DEMOCRACY BEYOND ATHENS

What was ancient democracy like? Why did it spread in ancient Greece? An astonishing number of volumes have been devoted to the well-attested Athenian case, while non-Athenian democracy – for which evidence is harder to come by – has received only fleeting attention. Nevertheless, there exists a scattered body of ancient material regarding democracy beyond Athens, from ancient literary authors and epigraphic documents to archaeological evidence, out of which one can build an understanding of the phenomenon. This book presents a detailed study of ancient Greek democracy in the Classical period (480–323 BC), focusing on examples outside Athens. It has three main goals: to identify where and when democratic governments established themselves in ancient Greek city-states; to explain why democracy spread to many parts of Greece in this period; and to further our understanding of the nature of ancient democracy by studying its practices beyond Athens.

ERIC W. ROBINSON is Associate Professor in the Department of History, Indiana University. He has published widely on ancient democracy, and previous books include The First Democracies (1997), Ancient Greek Democracy: Readings and Sources (2003) and Oikistes: Studies in Constitutions, Colonies, and Military Power in the Ancient World Offered in Honor of A. J. Graham (co-edited with Vanessa Gorman, 2002).
Contents

List of figures vi
Acknowledgments vii
List of abbreviations viii

Introduction 1

1 Classical demokratiai on the Greek mainland (central Greece and the Peloponnese) 6
2 Classical demokratiai in western and northwestern Greece (plus Cyrene) 67
3 Classical demokratiai in eastern Greece 137
4 The spread of democracy in the Classical period 182
5 The nature of Classical democracy outside Athens 217

Appendix 248
Bibliography 251
Index 269
Figures

4.1 The establishment and duration of democracies in Greek city-states  
4.2 Number of democracies in Greece, by decade  
4.3 Number of democracies in the Aegean area, by decade  
4.4 Number of democracies outside the Aegean area, by decade
Acknowledgments

This book has been a long time in the making, and I have many people to thank for help along the way.

Colleagues at the University of North Florida, Harvard University, and Indiana University have been very supportive, and research money received from all three institutions, including from the Loeb Classical Library at Harvard, has been invaluable. A summer’s work years ago at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC provided a congenial setting and welcome resources for launching the project. Among the many peers and mentors who have heard or read various pieces of the work in progress over the years I would like especially to thank for their thoughts Kurt Raaflaub, Mogens Hansen, Nino Luraghi, Donald Kagan, Martin Ostwald, Harvey Yunis, Robert Wallace, Anna Missiou, Jürgen Mejer, Vanessa Gorman, Greg Anderson, and Chloe Balla. Naturally, they are not to be held responsible for persisting flaws. I would also like to thank Susanne Carlsson and Andrei Zaikov for their help from great distances. My copy-editor, Jan Chapman, and the anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press saved me from many an error with their meticulous comments and turned me in some helpful directions. I am further grateful for the many stimulating contributions of graduate students in my classes at Harvard University and Indiana University over the years, and especially for the excellent research assistance carried out by Patrick Baker, Chris Molnar, Xin Fan, Charles Aull, and, above all, Heather Roberts.

In two instances versions of text and arguments presented in this book have previously appeared in print elsewhere. In both cases the relevant chapter sections here have been revised and expanded. Chapter 2’s treatment of Syracuse in the fifth century owes much to “Democracy in Syracuse, 466–412 BC,” HSPh 100 (2000): 189–205; and the portion of Chapter 5 dealing with the sophists draws heavily upon “The Sophists and Democracy Beyond Athens,” Rhetorica 25.1 (2007): 109–22.

I dedicate this book in love and gratitude to my wife, Carwina Weng.
Abbreviations

Abbreviations of classical periodicals follow those in *l’Année Philologique*. Ancient authors and texts are abbreviated according to the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. The following is a list of further books and series found in the notes to come.


IG *Inscriptiones Graecae*. Berlin, 1873–


Inventory M. H. Hansen and T. H. Nielsen, eds., *An Inventory of Archaic and Classical Poleis*. Oxford, 2004; entries are cited by author and page number.


### List of abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEG</td>
<td><em>Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum</em>. 1923–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tod</td>
<td>M. N. Tod, <em>A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions to the End of the Fifth Century B.C.</em> Oxford, 1933</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>