# Article information:

Ancient Political Philosophy (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)  
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ancient-political/>

# Article summary:

1. Ancient political philosophy refers to Greek and Roman thought from the fifth century BCE to the fifth century CE, excluding Jewish and Christian ideas about politics during that period.

2. The Greeks developed the idea of politics as participation in decision-making concerning public affairs and actions, shaped by the legacy of archaic poetry, religious cults, and cultural practices.

3. Justice was fundamental to ancient political philosophy, defined as the structure of civic bonds beneficial to all citizens rather than an exploitation of some by others, but there were debates about who should be considered equals in terms of citizenship and privileges.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article provides a comprehensive overview of ancient political philosophy, focusing on the classical period of Greek thought in the fifth century BCE to the end of the Roman empire in the West in the fifth century CE. The article covers various aspects of political philosophy, including reflections on the origin of political institutions, concepts used to interpret and organize political life such as justice and equality, and different constitutional arrangements or regimes.

One potential bias in the article is its exclusion of Jewish and Christian ideas about politics during that period. While this may be justified by a desire to focus solely on ancient Greek and Roman thought, it could also be seen as neglecting important contributions to political philosophy during that time.

The article also acknowledges that ancient political philosophy cannot be understood solely through the genre of political philosophy but must also consider other genres such as history, tragedy, comedy, and rhetoric. However, it does not explore these other genres in depth or provide examples of how they contribute to our understanding of ancient political philosophy.

Another potential bias is the article's emphasis on Platonic models and their continued importance throughout the period covered. While Plato was undoubtedly an influential figure in ancient political philosophy, this emphasis could overshadow other important thinkers and schools of thought from that time.

The article does a good job of providing historical context for ancient political philosophy and explaining how it emerged from specific sociolinguistic practices in Athens. However, it could benefit from more exploration of counterarguments or alternative perspectives on certain issues. For example, while it briefly mentions Thucydides' exploration of justice in relation to Athens' relations with other cities, it does not delve into any critiques or challenges to this conception of justice.

Overall, while the article provides a useful overview of ancient political philosophy, readers should approach it with a critical eye towards potential biases or omissions.

# Topics for further research:

* Jewish and Christian political philosophy in ancient times
* Contributions of non-Platonic thinkers to ancient political philosophy
* Role of history
* tragedy
* comedy
* and rhetoric in ancient political philosophy
* Critiques of Thucydides' conception of justice in ancient political philosophy
* Women's perspectives on politics in ancient Greece and Rome
* Influence of ancient political philosophy on modern political thought

# Report location:

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