

*Equal but not Equal: Plato and Aristotle on Women as Citizens*

Plato is commonly regarded as much more accommodating than Aristotle concerning the equality of women. That there is a distinction is undeniable. But it should be noticed that Plato's preferential treatment of women in politics is not only limited to a select group in the *Republic*, but it is caused by the special conditions of the life designed for the upper class in that work. Aristotle certainly makes no such exceptions as far as women's inability to take part in politics is concerned. But the reasons for his attitude are different from those acknowledged by most commentators and are therefore worth a closer analysis.