

Abstract:

In this bachelor thesis titled „The Meaning of Leadership in Plato’s Republic and Aristotle’s Politics“, I offer a comparison of the respective passages in the Republic and the Politics that are central to understand the role of a leader. I have focused not only on understanding a leader’s personality, motivations, and their role in the polis, but I have also considered the polis and its citizens. Despite the relative complexity and breath of both works, the question of leadership is not explicitly addressed in either. Therefore, I have systematically analysed related terms and topics that touch upon the subject of leadership in order to distil the insights relevant for the subject of my inquiry. Correspondingly, the structure of the thesis logically proceeds from the general and rather uncontested, to the particular and complex. I have relied on a wide range of acclaimed interpreters of both Plato and Aristotle to shed further light on the challenging passages. The result of this effort is a structured comparison of Plato’s and Aristotle’s respective views on leadership as recorded in two of their key texts.