

CAMBRIDGE TEXTS IN THE
HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHTPLATO
Laws

Plato's *Laws* is one of the most important surviving works of ancient Greek political thought. It offers sustained reflection on the enterprise of legislation, and on its role in the social and religious regulation of society in all its aspects. Many of its ideas were drawn upon by later political thinkers, from Aristotle and Cicero to Thomas More and Montesquieu. This book presents the first translation of the complete text of the *Laws* for thirty-five years, in Tom Griffith's readable and reliable English. Malcolm Schofield, a leading scholar of Greek philosophy, introduces the main themes and characteristics of the work, as well as supplying authoritative notes on the structure and detail of Plato's argument, together with a guide to further reading. The book will be a key resource for scholars and graduate and undergraduate students of Greek philosophy and of the history of political thought.

MALCOLM SCHOFIELD is Emeritus Professor of Ancient Philosophy and a Fellow of St John's College at the University of Cambridge. He has been one of the leading scholars worldwide in the study of ancient Greek and Roman philosophy for the last forty years. His many publications in the field of ancient political thought include the path-breaking *The Stoic Idea of the City* (Cambridge University Press, 1991), and the authoritative *The Cambridge History of Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), co-edited with Christopher Rowe.

TOM GRIFFITH has published translations of many Platonic dialogues, noted for their combination of easy and natural modern English with faithfulness to the tone and content of the original Greek. His version of the *Republic*, co-edited with G. R. F. Ferrari (Cambridge University Press, 2000), has been one of the most widely read texts in the Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought series. Together with Malcolm Schofield he is also co-editor of another previous series volume, *Plato: Gorgias, Menexenus, Protagoras* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-85965-3 — Plato: Laws

Plato, Edited by Malcolm Schofield, Translated by Tom Griffith

Frontmatter

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PLATO

LAWS

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Editorial note

The translation (by TG) is made from the text of the Budé edition. Variations from it are listed in the Appendix. The notes to the translation (by MS, as with the rest of the editorial matter) have benefited in various ways from TG's scrutiny, and the translations in their final form are the outcome of several rounds of comment by MS and rethinking by TG. TG and Quentin Skinner (as series editor) made suggestions for improvements to the draft of the introduction, virtually all gratefully implemented. The book, like our edition (2010) of *Gorgias*, *Menexenus*, *Protagoras* in this series, is therefore very much a joint production. We thank the officers of the Press for tolerating its slow gestation.

TG

MS

April 2015