

## Diodoros of Sicily: *Bibliothke Historike*

### Volume 1

Books 14–15: The Greek World in the Fourth Century BC from the End of the Peloponnesian War to the Death of Artaxerxes II (Mnemon)

Diodoros of Sicily (c.90–c.30 BC) spent thirty years producing an encyclopedic compendium of world history from its mythical beginnings to his own day. His is the only surviving, connected account of Greek affairs from 480/79 to 302/1. The books translated in this volume cover the years from the end of the Peloponnesian War to the aftermath of the Battle of Mantinea in 362/1. These were crucial years in the struggle for supremacy in Greece amongst the Greek states, Sparta, Athens and Thebes, before they were overtaken by the unexpected rise of Macedon. Diodoros also provides the only extant account of the career of Dionysios I of Syracuse and the Cypriot war between Persia and Evagoras of Salamis. The translation is supported by extensive notes and the Introduction examines Diodoros' moral and educational purpose in writing, the plan of his work, the sources he used and his qualities as an historian.

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Diodoros of Sicily  
*BIBLIOTHEKE HISTORIKE*

Volume 1

Books 14–15

The Greek World in the Fourth Century BC  
from the End of the Peloponnesian War to the Death  
of Artaxerxes II (Mnemon)

Translation with Introduction and Notes by

PHILLIP HARDING

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CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-49927-9 — Diodoros of Sicily: Bibliothek Historike  
Volume 1: Books 14–15  
Edited and translated by Phillip Harding  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India  
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108499279](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108499279)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781108580557

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First published 2021

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall

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

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Diodorus, Siculus, author. | Harding, Phillip, translator.

Title: Bibliothek historike / Diodoros of Sicily ; translated with introduction and notes by Phillip Harding, University of British Columbia.

Other titles: Bibliotheca historica. Book 14–20. English

Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, [2021]- | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Contents: v. 1. Books 14–15, The Greek world in the fourth century BC from the end of the Peloponnesian War to the death of Artaxerxes II (Mnemon)

Identifiers: LCCN 2021012621 (print) | LCCN 2021012622 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108499279 (v.1 ; hardback) | ISBN 9781108706346 (v.1 ; paperback) | ISBN 9781108580557 (v.1 ; ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: History, Ancient – Early works to 1800. | BISAC: HISTORY / Ancient / General

Classification: LCC PA3965.D4 E5 2021 (print) | LCC PA3965.D4 (ebook) | DDC 938/.04–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021012621>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021012622>

ISBN 978-1-108-49927-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-70634-6 Paperback

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Cambridge University Press  
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To the memory of Angela Harding (1937–2020)  
*Atque in perpetuum, soror, ave atque vale.*

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## Preface

This is the first volume of a planned three-volume English translation, with detailed notes, of books 14–20 of Diodoros of Sicily's *Bibliothèque Historique*. This volume covers books 14 and 15, the period from the end of the Peloponnesian War to the death of Artaxerxes II (Mnemon) in 360/59. The second volume will deal with the careers of Philip II of Macedon and Alexander the Great, as narrated in books 16 and 17. The third, books 18–20, will treat the post-Alexandrian period, so-called Hellenistic, down to the end of the fourth century. The choice of these seven books is motivated by the fact that they provide the only complete extant ancient narrative of the fourth century. The only competitor is Xenophon, but his *Hellenika* is deficient in several respects: it does not treat Sicilian affairs, which Diodoros covers extensively, and it ends with the Battle of Mantinea in 362/1. Furthermore, there are many important differences between the accounts of Xenophon and Diodoros even for the period which they both cover.

My plan was to offer an updated translation of the five volumes of the Loeb Classical Library, good though they are. However, since I began work, two other translations have appeared, one by Peter Green of selections of Books 14–16 as an appendix to the Landmark *Xenophon*, the other by Robin Waterfield of Books 16–20 for Oxford University Press. These are both elegant versions, but, in my opinion, make Diodoros into more of a literary star than he is. His style is, in fact, rather monotonous and uninspired. I have tried to make my translation reflect this reality, while, I hope, producing a readable text.

More importantly, the notes in this and the other projected volumes are more detailed than any that exist in English at this time, including the works just referred to above. These notes are designed to help readers compare Diodoros with his peers, namely the other ancient sources for the period, so that they can distinguish where Diodoros is providing new evidence, where he is in conflict with others, and where he is manifestly wrong. These sources include fragmentary historians and documentary inscriptions, which are referred to where appropriate. Not everyone will be interested in following up on these references, but, for those who do, the historians are to be found in the updated version of Jacoby's *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker* called Brill's New Jacoby (BNJ) and many of the inscriptions are now accessible in Attic Inscriptions Online in both Greek and English. The notes do not attempt to be a full

commentary, since I have largely avoided entering into the field of modern scholarly debate. The few references I have added are designed to be helpful in matters such as topography and dating.

A mandatory note is required about names. As usual, when dealing with a Greek author, the preference is to use Greek spelling, and I adhere to this practice except in the case of the most well known names, including Thucydides, Corinth, Cyprus, Syracuse. I have also given the Roman names for the consuls and military tribunes, even though Diodoros writes them in Greek.

In the text I have capitalized the word “king” for the Great King of Persia alone.

Unless otherwise stated, all dates are BC.

The text upon which I have based my translation has been the modern Budé edition by Martine Bonnet and Eric Bennett for Book 14 and Claude Vial for Book 15. I have carefully compared their readings with those of Friedrich Vögel and Kurt Fischer in the Teubner series and with the Loeb editions of C. H. Oldfather and C. L. Sherman. In discussion of matters of text I have used Greek font. Otherwise, Greek terms have been transliterated and have been explained in the Glossary.

I want to thank Michael Sharp and the Syndics of Cambridge University Press for their support of this project and four anonymous readers whose suggestions and corrections have greatly improved this volume. Any errors that remain are mine.

Finally, I acknowledge with gratitude the great work of the whole production team at CUP and especially the careful reading of the text by my eagle-eyed copy-editor, Malcolm Todd. And the record would not be complete without thanking my wife for all the innumerable ways she has on this occasion, as always, assisted my endeavours.



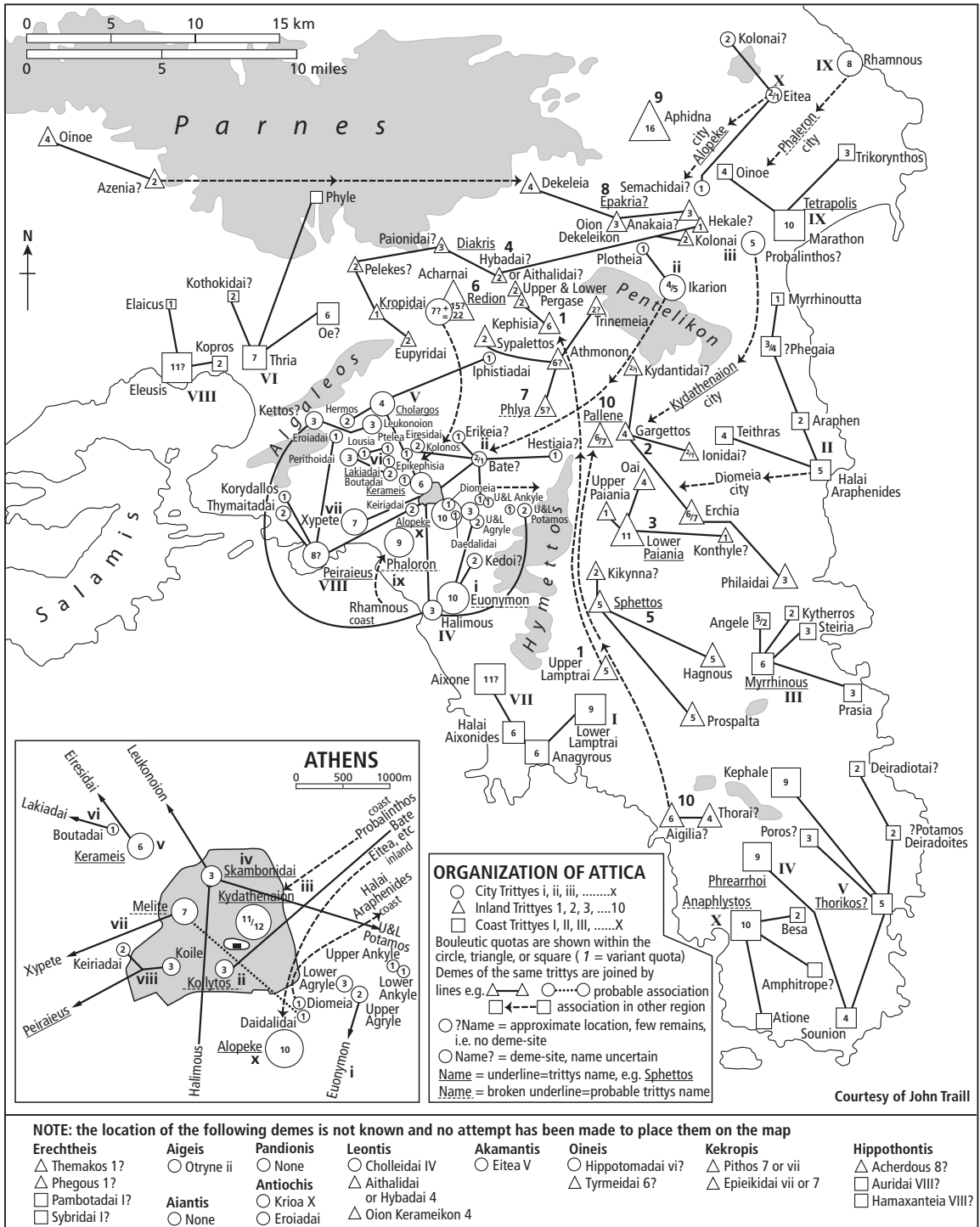
## Abbreviations

All Classical authors are cited from standard editions in the Loeb series

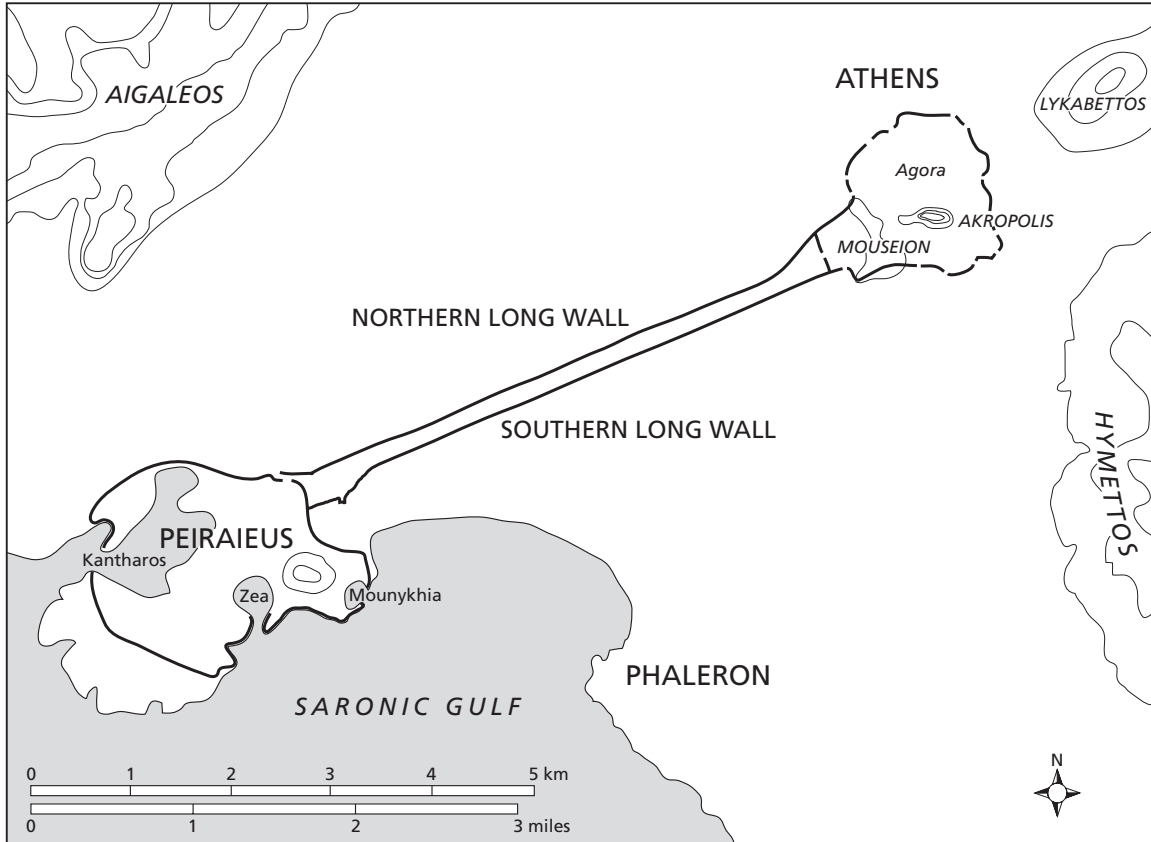
|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Aelian, <i>VH</i>           | Aelian, <i>Varia Historia</i>  |
| <i>APF</i>                  | J. K. Davies, <i>Athenian Propertied Families</i> , Oxford, 1971   |
| Aristotle, <i>AP</i>        | Aristotle,* <i>Athenaion Politeia</i>  |
| Athenaios, <i>Deip.</i>     | Athenaios, <i>Deipnosophistai</i>  |
| <i>BNJ</i>                  | Brill's New Jacoby, ed. I. Worthington, Leiden, ongoing  |
| Develin, <i>AO</i>          | R. Develin, <i>Athenian Officials</i> , Cambridge, 1989  |
| Dindorf                     | L. Dindorf, <i>Diodori Bibliotheca Historica</i> , 5 vols., Leipzig, 1866–1868   |
| <i>FGrHist</i>              | F. Jacoby, <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> , Berlin and Leiden, 1923–   |
| <i>GHI</i>                  | R. Meiggs and D. M. Lewis, <i>A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions to the End of the Fifth Century BC</i> , Oxford, 1969, (rev. edn, 1988) |
| Gomme,<br><i>Commentary</i> | A. W. Gomme, A. Andrewes and K. J. Dover, <i>A Historical Commentary on Thucydides</i> , 5 vols., Oxford, 1956–1981                                |
| <i>Hell. Oxy.</i>           | <i>Hellenika Oxyrhynkhia</i>   |
| <i>IG</i>                   | <i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i> , Berlin, 1873–   |
| Livy                        | Livy, <i>Ab Urbe Condita</i>   |
| O&R                         | R. Osborne and P. J. Rhodes, <i>Greek Historical Inscriptions, 478–404 BC</i> , Oxford, 2017   |
| Pausanias                   | Pausanias, <i>Hellados Periegesis</i>  |
| Pliny, <i>NH</i>            | Pliny, <i>Naturalis Historia</i>   |
| Plut. <i>Ages.</i>          | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Agesilaos</i>  |
| Plut. <i>Alex.</i>          | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Alexander</i>  |
| Plut. <i>Alk.</i>           | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Alkibiades</i>   |
| Plut. <i>Artax.</i>         | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Artaxerxes</i>   |
| Plut. <i>Cam.</i>           | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Camillus</i>   |
| Plut. <i>Dem.</i>           | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Demosthenes</i>  |
| Plut. <i>Lyk.</i>           | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Lykourgos</i>  |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Plut. <i>Lys.</i>   | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Lysander</i>  |
| Plut. <i>Pelop.</i> | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Pelopidas</i>   |
| Plut. <i>Per.</i>   | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Perikles</i>  |
| Plut. <i>Tim.</i>   | Plutarch, <i>Lives, Timoleon</i>  |
| R&O                 | P. J. Rhodes and R. Osborne, <i>Greek Historical Inscriptions, 404–323 BC</i> , Oxford, 2003  |
| Rhodes,             | P. J. Rhodes, <i>A Commentary on the Aristotelian</i>   |
| <i>Commentary</i>   | <i>Athenaion Politeia</i> , Oxford, 1981, rev. edn, 1993  |
| SEG                 | <i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>  |
| SIG                 | W. Dittenberger, <i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> <sup>3</sup> , Leipzig, 1915–1924   |
| Strabo              | Strabo, <i>Geographika</i>  |
| Stylianou,          | P. J. Stylianou, <i>A Historical Commentary on Diodorus</i>   |
| <i>Commentary</i>   | <i>Siculus, Book 15</i> , Oxford, 1998  |
| TDGR1               | C. W. Fornara (ed.), <i>Translated Documents of Greece and Rome</i> , Vol. 1, Cambridge, 1983   |
| TDGR2               | P. Harding (ed.), <i>Translated Documents of Greece and Rome</i> , Vol. 2, Cambridge, 1985  |
| Walbank,            | F. W. Walbank, <i>A Historical Commentary on Polybius</i> ,   |
| <i>Commentary</i>   | 2 vols., Oxford, 1957–1967  |
| Wesseling           | P. Wesseling, <i>Diodori Siculi Bibliothecae historicae libri qui supersunt e recensione Petri Wesselingii cum interpretatione latina L. Rhodomani atque annotationibus variorum integris indicibusque locupletissimis</i> , Biponti, 1793–1807 |
| Xen. <i>Ages.</i>   | Xenophon, <i>Agesilaos</i>  |
| Xen. <i>Anab.</i>   | Xenophon, <i>Anabasis</i>   |
| Xen. <i>Hell.</i>   | Xenophon, <i>Hellenika</i>  |

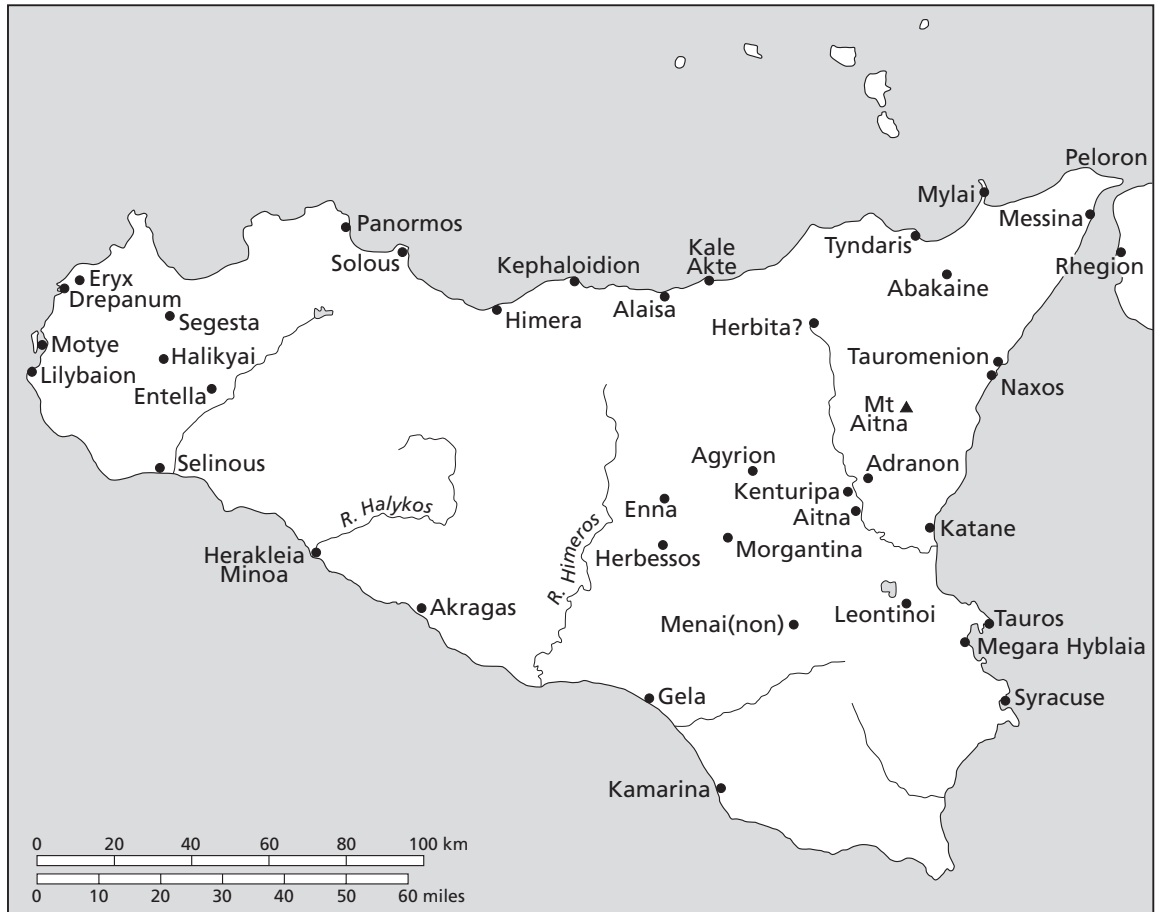
\*NB: Despite the concerns raised by some scholars related to the authorship of this work, I continue to believe that it was by Aristotle, as did the ancient commentators.



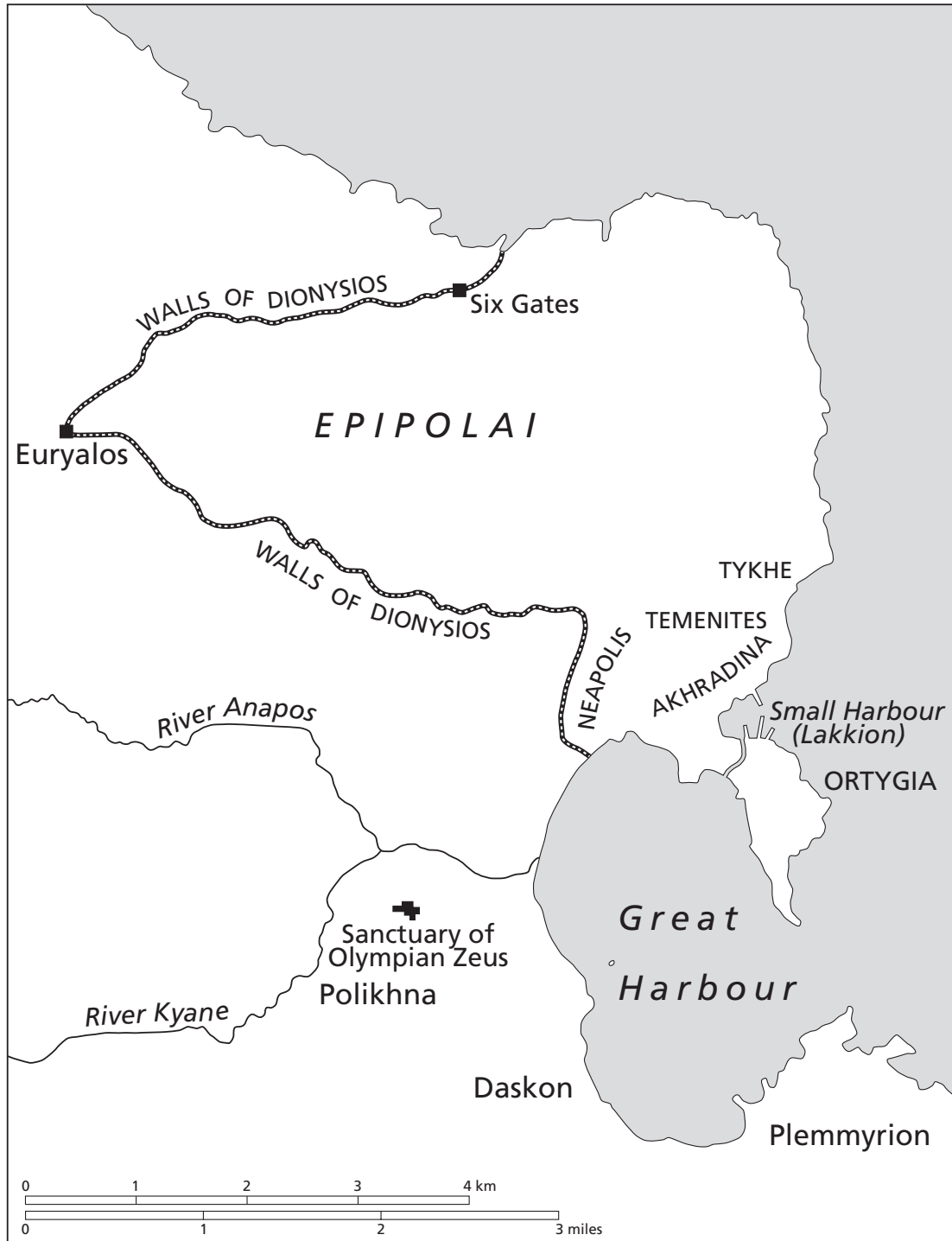
Map 1 Attica



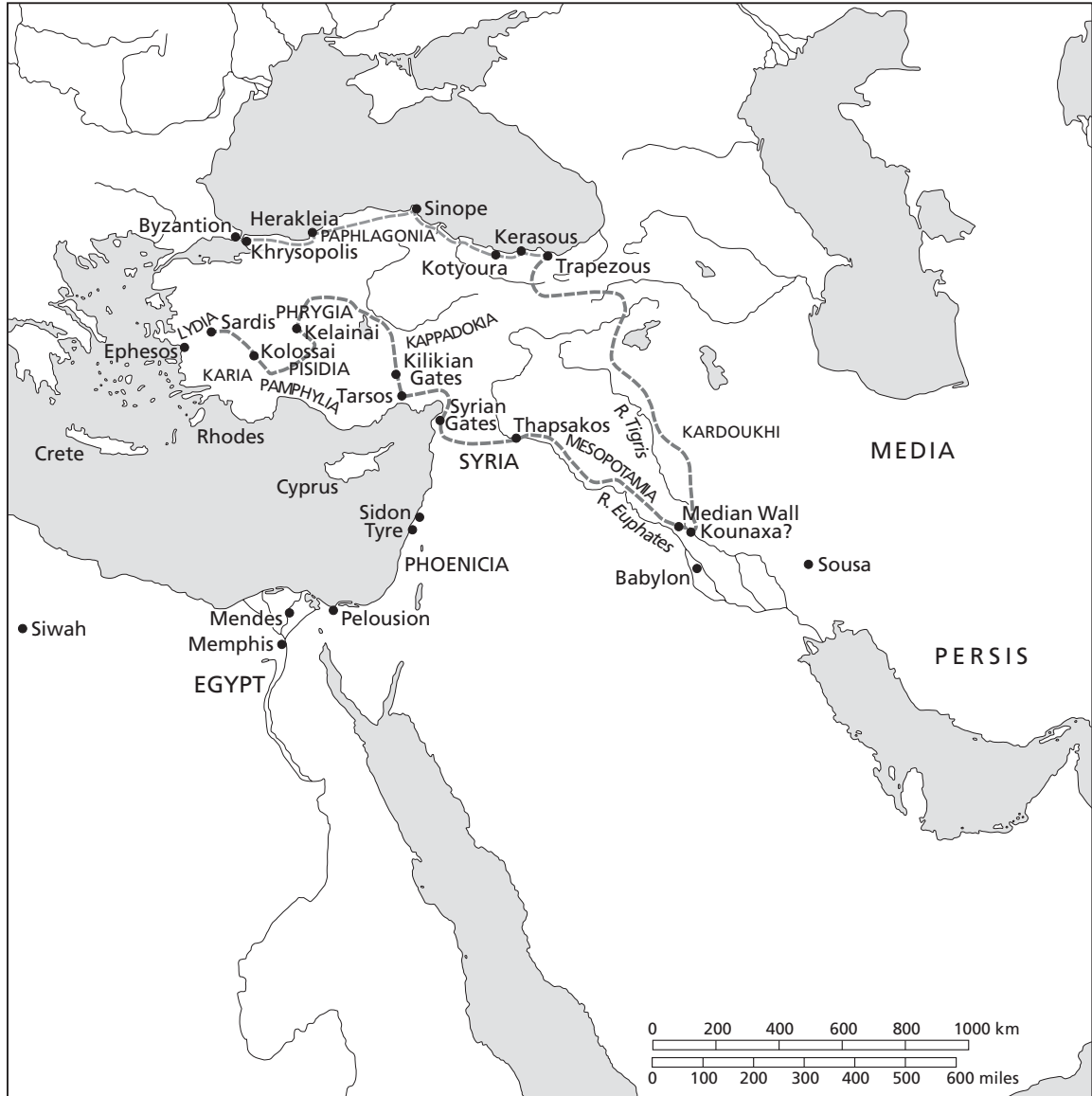
Map 2 Plan of Peiraeus



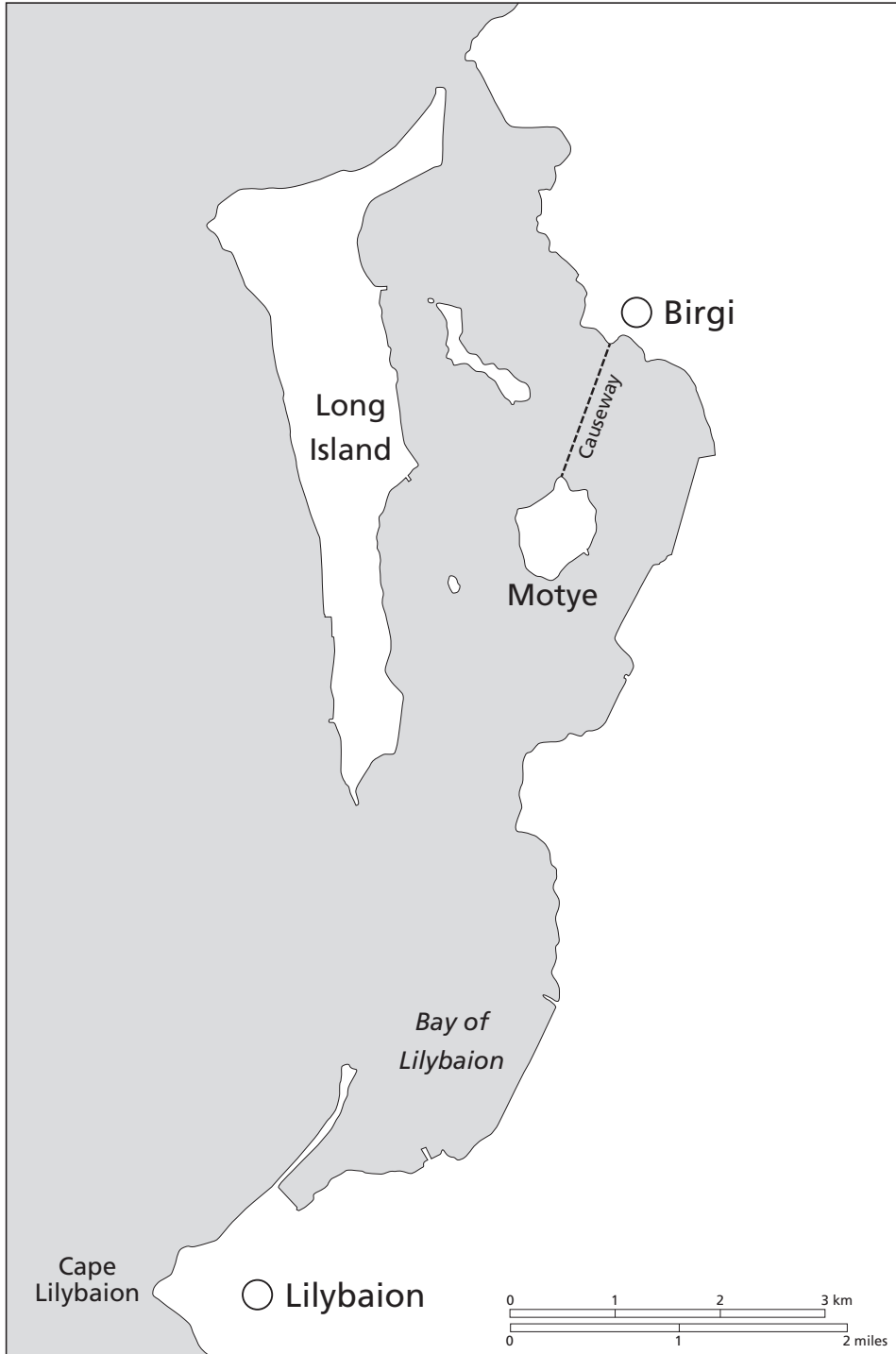
Map 3 Sicily



Map 4 Plan of Syracuse under Dionysios I



Map 5 Persian Empire and March of the Ten Thousand



Map 6 Plan of Motye

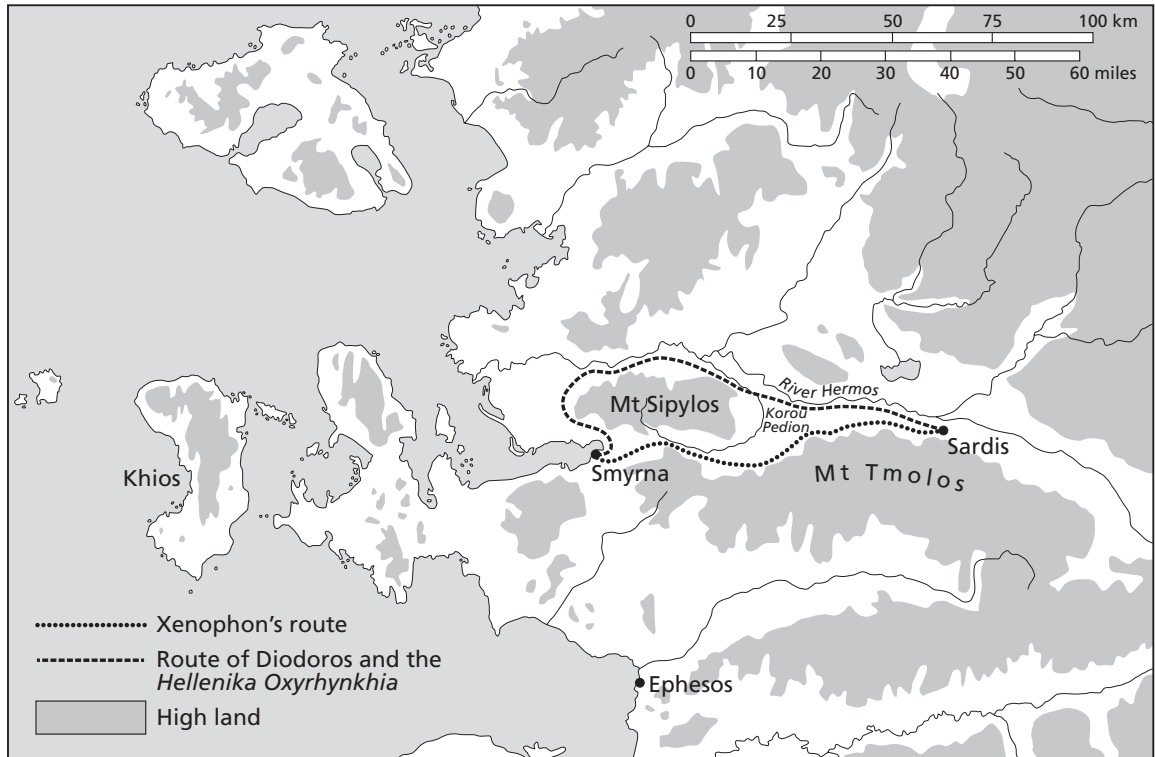




Map 7 Hellespont and the Black Sea



Map 8 Greece and the Aegean



Map 9 Diagram of Agesilaos' route to Sardis: Xenophon v. Diodoros



Map 10 Central and Northern Greece and Euboea



Map 11 Peloponnese



Map 12 Italy