

Overview of The Republic

If we talk about the history of western philosophy, Plato is known as the most influential thinker and philosopher. His thoughts also contributed a lot in the development of the political thoughts of the world. It is also said that he laid the foundation of philosophy, political thought, metaphor and epistemology. His works of art is still highly quoted and referred to the research work and academic discourse. Plato belongs to the aristocratic family and comes from Athens. It is said that the trial and execution of Socrates deeply struck him and under his influence regarding truth and justice, he committed himself to the life of truth and justice. His great contribution lies in establishing Academy in Athens for higher pursuit and learning in the western world. He has written many incredible books, highly quoted books in the western thoughts in the forms of thoughts such as *The Republic*, *The Symposium*, *Phaedo* and *The Apology*.

The Republic is the best known to the readers of the world and a unique production of Western thought. It is one of the highly read and quoted book of the world literature that portrays the historical and political background of ancient Athens- the form of writing is found to be a Socratic exploration of justice, the nature of soul and the formation of the ideal state. The speaker of the text is a well known philosopher whose lines and expressions are quoted to make speech and writing effective and more meaningful. In this foundational text Socrates invites or engages for the wider meaning of thought and mind and philosophical

discussion with various interlocutors in the form of dialogue. The central idea of the discussion lies in the setting of Athens governed by a wealthy citizen Cephalus to discuss justice, ideal state and the presence of the ideal king. It also pinpoints that the discussion may bring enlightenment to uproot ignorance and illiteracy. The broader meaning of the discussion to highlight socio-political concerns of ancient Athens that relate to the subject of justice, governance and the role of citizenship towards the state.