



The Laws of Plato

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The Laws, Plato's longest dialogue, has for centuries been recognized as the most comprehensive exposition of the *practical* consequences of his philosophy, a necessary corrective to the more visionary and utopian *Republic*. In this animated encounter between a foreign philosopher and a powerful statesman, not only do we see reflected, in Plato's own thought, eternal questions of the relation between political theory and practice, but we also witness the working out of a detailed plan for a new political order that embodies the results of Plato's mature reflection on the family, the status of women, property rights, criminal law, and the role of religion and the fine arts in a healthy republic.

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