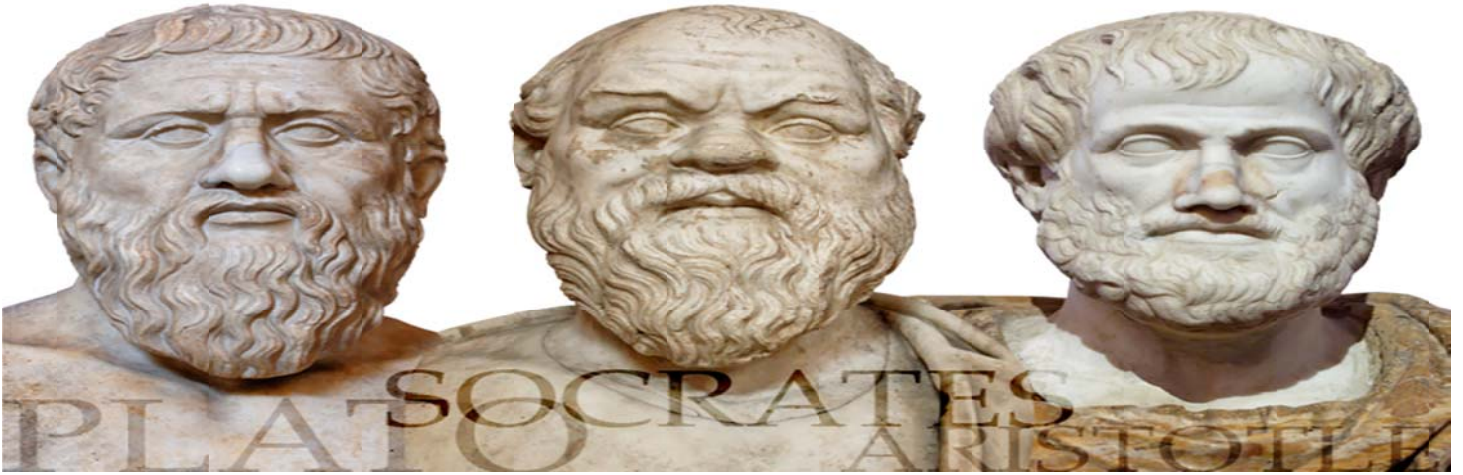


THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS

Read pages 249-252 in your textbook, take notes on the background, philosophies, and accomplishments of each following men.



PLATO

427-347 BC

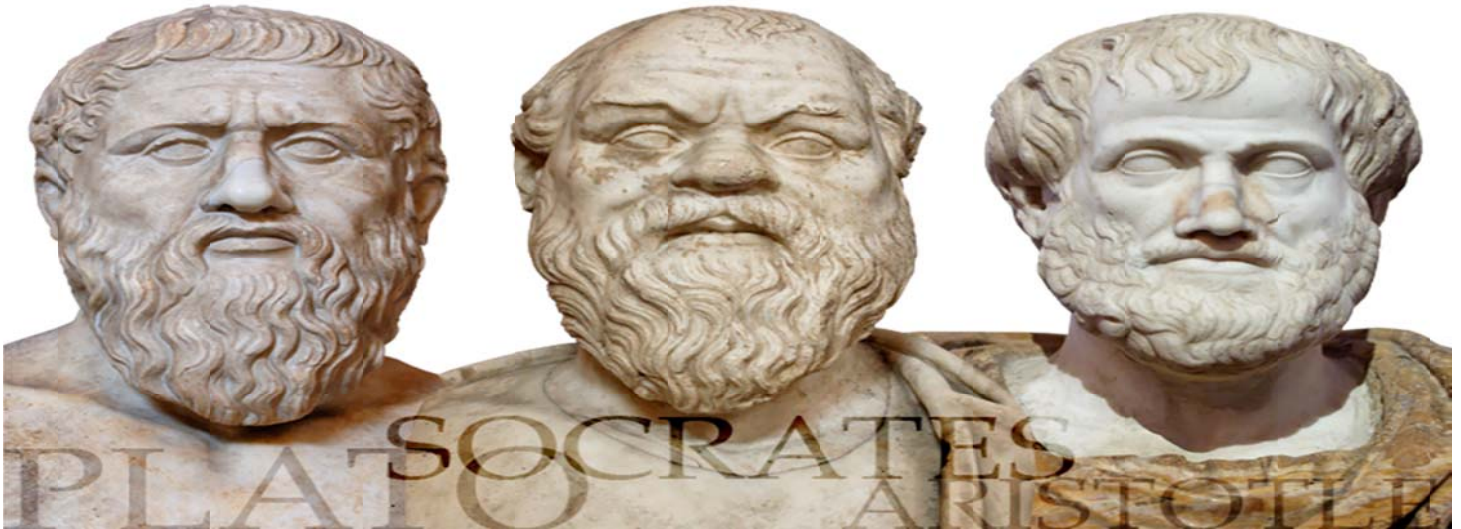
SOCRATES

469-399 BC

ARISTOTLE

384-322 BC

THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS



PLATO

427-347 BC

- Student of Socrates
- Death of his mentor made him distrust democracy
- Left Athens for 10 years
- When he returned, he set up a school called **The Academy** where he could teach his own ideas
- Believed that through rational thought, people could discover unchanging ethical principles, recognize perfect beauty, and learn how to best organize society
- Wrote the *Republic* – his vision of an ideal state
- Argued that the state should regulate every aspect of its citizens' lives in order to provide for their best interests.
- Believed in the equality of all people at birth
- His idea society had three classes: workers to produce the necessities, soldiers to defend the state, and philosophers to rule using order and justice

SOCRATES

469-399 BC

- Wrote no books
- Roamed the marketplace questioning his fellow citizens about their beliefs
- “What is the greatest good?”
- Socratic method: pose questions that challenge people to examine the implications of their beliefs
- Was put on trial for corrupting the city's youth and failing to respect the gods – death penalty by poison
- Defended democracy even though it condemned him to death

ARISTOTLE

384-322 BC

- Student of Plato
- Developed his own beliefs about government after analyzing all types
- Preferred a government of many, not a few but he was suspicious of democracy (could lead to mob rule)
- Favored a constitutional government ruled by members of the middle class (“polity”)
- Felt the city-state represented the best and most natural form of human community
- Believed people could reach their full potential and achieve “the good life”
- Wrote *Politics* in which he stated that even rulers must be subject to the law (a guiding principle for today's constitutional governments)
- Felt that people should live by pursuing the “golden mean” – a life without extremes
- Set up a school called the **Lyceum**
- His writings became the foundation for the first European universities