



Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics)

By Plato

Download now

Read Online ➔

Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato

Essential Dialogues of Plato, by **Plato**, is part of the *Barnes & Noble Classics* series, which offers quality editions at affordable prices to the student and the general reader, including new scholarship, thoughtful design, and pages of carefully crafted extras. Here are some of the remarkable features of *Barnes & Noble Classics*:

- New introductions commissioned from today's top writers and scholars
- Biographies of the authors
- Chronologies of contemporary historical, biographical, and cultural events
- Footnotes and endnotes
- Selective discussions of imitations, parodies, poems, books, plays, paintings, operas, statuary, and films inspired by the work
- Comments by other famous authors
- Study questions to challenge the reader's viewpoints and expectations
- Bibliographies for further reading
- Indices & Glossaries, when appropriate

All editions are beautifully designed and are printed to superior specifications; some include illustrations of historical interest. *Barnes & Noble Classics* pulls together a constellation of influences—biographical, historical, and literary—to enrich each reader's understanding of these enduring works.

Plato is one of those world-famed individuals, his philosophy one of those world-renowned creations, whose influence, as regards the culture and development of the mind, has from its commencement down to the present time been all-important.

— **G. W. F. Hegel**

Western philosophy starts with Socrates and his student **Plato**. By way of the dialectic that evolved between master and student, Plato invented the philosophical method of inquiry and analysis, and became the first to use a logical framework to ask—and try to answer—the eternal questions about ethics, politics, art, and life that still haunt humanity: What is virtue? What is justice? What is the ideal form of government? What is the individual's relationship to the state? Do artists have a responsibility to society, or only to their own creative

impulse? Plato explores these issues through a series of dialogues, records of supposed conversations between Socrates and other Greek aristocrats. Although Socrates is nominally the main speaker in all of them, only the earlier dialogues document his thoughts, while the latter ones present Plato's own ideas.

What is often ignored in commentaries on Plato's work is its unique literary form. The dialogues are neither dramas, nor stories, yet they are skillfully fashioned by means of characters, narrative events, dramatic moments, and perhaps most surprising, a great deal of humor. Along with such exemplars of Plato's thought as *Symposium*, *Apology*, and *Phaedrus*, this volume includes the first three books of Plato's *Laws*.

Pedro De Blas holds degrees in Law and Classics. He has worked as counsel for several international organizations, including the United Nations and the World Bank, and he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Classics at Columbia University. He has taught classical languages and literature at Columbia, the CUNY Latin and Greek Institute, and New York University's Gallatin School.

 [Download Essential Dialogues of Plato \(Barnes & Noble Class ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Essential Dialogues of Plato \(Barnes & Noble Cla ...pdf](#)

Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics)

By Plato

Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato

Essential Dialogues of Plato, by **Plato**, is part of the *Barnes & Noble Classics* series, which offers quality editions at affordable prices to the student and the general reader, including new scholarship, thoughtful design, and pages of carefully crafted extras. Here are some of the remarkable features of *Barnes & Noble Classics*:

- New introductions commissioned from today's top writers and scholars
- Biographies of the authors
- Chronologies of contemporary historical, biographical, and cultural events
- Footnotes and endnotes
- Selective discussions of imitations, parodies, poems, books, plays, paintings, operas, statuary, and films inspired by the work
- Comments by other famous authors
- Study questions to challenge the reader's viewpoints and expectations
- Bibliographies for further reading
- Indices & Glossaries, when appropriate

All editions are beautifully designed and are printed to superior specifications; some include illustrations of historical interest. *Barnes & Noble Classics* pulls together a constellation of influences—biographical, historical, and literary—to enrich each reader's understanding of these enduring works.

Plato is one of those world-famed individuals, his philosophy one of those world-renowned creations, whose influence, as regards the culture and development of the mind, has from its commencement down to the present time been all-important.

— **G. W. F. Hegel**

Western philosophy starts with Socrates and his student **Plato**. By way of the dialectic that evolved between master and student, Plato invented the philosophical method of inquiry and analysis, and became the first to use a logical framework to ask—and try to answer—the eternal questions about ethics, politics, art, and life that still haunt humanity: What is virtue? What is justice? What is the ideal form of government? What is the individual's relationship to the state? Do artists have a responsibility to society, or only to their own creative impulse? Plato explores these issues through a series of dialogues, records of supposed conversations between Socrates and other Greek aristocrats. Although Socrates is nominally the main speaker in all of them, only the earlier dialogues document his thoughts, while the latter ones present Plato's own ideas.

What is often ignored in commentaries on Plato's work is its unique literary form. The dialogues are neither dramas, nor stories, yet they are skillfully fashioned by means of characters, narrative events, dramatic moments, and perhaps most surprising, a great deal of humor. Along with such exemplars of Plato's thought as *Symposium*, *Apology*, and *Phaedrus*, this volume includes the first three books of Plato's *Laws*.

Pedro De Blas holds degrees in Law and Classics. He has worked as counsel for several international organizations, including the United Nations and the World Bank, and he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Classics at Columbia University. He has taught classical languages and literature at Columbia, the CUNY Latin and Greek Institute, and New York University's Gallatin School.

Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1118592 in Books
- Published on: 2005-10-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.56" w x 5.19" l, 1.12 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 624 pages

 **Download** [Essential Dialogues of Plato \(Barnes & Noble Class ...pdf](#)

 **Read Online** [Essential Dialogues of Plato \(Barnes & Noble Cla ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

From Pedro de Blas's Introduction to *Essential Dialogues of Plato*

The extraordinary range of Plato's interests and his formidable command of the Greek language and cultural tradition make him appear as the inventor of philosophy, and make classical Athens appear as its birthplace. Yet some of the questions that Plato addressed had been opened in different ways by other thinkers elsewhere in the Greek world, many still remain open, and no systematic elaboration of his thought has proved possible—partly because Plato is almost never present, and he certainly never speaks in the first person in any of the dialogues that he wrote. Consequently, reading Plato's dialogues is a rather unusual experience, perhaps more akin to reading drama than to reading philosophy, at least as the latter is conventionally understood today: On the one hand, we are drawn into the dialogues in order to witness discussions about the nature of love, the power of language, the best way to live one's life, and the best way to face death, among many others; on the other hand, it takes a considerable interpretive effort to be reasonably certain about what Plato himself thought about these questions.

The open-ended nature of Plato's dialogues has prompted other thinkers to continue the tradition of philosophical discussion for twenty-four centuries: Plato died a long time ago, but we still rely on ordinary language in order to deal with the most profound questions of human existence. Hence A. N. Whitehead's famous characterization of the history of Western philosophy as "a series of footnotes to Plato," which is commonly taken as a praise of Plato but can also be taken as a statement of a state of affairs that later thinkers have regarded as a problem (the list includes Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Derrida). In this respect, I have assumed that the readers of this volume are less interested in taking sides in this controversy than in getting to know what the fuss is all about in the first place.

There can be little doubt that Plato's claim to fame today is the utopian vision of the ideal city that Socrates (on whom more shortly) puts forward in the dialogue *Republic*. Many universities include this dialogue in their undergraduate reading lists, and it is the one most frequently translated and printed in popular editions. Unfortunately, readers who do not go further in their exploration of philosophy or the ancient world may not read more by Plato than *Republic*, which is, in my opinion, misleading about what Plato was really up to, although that dialogue is admittedly an important and memorable work.

In the history of philosophy, other dialogues have been considered to provide readers with a better approach to Platonic philosophy. Sometimes this role has fallen to *Timaeus*, the dialogue about the origin and structure of the universe, or to *Alcibiades* (of disputed authenticity), which deals with the moral education of the eponymous Athenian military and political superstar. Recently, the scholarly attention paid to sexuality in the ancient world has caused the fascinating discussion of the nature of love in *Symposium* to be regarded as a suitable introduction to Plato's thought.

The truth of the matter is that no single dialogue is the best way into Plato. Readers familiar only with *Republic* will soon discover that Plato dealt with important issues addressed in that dialogue more extensively elsewhere. For instance, the limits of verbal persuasion are more amply discussed in *Gorgias*, and both the discussion of the Ideas and the theory of knowledge become a lot more elaborate in the conversations that take place in *Parmenides*, *Theaetetus*, and *Sophist*. Moreover, those willing to venture into

the dialogues that Plato wrote later in life (for example, *Statesman* and *Laws*) may come to pose themselves the question of whether Plato agreed with everything Socrates says in *Republic* about the ideal city and the ideal ruler.

Philosophical thought in general hardly ever follows a straight line or can be condensed at the rate of one work per author, but there is a peculiar “networking” quality to Plato’s writings: Only after reading (and rereading) enough of his dialogues does a tentative outline of his enterprise begin to emerge in the reader’s mind. Whitehead was right: To a large extent, the practice of philosophy (at least in the Western tradition) consists of striving toward an ever better definition of that enterprise, even if that means jettisoning part of the baggage during the journey. Any traveler knows, however, that the items you leave behind on your trip may be the ones you later find yourself most in need of.

In view of all the above, it would be irresponsible to pretend that a sufficient discussion of even a selection of Plato’s dialogues can be contained in the span of this volume; therefore, I have limited the scope of this general introduction to what I consider an essential historical and cultural background for a first reading. In the individual introductions that immediately precede each of the dialogues, I have identified the speakers and suggested condensed outlines of the arguments, since a continuous reading of any but the shortest of the dialogues is too difficult for most of us in the beginning. Although a few critical insights are given, my aim has been to facilitate an intelligent and enjoyable first contact with the dialogues themselves, rather than to put forward interpretive views. Footnotes and endnotes follow the same principle. Readers who want to engage more deeply with the background and intricacies of Plato’s thought will find guidance in the recommendations for further reading.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Tate:

Here thing why that Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no publication that similar with Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics). It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your way home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) in e-book can be your choice.

Anna Chew:

Reading a e-book can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a guide you will get new information due to the fact book is one of several ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, looking at a book will make a person more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially fiction book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you could share your knowledge to others. When you read this Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics), you are able to tells your family, friends along with

soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a publication.

Sonia Cancel:

Don't be worry should you be afraid that this book will certainly filled the space in your house, you could have it in e-book technique, more simple and reachable. That Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) can give you a lot of close friends because by you considering this one book you have issue that they don't and make anyone more like an interesting person. This book can be one of a step for you to get success. This guide offer you information that possibly your friend doesn't know, by knowing more than different make you to be great people. So , why hesitate? We need to have Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics).

Betty Neal:

That guide can make you to feel relax. That book Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) was bright colored and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book are make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading that.

Download and Read Online Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato #FYJT1G3OVQL

Read Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato for online ebook

Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato books to read online.

Online Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato ebook PDF download

Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato Doc

Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato Mobipocket

Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato EPub

FYJT1G3OVQL: Essential Dialogues of Plato (Barnes & Noble Classics) By Plato