Moreover, it was not just democrats who stood to gain from the figure of the tyrant. In a subtle and perceptive reading of Isocrates and Plato, Morgan shows how the discourse of tyranny is used by these authors to increase their authority and legitimate their strategies of communication. Finally, Robin Osborne uses changing attitudes to tyranny in Athens to elucidate larger changes in the way the Athenians viewed politics. In tying these changes to events, he usefully reminds us of the diachronic aspect of a topic that until his chapter had only really been considered synchronically.

This is a useful collection of essays on Athenian public culture. Those familiar with current scholarship on democratic ideology will find its conclusions reassuring rather than surprising, and this is perhaps the ultimate function of talking about tyranny. It allows us to pretend that we can comprehend that which always threatens to become too spectacular and unpredictable.

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ARTICLES ON DEMOCRACY

P. J. RHODES (ed.): *Athenian Democracy*. (Edinburgh Readings on the Ancient World.) Pp. xviii + 358, maps, ill. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2004. Paper, £19.99 (Cased, £60). ISBN: 0-7486-1687-X (0-7486-1686-1 hbk).

Athenian democracy, from antiquity to the present day, has been the subject of much scholarly analysis and dispute. Since the 1820s, the material, literary, and documentary evidence has expanded alongside the willingness of scholars to employ varying approaches to the subject. The study of Athenian democracy has been conceived of as part of the history of ideologies, institutions, social structures, cultural phenomena, and historical events. Rhodes's assemblage of articles on the subject is laudably representative of the diverse lines of investigation which emerged in the twentieth century.

R. circumscribes the scope of the book clearly: it is a collection of studies of the specifically Athenian version of democracy (cf. chapters 1 and 3 of E. Robinson's *Ancient Greek Democracy: Readings and Sources* [Oxford, 2004]). It opens with a historical outline of Athenian democracy and a survey of scholarly responses to Athenian democracy from the nineteenth century onwards. To R.'s point that Grote's *History of Greece* was the first history to portray the democracy of Periclean Athens in a positive light we should now add notice of Oswyn Murray's discovery and publication of Edward Bulwer Lytton's abandoned Volume III of *Athens: Its Rise and Fall* (London, 2004).

The fourteen articles are distributed between four parts: 'Political Institutions', 'Political Activity', 'Moments in History', and 'A View of Democracy' (the latter consisting solely of Meier's 'The Greeks: the Political Revolution in World History'). Where other editors might have been tempted to allocate a section to 'ideology', for R., democratic ideology emerges through the study of concepts (J. K. Davies, 'Athenian Citizenship'), institutions (S. Dow, 'Aristotle, the *Kleroteria*, and the Courts'; M. Markle, 'Jury Pay and Assembly Pay at Athens'), and political activity (M. Finley, 'The Athenian Demagogues'), and at moments in history (J. Ober 'The Athenian Revolution of 508/7'). Each part is prefaced with a discreet but inviting description of

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the articles and biographical notes on the authors. These notices offer insight beyond the study of democracy: R. traces Louis Gernet's inspirations and influences on French historiography (pp. 16–17). Moreover, R. juxtaposes himself, a scholar who is 'happy disentangling intricate details', with Moses Finley who 'was happier attacking large issues' (pp. 161–2). All this reflects the fact that the collection contains a healthy mix of articles referring to both broader interpretations and detailed aspects of Athenian democracy. Laudably, R. has included articles the approach or substance of which he contests (p. 8): Sealey's 'Ephialtes, *Eisangelia*, and the Council' was originally a response to R. A number of articles draw on comparative material or anthropological approaches (Hansen, Gernet, Humphreys, Meier). R.'s mantra that he is a 'pluralist not a relativist' rings true (*Polis* 15 [1998], 75–82 at 78–80). The selection is chronologically wide-ranging: the articles of Dow and Gernet predate World War II. Mossé's 'Solon, "Founding Father" of Athenian Democracy' is published in English for the first time; many of the articles included were published originally in less accessible journals and collections.

R. avoids abridging original publications (p. 12), but includes unpublished material: Hansen inserts into his study of voting in the *ecclesia* the results of his study of the Swiss *Landsgemeinde* (pp. 55–7); Humphreys notes her 'follow-up' articles to 'Public and Private Interests in Classical Athens' (note to p. 225). R. has omitted any study of the modern reception of Athenian democracy, justifiably on the basis that 'this is a large subject that deserves a book in its own right' (p. 12; cf. R.'s *Athenian Democracy and Modern Ideology* [London, 2004]; M. Hansen, *G&R* 39 [1990], 14–20 and in S. Hornblower and R. Osborne, *Ritual, Finance, Politics* [Oxford, 1994], pp. 25–37).

The helpful lists of abbreviations, collections of ancient texts, periodicals and other standard works are characteristic of the Edinburgh Readings of the Ancient World series. Unfamiliar Greek and Latin phrases are translated, as are lengthy sections of Greek unexplained in older original publications. In the case of Lewis's 'Cleisthenes and Attica', this makes an important article accessible to Greekless students of Athenian democracy. Of the three maps, the first one superimposes the main streets of modern Athens onto a plan of the ancient city: hence the reader can, from Syntagma Square, easily locate the direction of ancient demes of Scambonidae, Cydathenaeum and Diomeia. This is a book for undergraduates and graduates with some knowledge of the basics of Athenian democracy, and it provides the reader with a broad experience of the categories under which the subject can be profitably investigated.

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A SPARTAN CONFERENCE

A. Powell, S. Hodkinson (edd.): *Sparta: Beyond the Mirage*. Pp. xx + 354, maps, ills. Swansea and London: The Classical Press of Wales and Duckworth, 2002. Cased, £48. ISBN: 0-715631-83-7.

Although this book is handsomely published by a Welsh press, the conference from which it stems was held in Ireland in 2000, the third meeting of the international seminar on Spartan history. The theme encapsulated in the title postdates the meeting, it emerges. Hodkinson reveals this in the introduction (p. vii): 'we did not attempt to impose a common theme upon our speakers, but gave them the freedom to select the subjects and themes they themselves judged most pressing within the

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