

Contents

| | | |
|----------|--|----|
| 1 | Argument | 1 |
| 1.1 | Plato ‘the Youngest’ | 1 |
| 1.2 | The Flux of Law in Plato’s Corpus | 4 |
| 2 | The Platonic Dialogues and Legal Critique | 9 |
| 2.1 | Introducing the Platonic Dialogues | 9 |
| 2.1.1 | Interpreting the Dialogues | 12 |
| 2.1.2 | Dating the Dialogues | 17 |
| 2.2 | The Drama of Platonic Legislation | 18 |
| 2.2.1 | Early Dialogues: <i>Apology</i> and <i>Crito</i> | 18 |
| 2.2.2 | Middle-Period Dialogues: <i>Gorgias</i> and <i>Republic</i> | 23 |
| 2.2.3 | Late Dialogues: <i>Politicus</i> and <i>Laws</i> | 27 |
| 2.3 | The Vicious Circle of Plato’s Laws | 33 |
| 2.3.1 | The Last Pages of Plato’s Corpus | 33 |
| 2.3.2 | Magnesia’s Socrates | 35 |
| 2.3.3 | The Legal Necessity of Injustice | 36 |
| 3 | Socrates’ Execution and Platonic Legislation | 41 |
| 3.1 | <i>Apology</i> I: Injustice and Illegality | 41 |
| 3.1.1 | Demaratus’ Law and Socrates’ Truth | 43 |
| 3.1.2 | A Socratic Axiom: ‘No Man Will Save His Life...’ | 47 |
| 3.1.3 | Socrates’ Past: Law-Breaking in a Democratic City | 49 |
| 3.1.4 | Socrates’ Past: Law-Breaking in a Despotic City | 50 |
| 3.1.5 | Socrates’ Future: ‘There Is no Man to Whom I Would Yield’ | 52 |
| 3.2 | <i>Apology</i> II: ‘If You Had a Law ...’ | 54 |
| 3.3 | <i>Crito</i> : A City Without Laws | 54 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 4 A Critique of Law and the First Platonic Law-Code | 59 |
| 4.1 <i>Gorgias</i> I: Callicles and the Law of Violence. | 59 |
| 4.1.1 Law and the Forces of Decay | 62 |
| 4.1.2 Flux and the Law of Violence | 63 |
| 4.1.3 Flux and the Force of Law | 64 |
| 4.2 <i>Gorgias</i> II: Socrates and the Force of Contradiction. | 65 |
| 4.2.1 Self-resistance and Self-superiority | 67 |
| 4.2.2 Subjection, Imitation, Self-contradiction | 69 |
| 4.2.3 Envoi: For a Pure Force of Law | 72 |
| 4.3 <i>Republic</i> : Law and the Possibility of a City | 73 |
| 5 The Flux of Law and the Second Platonic Law-Code | 77 |
| 5.1 Towards Plato's <i>Politicus</i> and <i>Laws</i> | 77 |
| 5.2 The God Cronos, the Flux of Things, and the Sway of Chance | 80 |
| 5.2.1 <i>Cratylus</i> : The Reign of Cronos | 80 |
| 5.2.2 The Platonic City-State: 'Sovereign Over Its Own Procession' | 82 |
| 5.2.3 Legislation and Collusion with Chance | 86 |
| 5.3 The Mechanicity of Law and the Subtilization of Plato's Laws. | 87 |
| 5.4 Plato's Mechanization of Legal Revision | 89 |
| 5.5 The 'Nocturnal Council' and the Second Death of Socrates | 91 |
| Epilogue | 97 |
| Supplements | 99 |
| Bibliography | 103 |