

Law and Order in Ancient Athens

The classical Athenian “state” had almost no formal coercive apparatus to ensure order or compliance with law: there was no professional police force or public prosecutor, and nearly every step in the legal process depended on private initiative. And yet Athens was a remarkably peaceful and well-ordered society by both ancient and contemporary standards. Why? *Law and Order in Ancient Athens* draws on contemporary legal scholarship to explore how order was maintained in Athens. Lanni argues that law and formal legal institutions played a greater role in maintaining order than is generally acknowledged. The legal system *did* encourage compliance with law, but not through the familiar deterrence mechanism of imposing sanctions for violating statutes. Lanni shows how formal institutions facilitated the operation of informal social control in a society that was too large and diverse to be characterized as a “face-to-face community” or “close-knit group.”

Adriaan Lanni is Professor of Law, Harvard Law School. She is trained as both a lawyer and an ancient historian (J.D. Yale Law School; MPhil (Classics), Cambridge University; Ph.D. History, University of Michigan) and teaches courses in ancient law and modern American criminal law and procedure at Harvard Law School. Her previous book is *Law and Justice in the Courts of Classical Athens* (Cambridge University Press 2006).

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ADRIAAN LANNI

Harvard Law School



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For Susanna and Theo

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Abbreviations

Aesch.	Aeschines
Anac.	Anacreon
And.	Andocides
Ant.	Antiphon
Ar.	Aristophanes
Arist.	Aristotle
<i>Ath. Pol.</i>	[Ar.] <i>Athenaion Politeia</i> (“ <i>The Athenian Constitution</i> ”)
Callim.	Callimachus
D.-K.	Diels-Kranz, <i>Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker</i>
D.L.	Diogenes Laertius
Dem.	Demosthenes
Din.	Dinarchus
Dio. Chyrs.	Dio Chrysostomus
Diod.	Diodorus Siculus
Eur.	Euripides
Harp.	Harpokration
Hdt.	Herodotus
Hyp.	Hyperides
Ibyc.	Ibycus
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i>
Is.	Isaeus
Isoc.	Isocrates
Lyc.	Lycurgus
Lys.	Lysias

Abbreviations

Men.	Menander
Plaut.	Plautus
Plut.	Plutarch
Poll.	Pollux
SEG	<i>Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum</i>
Sol.	Solon
Soph.	Sophocles
Theog.	Theognis
Theophr.	Theophrastus
Thuc.	Thucydides
Xen.	Xenophon
[Xen.]	Pseudo-Xenophon