During the turbulent last years of the fifth century BC, Athens twice suffered the overthrow of democracy and the subsequent establishment of oligarchic regimes. In an in-depth treatment of both political revolutions, Julia Shear examines how the Athenians responded to these events, at the level both of the individual and of the corporate group. Interdisciplinary in approach, this account brings epigraphical and archaeological evidence to bear on a discussion which until now has largely been based on texts. Dr Shear particularly focuses on the recreation of democracy and the city, both ritually and physically, in the aftermath of the coups and demonstrates that, whilst reconciliation after civil strife is difficult and contentious, it is also crucial for rebuilding a united society. Theories of remembering and forgetting are applied and offer a new way of understanding the dynamics in Athens at this time.

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Polis and Revolution: Responding to Oligarchy in Classical Athens
Julia L. Shear

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For
Robin and Simon
and
Ian and Chloe
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Preface

In years to come, the question of how society (re-)constructs itself as democratic after civil discord may come to be seen as a particular preoccupation of the early twenty-first century and this book very much reflects those contemporary concerns. It is not only a product of its time, but also of place: without the AHRB Anatomy of Cultural Revolution Project at the Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge, this book would never have been written. I owe the deepest debt of gratitude to the members of this project: Robin Osborne, the director of the project, Simon Goldhill, the project’s other senior member, Liz Irwin, my fellow post-doctoral researcher, and Ben Akrigg, Claire Taylor and Rob Tordoff, the project’s three doctoral students. For four years while the project was underway, they all lived with and responded to my preoccupations with Athens, democracy and revolution as ideas in this book were tried out in the project’s fortnightly seminars, in conversations and in drafts of conference papers. Robin and Simon, in particular, continued to engage with my project after I had left Cambridge. Without the engagement, help and support of the project’s members, this volume would not exist. Unlike the Athenian demos, I cannot award them gold crowns to be announced in the theatre at the City Dionysia for their eunoia and philotimia, but, like Athenian benefactors, they are worthy of such honours for all their help and contributions. The project’s fortnightly seminars drew a group of regular participants beyond the immediate team and their responses have also been invaluable in helping to shape my thinking.

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Preface

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All of these individuals have in their own ways improved this book and the remaining imperfections are certainly no reflection on any of them. Without four of them, however, this book would never have been written and, for that reason, it is dedicated to them.
Abbreviations of journal titles follow the scheme used in *L’Année philologique*. Abbreviations of the names and works of classical authors follow the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3rd edition. The following abbreviations are also used.

**Agora** *The Athenian Agora: Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.*


**FGrHist** Jacoby, F., *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*. Berlin and Leiden, 1923–


**IG** *Inscriptions Graecae.*


**OCT** *Oxford Classical Text.*
List of abbreviations

**PMG**

**RO**

**SEG**
*Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*.

**Thalheim**

**Theodoridis**

**Walbank, Proxenies**