

Plato (Aristocles)

Born 347 BCE, died 427 BCE

His allegory of The Cave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RWOpQXTItA> (4:30)

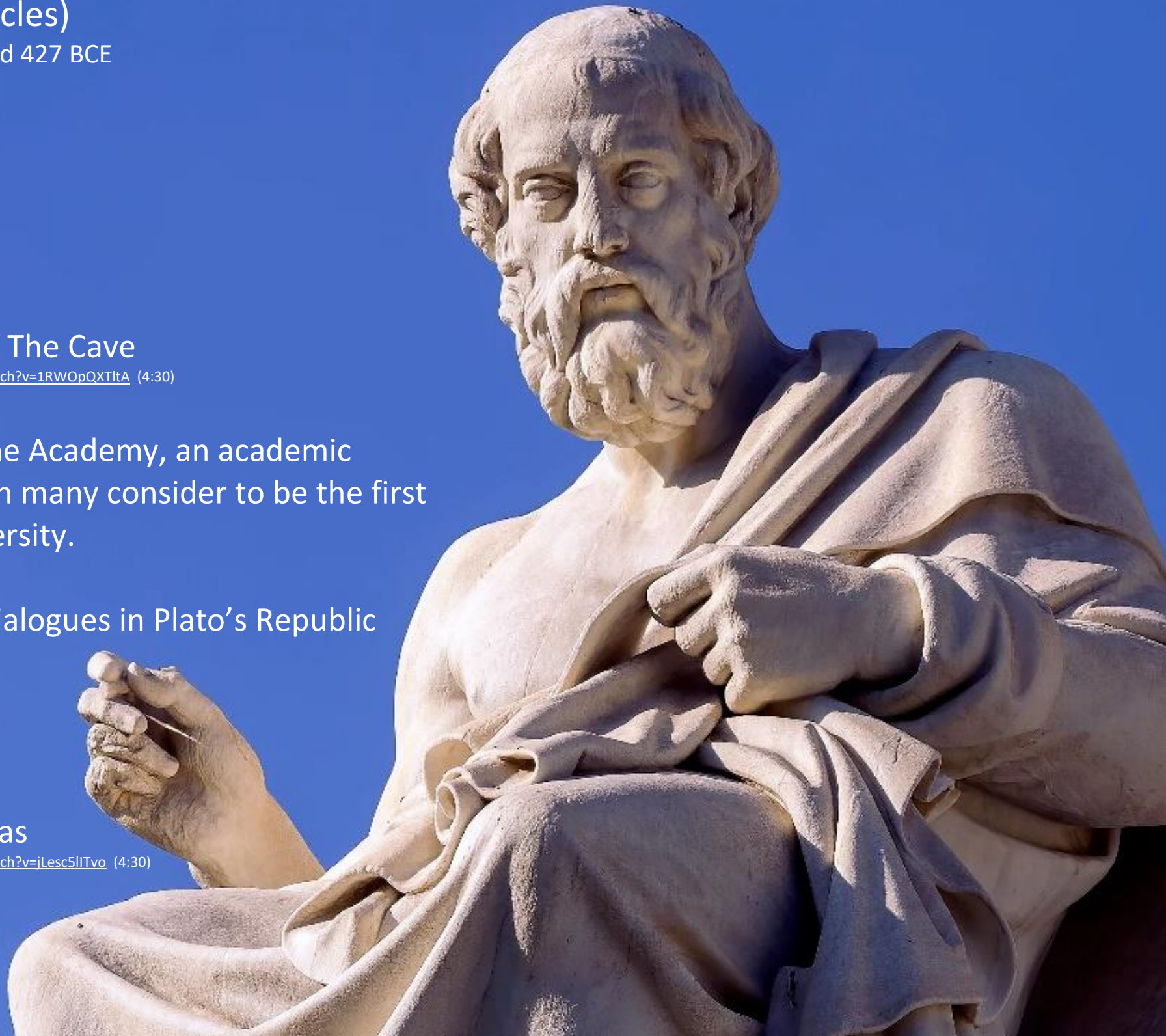
He founded the Academy, an academic program which many consider to be the first Western university.

He wrote as dialogues in Plato's Republic

Atlantis !

Plato's best
and worse ideas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLesc5lITvo> (4:30)



Plato believed well-being, happiness, high-virtue, and right moral action to be the epitome of ethical practice and life.

His concept of the soul...he believed the soul is imprisoned in the body, and attempting to break free into the ideal Form

Wrote 'The Republic'

Plato's Academy

A school of skeptics. The 1st western university.

Emphasized science

Students pay teachers

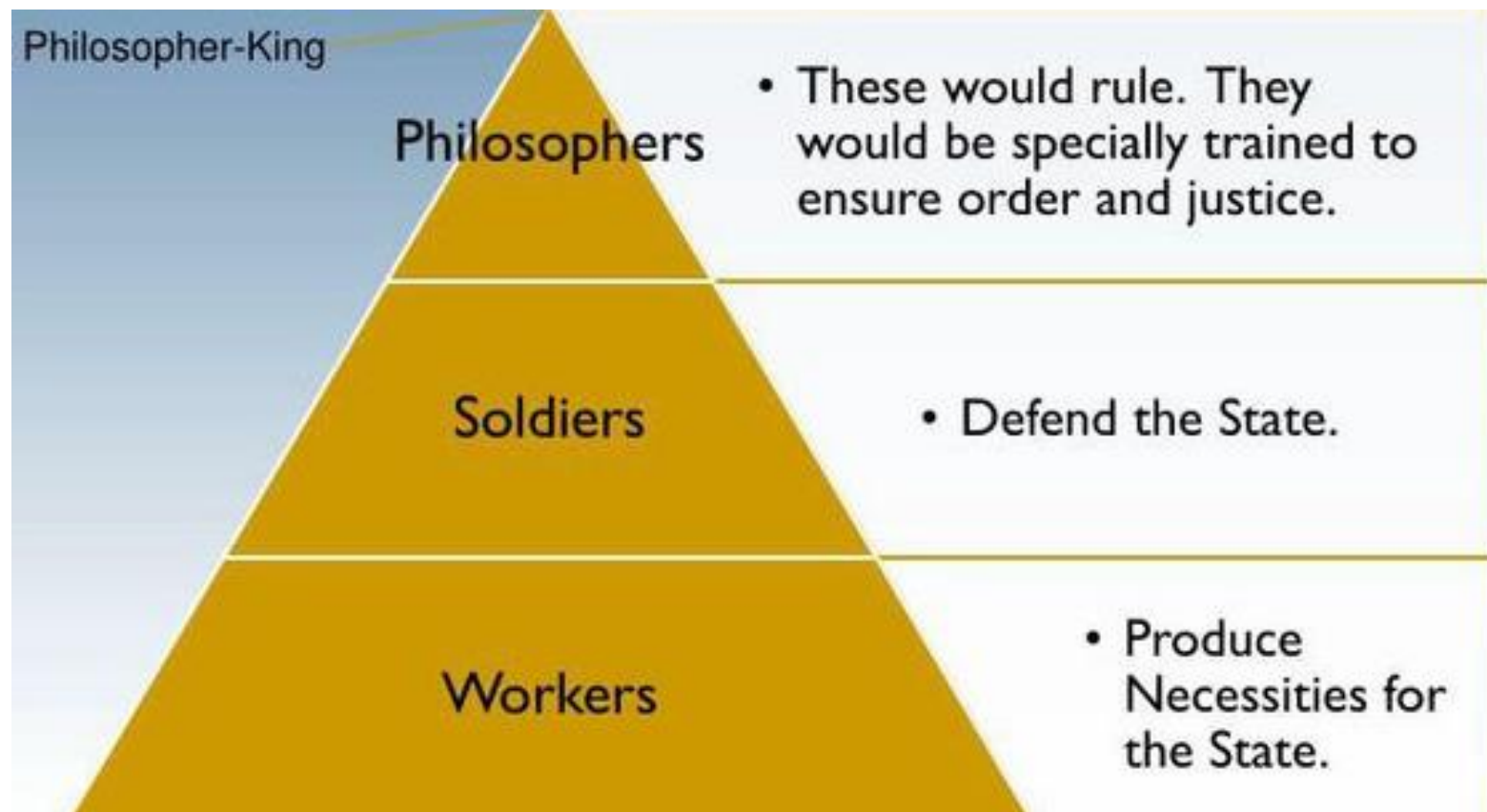
*Aristotle was a student there, before he left

↳ Why leave? Political difficulties due to his macedonian connections? Rivalry with Plato?

An ideal society

Socialist structure

Philosopher King



Atlantis

Plato told the story of Atlantis around 360 BCE, in two Socratic dialogues (They claim to recount the meeting of two men who had met the previous day to hear Socrates describe the ideal state)

- He said Atlantis existed (destroyed 9,000-11,000) years before his own time, and that its story has been passed down by poets, priests and others.
- The founders of Atlantis, he said, were half-god and half-human.
- Atlantis was a mighty island nation in the Atlantic Ocean, and it rules over several other islands
- Describes Atlantis as an island larger than Libya and Asia Minor put together, located in the Atlantic just beyond the Pillars of Hercules – generally assumed to mean the Strait of Gibraltar
- They created a utopian civilization and became a great naval power.
- Their home was made up of concentric islands separated by wide moats (alternating land and water) and linked by a canal that reached to the center.
- The land was rich/fertile, the engineers technically accomplished, the architecture extravagant.
- There was internal cultural conflict between wealth and modesty, between a maritime and an agricultural society, and between science and spirituality.
- A well-developed irrigation system extended beyond the main city
- Atlantis then wages an unprovoked imperialist war against Asia and Europe. Defeated by Athens.
- There was then a violent earthquake, and Atlantis sunk into the sea. Destroyed in 24 hours. Athen's army also destroyed
- Because the gods grew increasingly unhappy with the vanity, greed, and corruption dominating the society of Atlantis legend has it that 9,000 years ago, in an effort led by Zeus, the Greek gods sunk Atlantis as punishment for its aggression, hubris, and misbehavior

WAS PLATO CONVEYING REAL HISTORY, OR IS THIS THE GREATEST PRACTICAL JOKE IN HUMAN HISTORY?



