<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTERS</th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>PAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>INFLUENCES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLATO'S THOUGHT</td>
<td>26-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>EPISTEMOLOGICAL BASIS OF PLATO'S THEORY OF REALITY</td>
<td>46-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>PLATO'S THEORY OF IDEAS</td>
<td>76-111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>PLATO'S COSMOLOGY</td>
<td>112-135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>THE NATURE AND DESTINY OF MAN</td>
<td>136-162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>CONCLUSION</td>
<td>163-183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>184-195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTENTS

CHAPITERS

I
INTRODUCTION

II
INFLUENCES ON THE DEVELOPMENT
OF PLATO'S THOUGHT

III
EPISTEMOLOGICAL BASIS OF
PLATO'S THEORY OF REALITY

IV
PLATO'S THEORY OF IDEAS

V
PLATO'S COSMOLOGY

VI
THE NATURE AND DESTINY OF MAN

VII
CONCLUSION

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PAGES

1-25

26-45

46-75

76-111

112-135

136-162

163-183

184-195


The history of mankind is punctuated with the birth of great men who set up prominent landmarks by changing the course of history and charting new horizons of thought. These people are the main agents in building up human civilizations through their thoughts, words and deeds. Plato, the Greek philosopher who lived in the fourth century before Christ, is one such great man who has made spectacular contribution in the realm of thoughts and ideas that constitute the foundation stones of western culture and civilization. Western philosophical thought, as we find it today, is the offspring of the glorious Greek heritage in which the philosophical thought of Plato occupies central place. It may not be exaggeration to say that there is virtually no area of lofty thought in which Plato did not make remarkable contribution - be it natural science, mathematics, philosophy, religion, art and aesthetics, rhetoric and linguistic. The eminent scientist and philosopher, A. N. Whitehead is right when he said that the history of European philosophy is nothing but foot-notes to Plato.

Plato is one of the essential philosophers in the curriculum of academic philosophy is the univer-
ities throughout the world. There seems to be a conviction among the scholars of philosophy that philosophical studies will remain incomplete without the study of the philosophy of Plato. Many western scholars, especially in the last part of the 19th century and first half of the 20th century, have published scholarly works on Plato. Mention must be made of the great work of Benjamin Jowett, who has translated all the dialogues and letters of Plato from the original Greek to English, entitled The Dialogues of Plato in five volumes. Besides scholars like G. Zeiller, J. Burnet, A.E. Taylor, F.M. Cornford, G.C. Field, R.L. Nettleship, W. Jaeger, W.D. Ross, G. Ryle and many others have made significant contribution to Platonic studies. However, it appears that there will be no end to discussions on the thought of Plato, because as we read Plato new ideas come up, thereby, leading to new interpretations of Plato. Further, Plato can be studied in the light of new climates of philosophical thought. Due to these reasons, Plato remains elusive and difficult.

The present thesis is a humble attempt to study the philosophical thought of Plato. Special attention has been given to Plato's theory of reality presented
mainly through his theory of Ideas or Forms in-as-much as this theory forms the Kernel of Plato's philosophy. In the course of discussion, we have traced the development of Plato's philosophy from the thoughts of his predecessors and contemporaries. There has been detailed discussion on Plato's epistemology and theory of Ideas. Then a study of his theory of the universe has been made. Last, but not the least, an interpretation of the thought of Plato on the nature and destiny of man has been attempted.

Major works of Plato have been studied. The translations quoted in this work are from Benjamin Jowetts Dialogues of Plato unless otherwise mentioned specially in the reference.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. A. Dorendra Singh, Reader in Philosophy, D.M. College of Arts for his kind guidance throughout the course of my research. I am extremely grateful to my teacher, Professor S. Shyamkishor Singh, Dean of Humanities, Manipur University, for his many valuable suggestions, constant encouragement and help.

I am thankful to W. Ashakmacha Singh, Principal and R. Manihar Singh, Lecturer in Economics and A. Itombi
Levi (shakhi), Head Clerk of Mayai Lambi College for their encouragement and valuable advice.

I express my sincere thanks to the staff members of Manipur University Library and Gaushati University Library for kind help in sorting out useful books and journals.

I also thank Shri R. Herachandra Singh for taking the trouble of typing the thesis.

Imphal
Dated 21-2-77

(Y. Bikari Singh)