

Cambridge University Press
0521582296 - Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman
M. S. Lane
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Among Plato's works, the *Statesman* is usually seen as transitional between the *Republic* and the *Laws*. This book argues that the dialogue deserves a special place of its own. Whereas Plato is usually thought of as defending unchanging knowledge, Dr Lane demonstrates for the first time how, by placing change at the heart of political affairs, Plato reconceives the link between knowledge and authority. The statesman is shown to master the timing of affairs of state, and to use this expertise in managing the conflict of opposed civic factions. To this political argument corresponds a methodological approach which is seen to rely not only on the familiar method of 'division', but equally on the unfamiliar centrality of the use of 'example'. The demonstration that method and politics are interrelated transforms our understanding of the *Statesman* and its fellow dialogues.

Cambridge University Press
0521582296 - Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman
M. S. Lane
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL STUDIES

General Editors

M. F. BURNYEAT, P. E. EASTERLING, M. K. HOPKINS,
M. D. REEVE, A. M. SNODGRASS

METHOD AND POLITICS IN
PLATO'S *STATESMAN*

Cambridge University Press
0521582296 - Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman
M. S. Lane
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

METHOD AND POLITICS IN
PLATO'S *STATESMAN*

M. S. LANE

*University Assistant Lecturer in History in the University of Cambridge,
and Fellow of King's College*



Cambridge University Press
 0521582296 - Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman
 M. S. Lane
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge 1998

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1998

Typeset in 11/13 pt Times New Roman and Greek New Hellenic

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Lane, M. S.

Method and politics in Plato's *Statesman* / M. S. Lane.

p. cm. – (Cambridge classical studies)

ISBN 0 521 58229 6 (hardback)

I. Plato. *Statesman*. I. Plato. *Statesman*. II. Title.

III. Series.

JC71.P314L36 1997

320'.01 – dc21 97–6077 CIP

ISBN 0 521 58229 6 hardback

Transferred to digital printing 2005

Cambridge University Press
0521582296 - Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman
M. S. Lane
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

To my parents, elders, and teachers

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page xi
<i>Abbreviations and note on text</i>	xii
Introduction. Method and Politics in Plato's <i>Statesman</i>	I
Part I Method	
Introduction	13
The <i>Sophist's</i> use of example and division	21
The <i>Statesman's</i> use of example and division	33
Kinship and method	33
Shepherding	40
Weaving	46
The analysis of example	61
Conclusions	75
Revising common sense: the delusions of the given	75
Rhetoric and method	89
Part II The story as a fulcrum of the dialogue	
Introduction: story-telling and self-criticism	99
Telling the story	101
Zeus versus Kronos: autonomy versus authority	101
The imperative of invention	111
The necessity of narrative	114
Criticising the story	117
The insufficiency of narrative: remaining rivals	117
Delusions of grandeur: Kronos as a 'great example'	119
Delusions of grandeur: measured by the mean	125
On the temporality of the <i>kairos</i>	132
Part III Politics	
Introduction	137
Rivalry revisited: subordination of the arts to the mastery of the <i>kairos</i>	139

CONTENTS

Rivalry renewed: the challenge and subordination of law	146
Two concepts of law: as mortmain and as memorandum	148
A third view: law as makeshift in the second-best regimes	155
Political knowledge as weaving	163
Weaving as political example: gender and simple unity in the <i>Lysistrata</i>	164
Weaving as political example: complex unity in the <i>Statesman</i>	171
Conclusions	182
Delusions of righteousness: the political significance of evaluative conflict	182
Delusions of righteousness: the political significance of authority and time	193
<i>Select bibliography</i>	203
<i>General index</i>	218
<i>Index Locorum</i>	224

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book has emerged from a doctoral dissertation at the University of Cambridge which was supervised by Myles Burnyeat and Malcolm Schofield and examined, most constructively, by David Sedley and Christopher Gill. Many debts are recorded in the dissertation, including the financial support of the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, the Harry S. Truman Foundation, and the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship of Phi Beta Kappa, and the intellectual and moral support of valued friends and colleagues. My thanks once again to them all.

Here I mention only those debts to individuals incurred in the writing of the present book. Foremost among these is that owed to Myles Burnyeat, who championed the book for Cambridge Classical Studies, and to the other editors of the series. Malcolm Schofield and M. M. McCabe very generously commented on a penultimate draft. Serving with Malcolm and Christopher Rowe on the editorial team of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Political Thought* has kept me Platonically engaged while writing this book, as has the continuing camaraderie of Verity Harte. Alonso Tordesillas kindly invited me to participate in the work of the Centre d'études sur la pensée antique '*Kairos kai Logos*'.

Between completing the dissertation and completing the book I became a University Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of History and a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. To Quentin Skinner and Jonathan Steinberg, who have chaired the Faculty during my time there, and to Patrick Bateson as Provost of King's, go my thanks for the support of their respective institutions, as to the colleagues and administrative staff thereof. Finally, warm gratitude to farflung family and friends and above all to A. L., who embodies loving care in the face of all exigencies.

Cambridge University Press
 0521582296 - Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman
 M. S. Lane
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTE ON TEXT

Works of Plato are cited from the edition of J. Burnet, Oxford Classical Texts series (Oxford, 1900–1903), now superseded for volume I by the revised edition of E. A. Duke, W. F. Hicken, W. S. M. Nicoll, D. B. Robinson, and J. C. G. Strachan (Oxford, 1995).

Unless otherwise stated, I quote from the excellent recent translation of the *Statesman* by C. J. Rowe, an edition and translation to which I and other students of the dialogue are much indebted. Reprinted by permission of the publishers from Plato: *Statesman*, translated and edited by C. J. Rowe, Warminster: Aris and Phillips, 1995. I have also quoted from the Loeb translation of the *Sophist*, reprinted by permission of the publishers and the Loeb Classical Library from Plato: *Theaetetus and Sophist*, volume VII, translated by Harold N. Fowler, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1921.

The abbreviations for Platonic works are made clear in the text; the most often used are

- St.* *Statesman* (*Politicus* in OCT)
So. *Sophist* (*Sophista* in OCT)

Works of Aristotle are cited from the edition of I. Bywater, W. D. Ross, W. Jaeger, Oxford Classical Text Series (Oxford, 1897–1957).

Cambridge University Press
0521582296 - Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman
M. S. Lane
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

The abbreviations for Aristotelian works used are as follows:

Met. *Metaphysics*
Pol. *Politics*
N.E. *Nicomachean Ethics*

LSJ Liddell, H. G., R. Scott, H. S. Jones, eds. *A. Greek-English Lexicon* (Oxford, revised 1968)
DK Diels, H. and W. Kranz, *Vorsokratiker* (Berlin, 10th edn, 1960)