

Education

With class, and the emergence of culture, goes education, which is a learning practice historically associated with the maintenance and retention of organized intelligence in a society. With the maintenance of organized intelligence emerges the class of teachers, who provide disciplines for the nurturing of organized intelligence and for the instruction of students, the learners, those who will eventually, with the support of their society, convert themselves into each new generation's teachers.

These advanced learners, formerly students themselves, are able, under proper circumstances, to pass on their own influence onto their societies. These advanced learners must of course do more than replicate what they have learned as students of other teachers, They must Innovate, developing new forms of discipline, rigor, and imagination, promoting ever more remarkable and effective forms of practical intelligence. One such innovator was Plato (478-423 B.C.) , the ancient Greek philosopher who employed the dialectical method to lead his students to an increasingly probing method of learning. Conversation, or more properly dialogue, simple but incrementally more involved arguments led Plato and his students to formulate startlingly fresh insights into learning, thinking, and truth. Among those insights was this: ideas have an independent existence themselves, and shed their intelligibility down over the intelligible world; the intelligible world exists as evidence of the reality of goodness, truth and beauty, states of affairs which occupy a regulatory role in society. For such perspectives Plato is one of the foundational thinkers of our society. *Paideia*, the ancient Greek word for education—for the learning process as it applies to the whole human person-- grows with its roots deeply outspread into modern western cultures. There is no better reading, on the ancient Greek conception of education, than Werner Jaeger's *Paideia*, which surveys the pervasion of the Platonic perspective throughout Hellenic culture—in philosophy, architecture, and the science of government.