



# Drink the Hemlock: The Soul, The City, and The Cosmos in Platonic Political Philosophy

*Daniel Betti*

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The collection of essays in this book expounds a classical and orthodox understanding of Plato's dialogues. The account is orthodox in that it coheres with some of the oldest understandings of Platonism; indeed, it agrees with St. Augustine's account of Plato. The novelty resides in finding that Platonic political philosophy is a form of cosmopolitan thought. Historians of political thought have never considered Plato to be cosmopolitan, and yet the evidence suggests his dialogues fit into that broad school of thought begun by the ancient Greeks. A final section in the book is devoted to a critical assessment of contemporary political thought. Wielding Plato's dialogues against modern and postmodern political thought, especially the ideas of materialism, progress, and relativism, the book reveals distinct flaws in contemporary political thought and political science.

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