

City-state foundations of western political thought

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Foundations in Western Thought and Civilization

Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, 13—27. According to the theory of forms, this applies to all worldly phenomena. What about the risks involved in giving rulers unchecked, absolute power? In regard to these abilities, individuals fall into three groups: those who can achieve both moral excellence and philosophical wisdom; those who are able to achieve moral excellence and a lower level of intellectual excellence—not philosophical wisdom; and those who are naturally cut out for the life of a craftsman or service-provider, and who are able to achieve a more modest level of moral and intellectual excellence appropriate to such a life.

Western Political Thought

He therefore proposes that they first determine what justice is in a city and then look to see what it is in the individual. Everyone is a philosopher to some extent, given that any examination of existence, knowledge, or values constitutes philosophy.

The City

The Development of Plato's Political Philosophy. When power is dispersed, the ruling authority becomes less effective; thus aristocracy comes next after kingship, and lawful democracy is the least of the good imitations.

Political Theories of Decolonization

ADVERTISEMENTS: There is still another reason. Once these laws have been passed, they—and not the rulers—must be the ultimate authority in the state. His work in particular the Second Treatise of Government was widely embraced by political revolutionaries of the age including those of England, France, and the United States, and lies at the roots of all modern-day liberal democracies.

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