

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-19266-8 - Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism

Edith Foster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism

In this book, Edith Foster compares Thucydides' descriptions of the Peloponnesian War in books one and two of the *History* with the arguments about warfare and war materials offered by the Athenian statesman Pericles in those same books. Thucydides' narratives emphasize the passions that motivate aggressive warfare and show that it is frequently unproductive or counterproductive. By contrast, Pericles' speeches demonstrate that he shared with many other figures in the *History* a mistaken confidence in the power, glory, and reliability of warfare and the instruments of force.

Foster analyses Thucydides' presentation of the events that led up to the war, and his presentation of Pericles' character in book one, before studying the evidence from Pericles' speeches. The contrast between the historian and his subject shows that Pericles does not speak for Thucydides, and that Thucydides should not be associated with Pericles' intransigent imperialism. On the contrary, books one and two of the *History* lead the reader to an analytical view of the complicated history, character, and effect of a man who was entirely dedicated to Athens' imperial potential.

Edith Foster is assistant professor of history at Ashland University in Ohio. She has contributed articles to the *American Journal of Philology*, *Humanitas*, and *Academe*, and has published book reviews in *Classical Philology*, *Bryn Mawr Classical Reviews*, and *Gnomon*. She is the co-editor, together with Donald Lateiner, of *Thucydides and Herodotus: Connections, Divergences, and Reception*.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-19266-8 - Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism

Edith Foster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-19266-8 - Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism

Edith Foster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism

EDITH FOSTER

Ashland University, Ohio



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-19266-8 - Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism
Edith Foster
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA
www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521192668

© Edith Foster 2010

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2010

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

ISBN 978-0-521-19266-8 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-19266-8 - Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism

Edith Foster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For My Father

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-19266-8 - Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism

Edith Foster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction	1
1 War Materials and Their Glory in the Archaeology	8
<i>The Rich Soil Paradox</i>	12
<i>Minos</i>	15
<i>Athens and Sparta</i>	23
<i>Agamemnon and Troy</i>	26
<i>Materials and the Reader</i>	34
<i>The Modern World</i>	36
<i>The Spartans, the Athenians, and the Persian Wars</i>	39
<i>The Peloponnesian War</i>	41
2 Arms and Passion: Corinth and Corcyra at War	44
<i>Epidamnus, Corinth, and Corcyra</i>	45
<i>The First Battle between Corinth and Corcyra</i>	51
<i>Corinth and Corcyra at Athens</i>	55
‘Biggest in its Multitude of Ships’ (νεῶν πλήθει μεγίστη):	
<i>The Naval Battle between Corinth and Corcyra</i>	64
<i>The Battle: Navies Deployed</i>	68
<i>Blindness and Death in the Waters of Acheron</i>	73
3 The Athenian Acme in Book One of Thucydides: The Spartan	
War Congress and the Pentekontaetia	80
<i>The Corinthians Correct Athens and Sparta</i>	82
<i>The Athenian Response</i>	85
<i>Archidamus’ Argument against Going to War</i>	91
<i>Sthenelaidas Argues for War</i>	94
<i>The Athenian Acme and the Pentekontaetia</i>	96

	<i>Themistoclean Walls</i>	97
	<i>Tribute</i>	105
	<i>Athens on Campaign</i>	110
4	Pericles in History	119
	<i>Pericles before the Speeches</i>	122
	<i>Pericles and the Curse on the Alcmaeonids</i>	127
	<i>Themistocles' Foundation</i>	129
	<i>Thucydides and the Periclean Age</i>	131
	<i>The Corinthians on the Weakness of Athens' Purchased Strength</i>	135
	<i>Pericles' First Speech</i>	138
5	Pericles and Athens: Pericles' Speech in Indirect Discourse in Narrative Context	151
	<i>The Theban Attack on Plataea</i>	152
	<i>'Both Sides Were Thinking Big' (ὀλίγον τε ἐπενόουν οὐδὲν ἀμφοτέροι): The Preparations for War</i>	157
	<i>Archidamus Addresses the Peloponnesian Captains</i>	159
	<i>'And in This Way He Encouraged Them with Money' (χρήμασι μὲν οὖν οὕτως ἐθάρσυνεν αὐτούς): Pericles' Speech in Indirect Discourse</i>	162
	<i>Thucydides on Attica and Athens</i>	174
6	Thucydides and Pericles' Final Speeches	183
	<i>Pericles and Thucydides on the Reality of the Athenian Empire</i>	183
	<i>Unnameable Acquisitions</i>	190
	<i>Athenian Glory and Imperial Acquisition</i>	198
	<i>Self-Sufficiency through Materialism</i>	202
	<i>Thucydides' Plague Narrative on Self-Sufficiency and Materialism</i>	204
	<i>Pericles in Thucydides</i>	210
	<i>Conclusion</i>	218
	<i>Bibliography</i>	221
	<i>General Index</i>	231
	<i>Index Locorum</i>	241

Acknowledgments

While I was writing this book, I was most fortunate to have the support of a beneficent triumvirate of prominent scholars: Jeffrey Rusten, Hans-Peter Stahl, and Donald Lateiner. I can never repay their generosity and kind encouragement. I am equally in debt to the Earhart Foundation, which funded a semester of crucial research time. Finally, Chad Schroeder, who made up the indices with exemplary patience and thoroughness and therefore endured to read the manuscript many times, has improved this book immensely.

Many other scholarly debts have been incurred. Catherine Rubincam, Bill McCulloh, Cynthia King, Rossitza Schroeder, and Linda Clum read portions of this manuscript. The anonymous readers commissioned by Cambridge University Press were astonishingly helpful and thorough. Matthew McGowan and Rachel Sternberg offered advice on a variety of issues pertaining to the argument. Kenyon College, where I was an affiliated scholar from 2007 until 2009 in addition to being an assistant professor at Ashland University, supported my work with library and computer facilities. Robert Bennett, Carolin Hahnemann, and Adam Serfass were particularly helpful. I also thank the advisers of my University of Chicago PhD dissertation (2002): Jonathon Hall, Danielle Allen, and Helma Dik. Finally, a raft of undergraduate research assistants have at one time or another worked on this book: Alex Gholz, Erica Wicks, Erin Sutter, and Curtis Reynolds have improved it through comments, questions, and suggestions, and Elizabeth Foster offered technical support and a final reading. As is evident, all remaining errors are entirely my own, and would be much more numerous if I had not experienced such generous support.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-19266-8 - Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism
Edith Foster
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x

Acknowledgments

Moral support is of course also crucial. For this I would like to thank in the first place my husband, David Foster. As for my father, to whom this book is dedicated, no support could be of longer duration, or more loyal.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-19266-8 - Thucydides, Pericles, and Periclean Imperialism

Edith Foster

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of Abbreviations

- CT* *A Commentary on Thucydides*, Simon Hornblower. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1991–2008.
- HCT* *A Historical Commentary of Thucydides*, Arnold Wycombe Gomme, Antony Andrewes, and Kenneth James Dover. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1959–1981.
- OCRST* Oxford Classical Reading Series: *Thucydides*. Jeffrey Rusten, editor. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2009.
- Poppo *Thucydidis De bello peloponnesiaco, libri octo*. Ernestus Fridericus Poppo. Leipzig: Teubner. 1875–1886.
- TAI* *Thucydides and Athenian Imperialism*. Jacqueline de Romilly; translated by Philip Thody. Oxford: Blackwell. 1963.