

THUCYDIDES, PERICLES, AND THE IDEA OF ATHENS IN THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

Thucydides, Pericles, and the Idea of Athens in the Peloponnesian War is the first comprehensive study of Thucydides' presentation of Pericles' radical redefinition of the city of Athens during the Peloponnesian War. Martha Taylor argues that Thucydides subtly critiques Pericles' vision of Athens as a city divorced from the territory of Attica and focused, instead, on the sea and the empire. Thucydides shows that Pericles' reconceptualization of the city led the Athenians both to Melos and to Sicily. Toward the end of his work, Thucydides demonstrates that flexible thinking about the city exacerbated the Athenians' civil war. Providing a critique and analysis of Thucydides' neglected book 8, Taylor shows that Thucydides praises political compromise focused on the traditional city in Attica. In doing so, he implicitly censures both Pericles and the Athenian imperial project itself.

Martha Taylor is an associate professor of classics at Loyola University Maryland. A Fellow of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, she is the author of *Salamis and the Salaminioi: The History of an Unofficial Athenian Demos*.

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[More Information](#)

For Nicholas,

James,

and Mike

Contents

List of Maps	<i>page</i> ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction: Foundation Levels	1
1. Pericles' City	7
2. The Sea and the City	82
3. The City Sets Sail	135
4. The Oligarchic City	188
5. The City on Samos	224
Works Cited	279
General Index	295
Index Locorum	306

List of Maps

1. Greece and the Aegean	<i>page</i> 12
2. Athens, Piraeus, and the Long Walls	15
3. Attica and Boeotia	51

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