

SOCRATES' EXECUTION

There is no doubt that the trial of Socrates was flawed. For one thing, no evidence was produced in support of the accusation that he was guilty of impiety and of corrupting the Athenian youth. Most likely, the real motive behind his trial and conviction was that Socrates was a spokesman for the aristocratic party, which had only recently overthrown the democratic government of Athens and imposed a reign of terror backed by the Spartan militaristic regime (Stone 1988). Socrates, then, was not the first martyr of philosophy--~~this honor corresponds to~~ Giordano Bruno^{was.} Rather, he was one of the uncounted victims of political intolerance--his own in the first place, for he flaunted his contempt for democracy, which involves the right to free speech.

Stone, I. F. (1988) The Trial of Socrates. : Little, Brown.

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