

### View of Prophecy - p. 50

- Thucydides - first of our authors to have a questioning view of prophecy
- Draws many philosophical conclusions throughout, i.e. about the oracle
- Cultural shift away from Gods? Or is Thucydides an outlier?

### Exaggeration of Ships - p. 21

- Is exaggeration a masculine tendency? An Athenian tendency?
- Exaggeration may be due to the sheer number of ships fielded by Athenians

### General Philosophical nature of text

- Thucydides seems to throw philosophical musings into odd places in the text
- Contrast between new-age Athenians and traditional Melians
- Coming together of Greek states - indicative of Greek cultural shift?
- Athens' view of its empire - not expanding is equivalent to contraction
- Forceful employment of "logic"
- Athenian cockiness is conveyed in their treatment of other poleis
- Athenian attitude towards Sparta does not seem to make sense in light of their shaky position with Sparta

### Mood Change of Athenians

- Athenian speech begins as aggressive, shifts to humble c. p25
- Spartans are traditionally the Greek land power - do the Athenians recognize this?
- Athenians try to cast themselves as fundamentally different than Spartans - don't send children to train, not "warmongers"

### Entirety of p. 29

- Athenians continue to employ rhetoric rather than diving into a war with Sparta = seems out of place
- Spartans are cast as "barbaric"
- Must keep in mind that Thucydides is casting these events in his own light
- Thucydides also seems to defame Athenians for being imperialistic
- He is hard to read as biased towards Athenians or as an objective observer, it is tough to make a distinction

### Funeral Juxtaposed w/ Plague

- Easy for a high-flying city to be laid low; is this the reason for the positioning of the plague in the text?
- Pressure situations reveal character; applies to Athenians as a people