



A Guide to Plato's Republic

Daryl H. Rice

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A Guide to Plato's Republic provides an integral interpretation of the *Republic* which is accessible even to readers approaching Plato's masterwork for the first time. Written at a level understandable to undergraduates, it is ideal for students and other readers who have little or no background in philosophy or political theory. Rice anticipates their inevitable reactions to the *Republic* and treats them seriously, opening the way to an appreciation of the complexities of the text without oversimplifying it.

While many books on the *Republic* never stray far from explicating Plato's text, this work contrasts Plato's responses to perennial issues in philosophy and political theory with those of several key subsequent thinkers. It uses engaging examples to show the continuing relevance of Plato's arguments and introduces some basic vocabulary of philosophy and political theory, going beyond terse dictionary definitions by illustrating what technical terms mean in the context of Plato's work.

The author's interpretative posture is appreciative but respectfully critical of Plato's vision. Stressing the relationship between Plato's politics and metaphysics, Rice argues that Plato's reluctance to accept the reality and consequences of finitude accounts for much of what many readers find objectionable in his politics.

Lively, relatively brief, and designed to provoke discussion in the classroom, *A Guide to Plato's Republic* is ideal for political theory and introduction to philosophy courses as well as other courses that assign the *Republic* as a primary text.

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