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978-0-521-36009-8 - The Subversive Oratory of Andokides: Politics, Ideology and Decision-Making in Democratic Athens

Anna Missiou

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Oratory was a vital element in the Athenian democracy. In this study Anna Missiou analyses the ideological content of the speeches of the crypto-oligarch Andokides (active c. 420–390 B.C.). Drawing on modern communication studies, she proposes a contextual and historical approach to oratory rather than one that concentrates on the speaker. She insists that there was a rational as well as an emotional element in the responses of both orator and audience, and that there was a tension between political equality and socio-economic inequality lying at the centre of Athenian democratic society. She suggests that the political ideology of a speaker can be evaluated in the light of his rhetorical techniques. A detailed analysis of Andokides' arguments for peace in *On the Peace with the Lakedaimonians* reveals that the intense controversy in Athens over the continuation of the war with Sparta in 391 reflected class antagonism among the Athenians. Conventionally the rejection of Andokides' proposals by the Athenian Assembly has been ascribed to irrational crowd-behaviour, an interpretation assuming that the sole purpose of an orator is to sway his audience by persuasion. However, Dr Missiou argues that the speech was essentially subversive, aimed at spreading pro-Spartan and anti-war feelings rather than persuading the audience to take a particular decision on this occasion. These considerations can lead the reader on to larger issues such as whether Athenian democracy questioned basic aristocratic values and attitudes in domestic and foreign affairs, and whether an orator encouraged or discouraged the participation of the ordinary Athenians in the actual deliberation and decision-making process.

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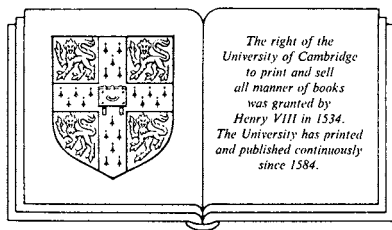
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To my sons  
Thodoris and Dimitris

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## PREFACE

This book is a revised version of my 1985 Cambridge Ph.D. thesis (entitled ‘Deliberative oratory, politics and ideology: Andokides “On the Peace with the Lakedaimonians”’). In revising I have tried to clarify arguments and improve the organization of the material. The book in its present form was substantially completed in September 1989, but teaching and administrative duties have delayed its publication. I have tried to take into account more recent scholarship where that has been possible.

The present form of the work would not have been realized if I did not have the continuing encouragement of my supervisor Peter Garnsey. I owe him a lot. Special thanks are also due to my examiners Paul Cartledge and James Roy for their invaluable criticism as well as to H. D. Westlake and C. Carey who read and commented on an earlier draft of chapters 4 and 5.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge and the editors of the Cambridge Classical Studies for accepting my work for this series, and the staff of the Classical Library for their assistance. Pauline Hire of the Cambridge University Press has been very helpful and supportive; I thank her. Bobbie Coe produced the typescript with exemplary skill and patience; to her, too, I am grateful.

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