

Carl Sagan's Cosmos Episode Seven "Backbone of the Night" - Good Summary of Problems with Plato

Post by "Todd" of January 24, 2023 at 8:47 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

40:44 - Pythagorus and Plato "provided an intellectually respectable justification for a corrupt social order." - led to a slave economy -

The part about leading to a slave economy is not historically correct, and it's not what Carl Sagan says in the video either.

~~The slave economy existed long before Plato. I'm not sure about the situation at the time of Pythagoras. Slavery may not have been as widespread then, but was likely still considered the normal way of things.~~

Carl Sagan says the mercantile tradition of the Ionians led to a slave economy (an unsubstantiated claim, IMO), and that Athens had a vast slave population at the time of Plato and Aristotle (true).

[Quote from Wikipedia](#)

By 600 BC, [chattel slavery](#) had spread in Greece. By the 5th century BC, slaves made up one-third of the total population in some city-states. Between 40-80% of the population of [Classical Athens](#) were slaves.