

Lecture #3: Introduction to Political Theory/Philosophy

(2,000 years in approximately 40 minutes, skipping along)

I. Greece: Athens

A. Plato: “**The Last Days of Socrates**”

1. Euthyphro
2. The Apology
3. The Crito
4. The Phaedo
5. Death of Socrates = Disrepute of Democracy*****
 - a. Demagoguery and “Mob Rule”

B. Thucydides: History of the Peloponnesian War

1. Invasion of Sicily
 - a. The people can be fooled
 - b. The people can be wrong

C. Plato’s Resolution: Rule of the “Philosopher Kings” (The Republic)

II. Judeo-Christian ethos on politics

- A. View of state/polity/politics as separate sphere
 (“Render unto Caesar.....”)
- B. “Equalitarian” value/premise (hence, egalitarianism)
- C. Nietzsche’s critique (“equalitarian impulse” and “the herd instinct”)
 1. Democracy rests on egalitarianism (from Judeo-Christian tradition)

Early Modern Political Theory

III. Machievelli: The Prince; The Discourses

IV. **Social Contract Theory**: Roots (more or less) of modern democratic liberalism

A. Antiquity

1. Plato
2. Seneca

B. Thomas **Hobbes**: Leviathan

C. John Locke: Second Treatise on Government