

Contents

Preface 7

The concept of political obligation 9

The social contract as the foundation of political obligation 10

John Locke's account of the social contract 10

David Hume's critique of the social contract 12

The modern debate about political obligation 14

Sokrates' view of political obligation in *Kriton* 16

Parallels between Sokrates' and modern political
philosophers' views 18

The civic oath as ground of political obligation in ancient
Greece 24

Emigration as alternative to incurring a political obligation 26

Sokrates' decision to accept the verdict 29

Civic oaths 32

Six types of political oaths sworn by all citizens 33

The extent and limits of political obligation 53

Stasis 61

Conclusion 68

An alternative view of political obligation 70

Bibliography 72