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City and Soul in Plato's Republic.

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Lecturae Platonis, Vol. 2

This short book attempts to say what Plato is getting at in the *Republic*. Its strategy is to trace one bright thread, the comparison between the structure of a society and that of the individual soul, a theme that runs through the *Republic* and binds its argument. After some close-drawn critique in chapter two, which fastens on current misunderstandings of the analogy between city and soul, the remaining chapters have a more open texture. They argue for a quite different understanding of how Plato's comparison of city and soul works and of what its point is; they situate the comparison in the larger contexts of ancient rhetorical theory and of intellectual rivalry, above all the rivalry between Plato and Isocrates; finally, they give an account of the tyrant and the philosopher-king as a matched pair who in their different ways

break with the terms of the city-soul analogy – a break which reveals the characters and motives of both. The book does not hesitate to apply the results of its inquiry into the city-soul analogy to some very familiar themes in the interpretation of the *Republic* – the sincerity of its utopianism, the justice of the philosopher's return to the Cave. In lieu of an introduction, the opening chapter offers a study of Glaucon and Adeimantus – of their characters, their desires, their reasons for challenging Socrates – in the course of which the argument of the remaining chapters comes into view. For the city-soul analogy is proposed by Socrates as a response to the brothers' challenge, and it turns out to respond to their deepest needs.

LECTURAE PLATONIS 2

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