

On the History of Political Philosophy

Great Political Thinkers from Thucydides to Locke

W. JULIAN KORAB-KARPOWICZ

Anglo-American University



CONTENTS

Preface ix

Introduction: What is Political Philosophy? xi

CHAPTER 1 Thucydides: War and the Polis 1

Thucydides' Work 1

A Brief History of the Peloponnesian War 2

From the State of Nature to Political Society 3

Fragility of Civilization 5

Thucydides' Realism 6

Realism versus Idealism in the Melian Dialogue 8

Politics and Ethics 011

Questions 014

Guide to Further Reading 015

CHAPTER 2 Plato: Who Should Rule? 016

Platonic Dialogues 017

The Task of Political Philosophy 019

What Is Justice? 020

Philosophy and Dogma 022

The Best Political Order 023

A Critique of Democracy 025

The Government of Philosopher Rulers 026

Politics and the Soul 029

The Relevance of Plato 032

Questions 033

Guide to Further Reading 033

CHAPTER 3 Aristotle: The Best Constitution 034

Aristotle's Writings 035

What Is Politics? 036

The State as Political and Moral Community 038

What Is Happiness? 040

Friendship and Concord 42

Formative Laws and the Moral Elite 43

Human Nature and the Nature of the State 44

Constitutions 45

Justice and the Distribution of Power 48

The Middle Constitution 49

How to Prevent a Revolution? 51

Aristotle's Realism 53

Questions 53

Guide to Further Reading 54

CHAPTER 4 Cicero: The Idea of the Republic 55

The Crisis of the Later Republic 56
Human Nature and Divine Origin 59
The Fellowship of Humans 60
Cosmopolitanism and Natural Law 62
International Morals 64
Moral Restraints in War 65
Ethics of Hegemonic Leadership 67
The Roman Mixed Constitution 69
Republican Values 71
Questions 73
Guide to Further Reading 74

CHAPTER 5 St. Augustine: The City of God 75

Faith and Reason 77
Christian Pessimism 78
Two Loves and Two Cities 80
A Christian Commonwealth 82
Obedience and War 85
The Idolatry of Politics 87
The City of God and Tradition 88
Questions 90
Guide to Further Reading 90

CHAPTER 6 St. Thomas Aguinas: Faith and Social Solidarity

The Golden Age of Scholasticism 93 Christianity and Social Theory

Private Property and Poverty 98

The Origin, Purpose, and Limits of Authority 100

Monarchy and the Mixed Constitution

Church and State 105

The Nature of Law 106

Natural Law and Open Society 109

Aquinas' Legacy 112

Questions 113

Guide to Further Reading

Machiavelli: How to Rule? CHAPTER 7 115

The New Teaching of Politics

Politics and Change 120

Machiavelli's Republicanism 123

Human Goodness and Corruption 125

The Rule of Princes 128

A Critique of the Moral Tradition 131

The Politics of Raison d'État 133

Machiavelli and Machiavellism 136

Questions 138

Guide to Further Reading 139

CHAPTER 8 Grotius: International Society 140

The Just War Tradition

Grotius's Argument against Raison d'État 146

Jus ad Bellum and Jus in Bello 148

The Universality of International Society 151

Human Rights and Intervention

Old and New Challenges to the Grotian Order 155

Questions 156

Guide to Further Reading

CHAPTER 9 Hobbes: The Beginning of Modernity 158

A New Political Science 162

The Reality of Conflict 165

Social Contract 168

Absolute Sovereignty 171

The Logic of Despotism 174

International Relations as a State of War 177

Hobbes' Modernity 181

Questions 182

Guide to Further Reading 182

CHAPTER 10 Locke: Liberty And Property 184

The Question of Toleration 186

Toleration and Its Limits 189

Freedom and Law 193

The State of Nature and Natural Law 194

The Liberal Concept of International Relations 197

A Limited Government 200

Property and Labor 203

Civil Society and State Building 207

Liberty, Economy, Colony 208

Commerce and the Question of Ethics 211

Locke's Liberalism 213

Questions 214

Guide to Further Reading 214

Epilogue: The Classics and the Moderns 215

Appendix: The Great Debate 223

Works Cited 225

Glossary 232

Index 241