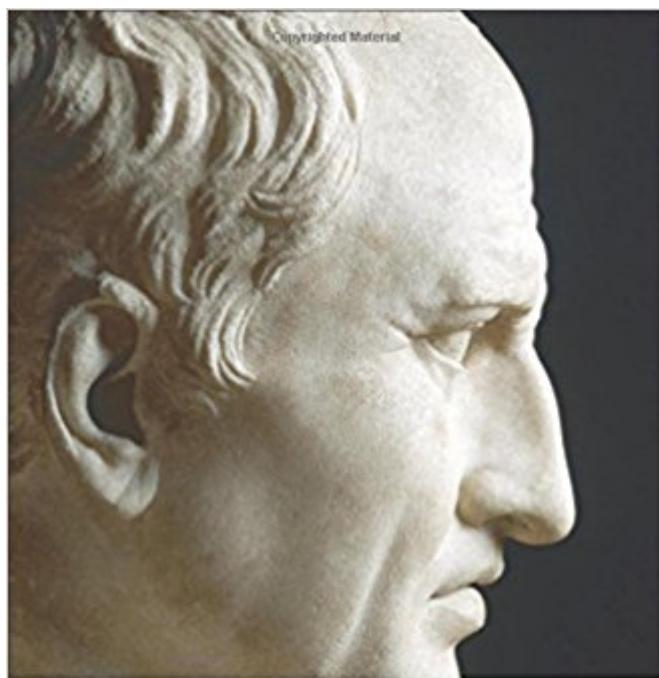


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# The Republic And The Laws (Oxford World's Classics)



**Cicero**  
*The Republic and The Laws*  
A new translation by Niall Rudd

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

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## Synopsis

Cicero's *The Republic* is an impassioned plea for responsible government written just before the civil war that ended the Roman Republic in a dialogue following Plato. Drawing on Greek political theory, the work embodies the mature reflections of a Roman ex-consul on the nature of political organization, on justice in society, and on the qualities needed in a statesman. Its sequel, *The Laws*, expounds the influential doctrine of Natural Law, which applies to all mankind, and sets out an ideal code for a reformed Roman Republic, already half in the realm of utopia. This is the first complete English translation of both works for over sixty years and features a lucid Introduction, a Table of Dates, notes on the Roman constitution, and an Index of Names. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

## Book Information

Series: Oxford World's Classics

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; Reissue edition (July 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 019954011X

ISBN-13: 978-0199540112

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.6 x 5.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,820 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Political Science > Constitutions #59 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Ancient & Classical #84 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Ancient

## Customer Reviews

'In his translation G. achieves a consistent vitality both in narrative... and in argument.' Michael Coffey, *The Classical Review* Vol.XLIX No.2

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Latin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Well organized with helpful summaries in the margins. I read this book in order to write a historical novel about a lawyer in the First-Century Roman Empire. This was exactly what I needed.

Oxford World Classics always has great translations, clear print and are easily readable. Cicero, the great roman senator, writes a compelling piece on a citizen's duty to participate in a civil government. One of his important points: you cannot save your country from outside the government, you need the expertise learned and friendships made to take action in crisis. Good stuff.

Truthful book well written and much needed in this untruthful world.

I enjoyed this translation and found it to be quite accessible. The two works go together to discuss the ideal state through a reasonably sophisticated approach though one which is quite trapped by views of Roman superiority. After all, Cicero begins by extolling the virtues of patriotism so we shouldn't be surprised if his ideal state looks exactly like his own state. However, the approach taken by Cicero is rather interesting. Rather than emphasizing a specific structure, he seems to emphasize ongoing synthesis of elements of different structures, emphasizing the importance of what might later be thought to be a "social contract theory of government." Often I think in many areas of political discourse returning to this basic level would be helpful even in our modern age. The second work builds upon this by offering a system of laws for the ideal republic. This helps to clarify Cicero's thinking a great deal by offering more concrete examples of how the Republic should be formed. The introduction and end notes add a great deal to this edition. Anyone interested in theory of government, Roman studies, or Cicero in general, should read this book. Highly recommended.

Cicero is fantastic. He is a clear example of all those things which are good, true, beautiful, and common to all mankind - his writings are exemplary of the best sort of statesman.

so far so good and a needful read for fans of classic authors

Grande Homem

I found this book very difficult to understand but it was what I expected.

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