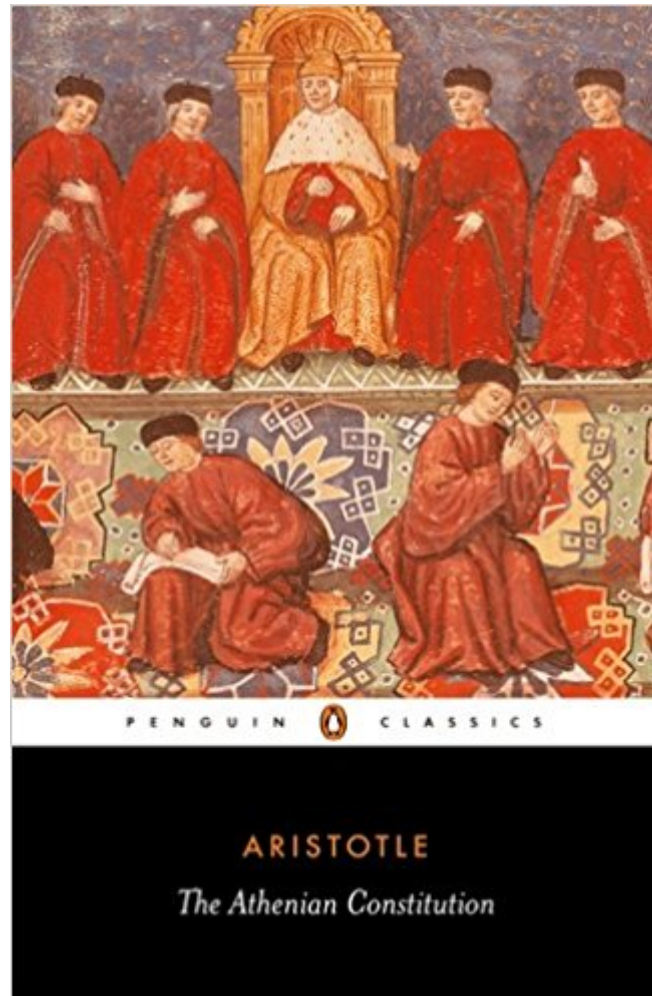


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The Athenian Constitution (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Probably written by a student of Aristotle, *The Athenian Constitution* is both a history and an analysis of Athens' political machinery between the seventh and fourth centuries BC, which stands as a model of democracy at a time when city-states lived under differing kinds of government. The writer recounts the major reforms of Solon, the rule of the tyrant Pisistratus and his sons, the emergence of the democracy in which power was shared by all free male citizens, and the leadership of Pericles and the demagogues who followed him. He goes on to examine the city's administration in his own time - the council, the officials and the judicial system. For its information on Athens' development and how the democracy worked, *The Athenian Constitution* is an invaluable source of knowledge about the Athenian city-state. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Greek (translation)

Aristotle was born in Macedonia in 384 bc. For twenty years he studied at Athens in the academy of

Plato, before becoming tutor of the young Alexander the Great. When Alexander became king of Macedonia in 336, Aristotle returned to Athens and founded his own school and research institute, the Lyceum. Aristotle fled to Calcis in 323 in the aftermath of Alexander's death, where he died a year later. P. J. Rhodes is Professor of Ancient History at Durham University, and is a Fellow of the British Academy. His major work is *Commentary on the Aristotelian Athenian Politeia*.

This is a good book in paperback but terrible on Kindle. In the beginning, the author refers to columns of information to be used for finding information in the book. On Kindle these columns are rendered as one thin vertical column which is totally unintelligible. Worse than this you cannot jump from section to section using the controller, you have to go page by page or know some key-word, go to the menu, and do a search. This is a reference book which is very hard to reference on Kindle. I strongly recommend buying the paperback version.

The Athenian Constitution is worth reading for two reasons. First, besides the Bible, it is the only written text I know of detailing the constitution of an ancient Western people that is extant. Because of this, the text is important as it illumines the political life of the city Plato and Aristotle called home. Second, as the work of the Aristotelian school it belies the myth that Aristotle theorized without empirical evidence. Aristotle actually compiled 150 different constitutions to provide evidence for his political theory. Similarly, he collected thousands of specimens for his biological theories. If the common-sense assumptions he made in the *Physics* and the *Metaphysics* proved false that is more the product of the difference between common-sense and the way the world really works than a flaw in Aristotle. In other words, for those who like to ponder the beginnings of Western civilization a must read.

It is great to have the literary works of some of the ancient worlds greatest writers, and thinkers to have with us here today.

In good condition. Used by my daughter at college and 'well used' by her but was what she needed for the class.

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