multifarious subjects, Influence of the Republic on Political Thought. 57—72

6. The Keystone of Plato's Thinking.

The Greek search for reality before Plato, Plato's discovery of Reality, Plato's Theory of Ideas, The existence of the Ideal of Good, Plato's conception of the Ideal of Good, Culmination of Plato's philosophy in the attainment of the Ideal of Good, Value and criticism of Plato's Theory of Ideal. 73—84

7. "The Construction of the Ideal State."  
Ideal State and Its "Theory of Justice."

Background of Plato's Theory of Justice, Various Theories of Justice, Plato's Theory of Justice, Value of Plato's Theory of Justice—Criticism. 85—98

8. Ideal State and Its Theory of Education

Education as the hand-maid of Justice, Spartan influence on Plato's Scheme of Education, Plato's theory of Education, Plato's Scheme of Education, Value of Plato's Theory of Education, Defects of Plato's Theory of Education. 99—109

9. Ideal State and its "Theory of Communism".

Communism on a hand-maid of Justice, Two main forms of Plato's Communism, Partial application of Plato's Communism, Character of Community of Property, Character of Community of Wives, Bases of Plato's Scheme of Communism, Hellenism in Plato's Communism, Aristotle's Criticism of Plato's Communism, Plato's Communism Versus Personality, Plato's Communism versus Modern Communism. 110—127

10. 'The Union of Political Power and Philosophic Insight.'

Plato's denunciation of the rule of Incompetance and factious of Ignorance, Plato's faith in the gentry and contempt for the working class, Distrust in the normal political change, Qualities of the Philosophic Nature, The



term philosopher gets a new Meaning, The Philosopher-King, Absolute power of the Philosophic Rulers, Establishment of the Rule trained and scientific Intelligence, Limitations on the power of Philosophic-Rulers, Criticism of the Rule of Philosophy. 128—137

11. PLATO—His Political Ideas—"The Statesman and The Laws."

The Statesman and the laws—The statesman is the result of Plato's Disillusionment, Change in the Platonic stand, The Sub-Ideal State of the Law. 138—154

12. "The Hellenism and Universalism in Plato"  
Hellenism in Plato, Universalism in Plato. 155—161

13. Political Philosophy of Aristotle.  
The life and Times of Aristotle, Aristotle-a genius, The method of Aristotle, The Works of Aristotle. 162—171

14. The Politics of Aristotle  
The Politics of Aristotle, Controversy about the Politics of Aristotle, Division of the Politics of Aristotle, The theme of the Politics of Aristotle, The influence of Politics on Subsequent Thought. 172—183

15. Aristotle's Theory of the State.  
Origin of the State, Nature of the State, End of the State, Classification of the State, Appreciation and criticism of the Theory. 184—194

16. Aristotle's Theory of Justice.  
Introductory, Justice as a complete virtue, Particular Justice, Distributive Justice, Corrective Justice, Aristotle's Justice Versus Plato's Justice, Aristotle's Justice Versus Modern Justice. 195—202

17. Theory of Education.  
Introductory, Purpose of Education, Basic, Principles of Education, Aristotle's Scheme of Education, State controlled System of Education, Appreciation and Criticism. 203—214



18. Aristotle's Theory of Communism  
"His View on Family and Property."

(A) Aristotle's conception of family—Introductory, Plato's indignation against the Family, Aristotle's criticism of Platonic Stand, Aristotle's defence of the Family, Moral justification of the Family, (B) Aristotle's Conception of Property, —Introductory, Plato's Indignation against Private Property, Aristotle's Objection of the Platonic Stand, Aristotle's Justification of Private Property, True Communism is Spiritualistic and not Materialistic, Aristotle's Scheme of Property in the Politics. 215—225

19. The Ideal or the Best State of Aristotle.

Introductory, The internal features of the Ideal State, External features of the Ideal State. 226—235

20 Aristotle's Theory of Revolution.

Introductory, Different forms of Revolutions, General causes of Revolution, Particular causes of Revolution, Minor causes of Revolutions, Causes of Revolutions in different kinds of States, Remedies for the Prevention of Revolutions. 236—245

21. Aristotle's Theory of Slavery.

Introductory, Character of Greek slavery, Aristotle's conception of a slave, Justification of slavery, Justification of slavery in war, How far has the modern world, risen above the position of Aristotle? Criticism of Aristotle's Theory of Slavery. 246—254

22. Aristotle's Conception of Law and Citizenship.

1. Conception of Law—Introductory, Aristotle's Conception of Law, The Aims and Purposes of Law, The Sources of Law, Law as a Spiritual Force, Stability of Law, Law as Natural.

2. Conception of Citizenship—Introductory, Aristotle's conception of a citizen, A good Man Versus a good Citizen, Qualifications for Citizenship, Criticism of Aristotle's theory of Citizenship. 255—264



23. The Hellenism and Universalism in Aristotle.  
Introductory, Hellenism in Aristotle, Universalism in Aristotle, The Influence of Aristotelian Thought. 265—271
24. "Post Aristotelian Thought :  
A Changing Spirit". The Epicureans and Stoics.  
Introductory, The Epicureans, The Philosophy of Epicureanism, The Stoics, The Philosophy of Stoicism, 272—280
25. The Political Legacy of Rome  
Introductory. The Roman Legal System, The Salient features of Roman Legal System, The Roman Theory of Imperium, *Polibius* (204—122 B. C.)—The fame, Polibius as a great Historian, Cycle of Political Change, Mixed form of Government, Importance of Polibius, *Cicero* (106—43 B. C.) Introductory, Philosophy of Cicero, Meaning and Origin of the State, Plan of the State Justice in the State, Cicero's conception of Law, Cicero on the Equality and Liberty of Men, Importance of Cicero. 281—300
26. Early Christian Thought : St. Augustine.  
Introductory, St. Augustine (354—430 A. D.), Philosophy of St. Augustine, Augustine's Conception of Two Cities, St. Augustine's views on the Church, St. Augustine's views on the State, St. Augustine's views on Justice, Augustine on Slavery and Property, Augustine's Place in the history of Political Thought. 301—314
27. "Medieval Political Thought :  
Church and State Controversy"  
Introductory, Gelasian Theory of Parallelism or the Theory of "Two Swords", Church and State Controversy, The Arguments for Papal Supremacy, Arguments for Secular Pre-eminence. 315—324
28. St. Thomas Aquinas (1227—74 A. D.).  
Introductory, Scholasticism of the 13th. century, A Synthesis of Aristotle and Christianity, Aquinas Theory of Knowledge, Theory of Nature, Origin, Nature and



- Purpose of Political Authority, Aquinas Theory of Obedience and Lawful Authority, Aquinas Theory of Law and Justice, Justification of Slavery and Private Property, Supremacy of Papal Authority, Aquinas Place in the history of Political Thought. 325—340
- 29 Dante Aligieri (1265—1321).  
Introductory, De Monarchia of Dante, Universal Temporal Monarchy, Superiority and Nobility of the Roman Character, Dante and The Rule of Law, Imperial versus Papal Authority, Dante's Place in the history of Medieval Political Thought. 341—351
30. Marsilio of Padua (1270—1343 A. D.).  
Introductory, The Defensor Pacis of Marsilio, Marsilio's theory of State, His concept of Law, Marsilio on the Machinery of Government and its functions, His views on the Church, Secularism of Marsilio, Marsilio as a Modern Thinker. 352—362
31. The Conciliar Movement.  
What is Conciliar Movement? The Aims and Objects of the Conciliar Movement, Leaders of the Conciliar Movement, A summary of the views of the leader of Conciliar Movement, Causes of this failure of the Conciliar Movement, Influence and significance of the Conciliar Movement. 363—373
- Bibliography.