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ANCIENT ORIGINS OF LIBERAL EDUCATION (PLATO'S *REPUBLIC* AND ARISTOTLE'S *POLITICS*)

The paper deals with the educational system which was established by Plato and Aristotle for the ideal state in their works “Republic” and “Politics”. The main goal of this educational system is to enable a person to become a free, independent individual who will develop into an organized and completely perfect ruler in the future. Both philosophers suggest the ideal educational model invented by them. It must be noted that as far back as the 5th century the notion of the “liberal education” was already under discussion among Athenian intellectuals. But Plato and Aristotle offer accounts that are far more clearly conceptualized and articulated than those of their predecessors. “Republic” and “Politics” are the first extant accounts of liberal education in ancient Greece and thus may be seen as foundational discourses for the institution of humanistic study in the west. Both philosophers set the goal of the liberal education – to liberate people from any kinds of restrictions. It means a person after getting liberal education is absolutely free, independent and only such person can be both an ideal guard and a ruler of the state. Their main principles are the basis for modern system of “liberal” education”. A thorough study of their ideas about education will help us better understand the major principles of the 21st century “liberal” that is “humanistic” education.