

Alexander Zistakis

# The Origins of Liberty

*An Essay in Platonic Ontology*

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY

## Summary

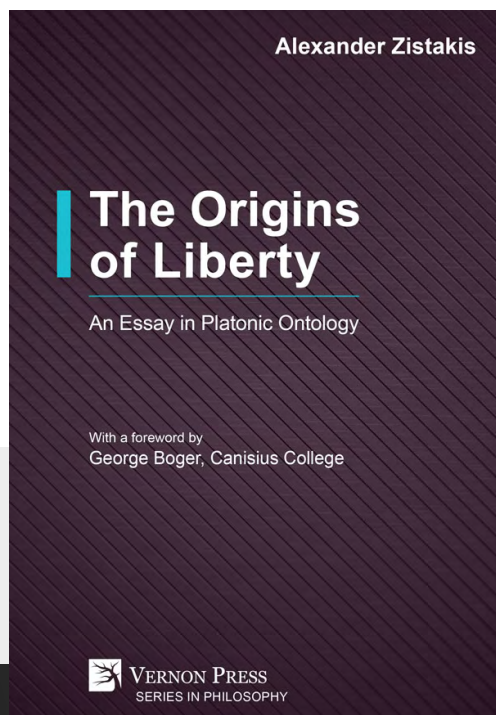
Unlike the vast majority of existing literature on Plato, this book seeks to argue that liberty constitutes the central notion and preoccupation of Platonic thought and that his theory of ideas is indeed a theory of liberty. Moreover, this book contends that Plato's thought can be understood to be both one of liberty and a theory of liberation. Bound up in its efforts to reveal both the ideal liberty and the conditions and possibility of its existence in the so-called 'real world,' the thought of liberty tends to be all-encompassing. Consequently, this book seeks to expose how liberty can be understood to influence Plato's ontological form of analysis in relation to politics, philosophy, and anthropology, as well as its influence on the structural unity of all three.

Understood from such a perspective, this book frames Platonic philosophy as primarily an investigation, an articulation and as a way of establishing the relationship between the individual and the collective. Importantly, this relationship is acknowledged to be the natural and original framework for any conception and exercise of human liberty, especially within democratic theory and politics. By treating Plato's philosophy as a continuous effort to find modes and dimensions of liberation in and through different forms of this relationship, this book hopes to not only engage in the discussion about the meaning of Platonic ontological-political insights on different grounds, but also to provide a different perspective for the evaluation of its relevance to the main contemporary issues and

problems regarding liberty, liberation, democracy and politics. This book will be of interest to both undergraduate students, experienced scholars and researchers, as well as to the general public who have an interest in philosophy, classics, and political theory.

## About the author

**Alexander Zistakis** has a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Athens and has taught humanities in Europe and the Middle East for more than twenty years. He has actively contributed to graduate and open international seminars in ancient philosophy in Athens as well as participating in numerous conferences and symposia on ancient and contemporary philosophy. Notably, Zistakis has authored several books and numerous papers, which have been published across three continents (Europe, America, and Africa). He is currently a member of the editorial board of *Phronimon* (South African Journal for Greek Philosophy and Humanities) and the *Journal of Philosophical Criticism* (Italy). His major research interests include ancient and contemporary philosophy, political theory and aesthetics and communication.



January 2018 | Hardback 236x160mm | 424 Pages | ISBN: 978-1-62273-289-0  
Also in Paperback (\$60/€51/£45) | ISBN: 978-1-62273-487-0

SUBJECTS Philosophy, Political Theory

VIEW/ORDER ONLINE AT [vernonpress.com/book/345](http://vernonpress.com/book/345)

\$ 68

€ 55

£ 48

**12% DISCOUNT ONLINE**  
USE CODE AT CHECKOUT

FLYPR12



**VERNON PRESS**  
[www.vernonpress.com](http://www.vernonpress.com)