

Persian War Discussion Notes

History is from the Greek word for “inquiry”: it originally had nothing to do with this past. Thus, Herodotus saw himself inquiring into the past much as Anaximander was inquiring into the laws of nature. He’s very much a pre-Socratic philosopher in my book.

Herodotus’s overriding philosophy and some of the best examples:

Count no one happy until dead

The Ionian Revolt and Athens’s involvement:

Darius’s attempts to subdue Athens:

How Athens won at Marathon in 490 and boosted its status among Greek poleis

The windfall from the Attic mines at Laurion and Themistocles’s (and Athens’s) rise to power

Xerxes’s new plan for 480 B.C.

Greek disunity: why did some support Persia and about what did the Greeks disagree ?

Thermopylae, Artemesium and the Epirus:

The Athenian plan after Thermopylae:

Themistocles's clever maneuverings at Artemesium and before Salamis:

Artemisia: warrior princess: why does a Greek on the Persian side get such good press from Herodotus?

The strategy and outcome of the battle of Salamis and its after-effects:

Pausanias and the battle of Plataea (479) and the Spartans' pledge:

Debate over the Hellespont Bridges: what Themistocles said and what he later said he said:

Pausanias's "issues," Cimon and the battle of Mycale:

The new world order after 479: within Greece, in Asia Minor, and Themistocles's post-war life:

The Ionian/Delian League: 454