

POPPER'S EMORY LECTURES ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY:
WHAT THEY ADD, AND WHAT PROBLEMS THEY POSE
FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING OF POPPER'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

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During 1956 Popper gave a series of lectures on political themes to a closed conference held at Emory University. Some of the lectures were recorded and have now been transcribed. Notes relating to the other lectures in the series are held in the Popper Archive in the Hoover Institution. This paper (which will be the first presentation on the taped material other than a brief report delivered in the course of a broader paper at a conference overseas) will survey the material, explain some of the difficulties concerning its reconstruction, and discuss how it relates to our other sources concerning Popper's political thought. Substantive themes from these lectures which will be discussed include the idea that the work of both Plato and Aristotle may be seen as offering a response to parallel problems in sociology and epistemology; the clarification of what Popper meant by a 'fatherless society' (which turns out to be an epistemological rather than a psychological idea), and material which further supports the suggestion (made in the author's *Political Thought of Karl Popper*) that while Popper was not consistent on this point, there is evidence for attributing to him a fallibilist and objectivist position concerning morality.

The paper will conclude by discussing how the substantive ideas from these lectures relate to views that Popper has set out elsewhere on political, social and epistemological issues, and some of the problems to which they give rise.