THUCYDIDES, PERICLES, AND THE IDEA OF ATHENS IN THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

_Thucydides, Pericles, and the Idea of Athens in the Peloponnesian War_ is the first comprehensive study of Thucydides’ presentation of Pericles’ radical redefinition of the city of Athens during the Peloponnesian War. Martha Taylor argues that Thucydides subtly critiques Pericles’ vision of Athens as a city divorced from the territory of Attica and focused, instead, on the sea and the empire. Thucydides shows that Pericles’ reconceptualization of the city led the Athenians both to Melos and to Sicily. Toward the end of his work, Thucydides demonstrates that flexible thinking about the city exacerbated the Athenians’ civil war. Providing a critique and analysis of Thucydides’ neglected book 8, Taylor shows that Thucydides praises political compromise focused on the traditional city in Attica. In doing so, he implicitly censures both Pericles and the Athenian imperial project itself.

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Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-76593-0 - Thucydides, Pericles, and the Idea of Athens in the Peloponnesian War
Martha C. Taylor
Frontmatter
More information
For Nicholas,

James,

and Mike
Contents

List of Maps

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction: Foundation Levels 1

1. Pericles’ City 7

2. The Sea and the City 82

3. The City Sets Sail 135

4. The Oligarchic City 188

5. The City on Samos 224

Works Cited 279

General Index 295

Index Locorum 306
List of Maps

1. Greece and the Aegean  
   page 12
2. Athens, Piraeus, and the Long Walls  
   15
3. Attica and Boeotia  
   51
Acknowledgments

This book began as a three-page paper for a junior-year course on Thucydides with Richard Hamilton at Bryn Mawr College. It was then reincarnated as a final paper for a seminar on Herodotus, Thucydides, and the Greek Enlightenment with Carolyn Dewald when she was at Stanford University. It is to these classes and these exemplary teachers that this book owes its genesis and most of what is good in it.

Many other individuals were crucial to my work. Early on, Mark Munn gave wise advice on the direction of the project, and Mike Jameson offered crucial encouragement and vision. I wish that he could have seen the final product. Anthony Woodman read an early draft of Chapter 3 and offered many helpful suggestions for further thought and inquiry. Leslie Zarker Morgan, Katherine Stern Brennan, Sharon Nell, and Joe Walsh helped me with translations from Italian, French, and German. Audiences at the American Philological Association’s annual meetings, Bryn Mawr College, the University of Virginia, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Pennsylvania honed my argument with their comments and questions. I am grateful to Mark Munn, Rick Hamilton, John Dillery, James Rives, and Jeremy McInerney for the invitations to speak. The Milton S. Eisenhower Library at The Johns Hopkins University was very generous in offering affiliate access to its collection, and Margaret Field in the Interlibrary Loan Office of the Loyola University/Notre Dame College Library proved indispensable. Finally, the anonymous readers of Cambridge University Press and my exemplary editors there saved me from numerous errors and greatly enhanced the whole work.
For the time free from teaching that was crucial to the completion of this project, I am grateful to the Center for the Humanities at Loyola University Maryland for the grant of a Junior Faculty Sabbatical in 1997–1998, and to the provost and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University Maryland and to its Research and Sabbaticals Committee for the grants of a half-year sabbatical in 1999–2000 and a full-year sabbatical in 2006–2007. These last sources also offered numerous summer grants over the (long) life of this project. For both the time and the financial assistance I am deeply grateful to all these individuals and groups.

Katherine Stern Brennan, Nora Chapman, Angela Christman, Amy Cohen, Christine De Vinne, Virginia De Vinne, Kathy Forni, Janet Headley, Barbara Jutila, Phil McCaffrey, Marsh McCall, Tom McCreight, Gayla McGlamery, Bob Miola, James Rives, Jennifer Tobin, and especially Joe Walsh were constant sources of personal and professional encouragement.

Finally, I am grateful to the directors of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies for permission to reuse in Chapter 4 elements of an argument that appeared in an article published in the Journal for Hellenic Studies (Taylor 2002).

The dedication records my greatest debt – to my husband, who read the entire manuscript many, many times and never flagged in his belief in it, and to my sons, who provided a respite from it.