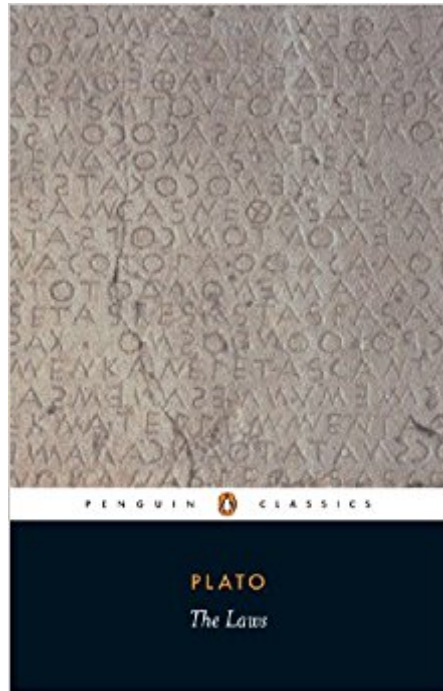




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# The Laws (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

In *The Laws*, Plato describes in fascinating detail a comprehensive system of legislation in a small agricultural utopia he named Magnesia. His laws not only govern crime and punishment, but also form a code of conduct for all aspects of life in his ideal state—from education, sport and religion to sexual behaviour, marriage and drinking parties. Plato sets out a plan for the day-to-day rule of Magnesia, administered by citizens and elected officials, with supreme power held by a Council. Although Plato's views that citizens should act in complete obedience to the law have been read as totalitarian, *The Laws* nonetheless constitutes a highly impressive programme for the reform of society and provides a crucial insight into the mind of one of Classical Greece's foremost thinkers. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English, Greek --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Plato (c.427-347 BC) stands with Socrates and Aristotle as one of the shapers of the whole intellectual tradition of the West. He founded the Academy in Athens, the first permanent institution devoted to philosophical research and teaching, and the prototype of all Western universities. He sought cures for the ills of society in philosophy, and became convinced that those ills would not cease until philosophers became rulers, or rulers philosophers. Trevor J. Saunders has translated many volumes of Plato for the Penguin Classics.

Well organized with helpful summaries in the margins. I read this book in order to write a historical novel about a lawyer in the First-Century Roman Empire. This was exactly what I needed.

Saunders has provided us with an excellent example of academic scholarship and love for philosophy as a whole. Plato is a giant, it's not an easy feat to bring one of his greatest and longest works into the mainstream, making it fairly accessible to anybody who likes to learn about the great thinkers of antiquity. With this translation that is what you get, readability and clarity, presenting the reader with a clear string of thought that won't lead him astray, bravo I dare say!!!!

This is probably the best translation of Laws out there. The commentary in the end of the translation is superb and fills the void on generally rare interpretation of this work. A few notes on Plato's Laws:- Unlike other works by Plato, this is less of a "dialogue" and more like a treatise. Whereas in other dialogues Plato would challenge and agree with his dialog-partner on a certain subject, here he (the Athenian stranger) does not shy away from "stating" what should be. So, as such, this work is very different from other of Plato's works, both in structure and in style.- I like to compare this with Timaeus. In Timaeus, Plato describes the structure of the cosmos, the world out there, how it works, how each planet interacts with each other, how the universe was created, and so on. In the Laws, Plato describes the inner working of a polis based on Laws: how laws came to being, what are the laws for various transgression and so on. Laws is a description of the cosmos within a polis.

Came as described

Great deal for the price

Very helpful introductions. Handy size.

great job

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