



# Art, Fascism, and Totalitarianism

An exploration of Plato's views on art and society, and Karl Popper's critique of Plato's political philosophy.



## Plato's Censorship of Poetry

Plato censored poetry, arguing that art should reflect order and harmony, not stir emotions as in romanticism.





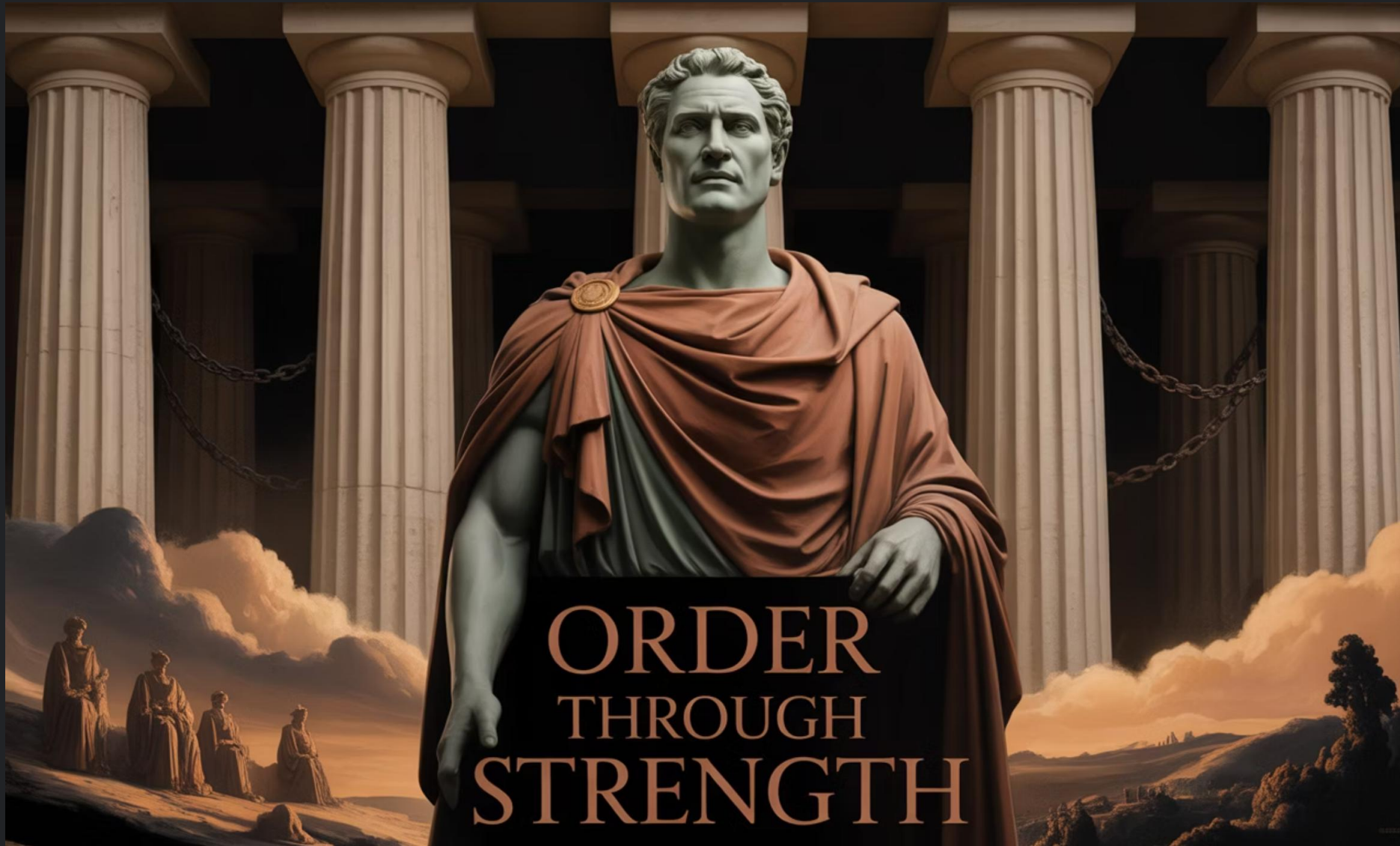
## Art as Order and Harmony

### Plato's Artistic Ideal

Plato believed that **art should reflect order and harmony**, representing the perfect forms rather than emotional expressions.

### Against Emotional Art

He rejected art that would stir emotions, as found in **romanticism**, considering it dangerous to the rational order of society.



## Accusations of Fascism

This control over artistic expression led critics to call Plato **fascist** and **totalitarian**.

His desire to regulate art and culture for the sake of social order has been viewed as an early form of authoritarian thought control.





## Karl Popper's Critique

Plato's views were challenged by **Karl Popper**, who argued that *The Republic* was a **totalitarian assault upon democracy** and a **betrayal of Socrates**.

# Enemy of the Open Society



## Plato's Betrayal

According to Popper, Plato became an **enemy of the open society**



## Methods of Control

Promoting **indoctrination** and **censorship**



## State Monopoly

Advocating that the state held a monopoly of truth







## Popper's Open Society

Popper advocated an **open society**, where members grow **naturally without external supervision**.

In this vision, individuals develop their own potential without the constraints of authoritarian control.



# Testing Truth Through Falsification

1

## Falsification

Truth must be tested through **falsification**, attempting to disprove theories rather than confirm them

2

## Debate

Open **debate** is essential for discovering truth, allowing ideas to be challenged and refined





## Peace-meal Social Engineering

Popper championed **peace-meal social engineering**, allowing for mistakes to be corrected.

This approach favors gradual, reversible changes to society rather than sweeping revolutionary transformations.



## No Rights, Only Duties

In contrast, Plato's state gave **no rights to individuals**, only **duties**.

**Citizens existed to serve the state rather than the state existing to protect the rights of citizens.**





## Myth of Natural Inequality

### Racial Superiority

Plato upheld the **myth of racial superiority** in his ideal state

### Natural Inequalities

He justified social hierarchy through supposed **natural inequalities** between people



# Two Visions of Society

## Plato's Closed Society

Art controlled to reflect order

Censorship of poetry

State monopoly of truth

No individual rights

Natural inequality

## Popper's Open Society

Natural growth without supervision

Truth tested through falsification

Open debate

Peace-meal social engineering

Correction of mistakes