

Political Thought

1. Beginnings of political philosophy in Ancient Greece; cultural and political environment of the Greek city state (*polis*); the political systems of ancient Sparta and Athens.
2. The Sophists and their influence on ancient political thought; Socrates' moral philosophy and its utilization by Plato.
3. Plato: theory of Forms, Plato's moral and political philosophy, critique of democracy, vision of ideal society in the *Republic*.
4. Aristoteles's political philosophy: *polis* as a natural form of human organization, Aristotle's comparative analysis of forms of political regimes.
5. Political philosophy in the era of Hellenism; political thought of the key Hellenistic philosophical schools (Stoicism, Epicureanism), search for individual stability in a turbulent age.
6. Political philosophy in the Ancient Rome: Greek and Roman political thought, republicanism and empire; transformation of political philosophy in Roman Empire.
7. Early Christianity and Political Thought: Christian theology, public service and political life, growth of the Church's political power; political philosophy in the works of St. Augustine: linear history of salvation, original sin and the nature of coercive power.
8. High Medieval Ages: the Age of Scholasticism, influence of social progress on learning and philosophy, political thought of Thomas Aquinas: influence of Aristotle, program of Christian political theology, Aquinas on laws and political power.
9. Political philosophy in Late Medieval Ages (14th – 15th century): reform movements inside and outside the Catholic Church, popular sovereignty and temporal/spiritual powers in late scholasticism.
10. Political thought during the Renaissance: humanism and inspiration in antiquity, political life in renaissance Italy – republicanism and autocracy, Niccolò Machiavelli and his novel approach to analyzing politics.
11. Utopian tradition in the history of Western political thought (Plato, More, Bacon, Marx, Orwell), utopianism and totalitarianism.

12. John Locke: social contract theory and birth of liberalism, state of nature and construction of political authority, limits of liberal government.
13. Thomas Hobbes and his theory of social contract: state of nature as a state of war, need for absolute sovereign, Hobbes on international relations.
14. J.-J. Rousseau and the ideology of the French revolution: ancien regime and its discontents, ideals of the French revolution, Rousseau and his contractarian theory of radical democracy, democracy and the general will.
15. Edmund Burke and conservatism: key concepts in conservative thought since the Enlightenment, Burke's criticism of the French revolution and philosophical universalism, defense of traditional institutions and inequalities in the society.
16. Karl Marx: Marx's analysis of historical change, class struggle and the class nature of the state, critique of capitalism, Marxism after Marx.
17. A. de Tocqueville: early American democracy and its characteristics, de Tocqueville's assessment of pros and cons of American democracy.
18. Liberal political philosophy of J. S. Mill; utilitarianism as a moral and political philosophy, Mill's defense of individual freedoms, Mill on gender inequality, Mill on liberal democracy.
19. Feminism and political thought: main political ideologies and gender inequality (conservatism, liberalism, Marxism), three phases of development of feminist thought, key topics in contemporary feminism.
20. Political liberalism in the 20th century: concepts of positive and negative liberty (Berlin), John Rawls and modern social liberalism (veil of ignorance, two principles of justice), Robert Nozick and development of libertarian philosophy.