

ARISTOTLE ON POLITICAL COMMUNITY

Aristotle's claims that "man is a political animal" and that political community "exists for the sake of living well" have frequently been celebrated by thinkers of divergent political persuasions. The details of his political philosophy, however, have often been regarded as outmoded, contradictory, or pernicious. This book takes on the major problems that arise in attempting to understand how the central pieces of Aristotle's political thought fit together: can a conception of politics that seems fundamentally inclusive and egalitarian be reconciled with a vision of justice that seems uncompromisingly hierarchical and authoritarian? Riesbeck argues that Aristotle's ideas about the distinctive nature and value of political community, political authority, and political participation are coherent and consistent with his aristocratic standards of justice. The result is a theory that, while not free of problems, remains a potentially fruitful resource for contemporary thinking about the persistent problems of political life.

DAVID J. RIESBECK earned his PhD from the Joint Classics and Philosophy Graduate Program in Ancient Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught at the University of Texas, Dartmouth College, and Rice University. His articles and reviews have appeared in *Ancient Philosophy*, *Apeiron*, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, *Classical Quarterly*, *Phoenix*, and *Reason Papers*.

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DAVID J. RIESBECK

Rice University, Houston



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For Richard Riesbeck and Judith Blasch

ἔστι δ' ἢ μὲν πρὸς γονεῖς φιλία τέκνοις, καὶ ἀνθρώποις πρὸς
θεοῦς, ὡς πρὸς ἀγαθὸν καὶ ὑπερέχον· εὖ γὰρ πεποιθήκασιν τὰ
μέγιστα· τοῦ γὰρ εἶναι καὶ τραφῆναι αἴτιοι, καὶ γενομένοις
τοῦ παιδευθῆναι.

Nicomachean Ethics VIII.12 1162a4–7

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Abbreviations

Works by or Attributed to Aristotle

<i>AP</i>	<i>Athenaion Politeia</i> (Athenian Constitution)
Catg.	<i>Categoriae</i> (Categories)
<i>DA</i>	<i>De Anima</i> (On the Soul)
<i>EE</i>	<i>Ethica Eudemia</i> (Eudemian Ethics)
<i>EN</i>	<i>Ethica Nicomachea</i> (Nicomachean Ethics)
<i>GA</i>	<i>De Generatione Animalium</i> (Generation of Animals)
<i>GC</i>	<i>De Generatione et Corruptione</i> (Generation and Corruption)
<i>HA</i>	<i>Historia Animalium</i> (History of Animals)
<i>Met.</i>	<i>Metaphysica</i> (Metaphysics)
<i>Metr.</i>	<i>Meteorologica</i> (Meteorology)
<i>Phys.</i>	<i>Physica</i> (Physics)
<i>Poet.</i>	<i>De Arte Poetica</i> (Poetics)
<i>Pol.</i>	<i>Politica</i> (Politics)
<i>Rhet.</i>	<i>Rhetorica</i> (Rhetoric)
<i>Sens.</i>	<i>De Sensu et Sensibilibus</i> (Sense and Sensibilia)
<i>Top.</i>	<i>Topica</i> (Topics)

Works by Plato

<i>Ap.</i>	<i>Apologia</i> (Apology)
<i>Charm.</i>	<i>Charmides</i>
<i>Euthyd.</i>	<i>Euthydemus</i>
<i>Lys.</i>	<i>Lysis</i>
<i>Plt.</i>	<i>Politicus</i> (Statesman)
<i>Prot.</i>	<i>Protagoras</i>

Other Works

Dreizehnter	Dreizehnter, A. (ed.). 1970. <i>Aristoteles' Politik</i> . Munich
Hdt.	Herodotus, <i>Histories</i>
LSJ	Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., and Jones, H. S. 1996. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . Oxford
Ross	Ross, W. D. (ed.). 1957. <i>Aristotelis Politica</i> . Oxford
Smyth	Smyth, H.W. 1956. <i>Greek Grammar</i> . rev. G.M. Messing. Cambridge, MA
Susemihl	Susemihl, F. (ed.). 1894. <i>Aristotelis Politica</i> . Leipzig
Thucy.	Thucydides, <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>
Mem.	Xenophon, <i>Memorabilia</i>