

Ritzgen

Thucydides

12.20-6

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Adcock, F. E., Thucydides and His History (Cambridge) 1963

When he was born is beyond discovery but can conjecture that the first event in which he was actively engaged was the operations of the Samian Revolt, from which Pericles returned in triumph. (6/5)

Gives account of Ten Years War which began in 431 B.C. (11/5)

Thucydides had access to fairly accurate sources for the information in his history from the beginning of the war until 424 B.C. when he went into exile so that most of his former contacts were broken and from this point onwards the narrative is less continuous and less complete (17/5-10) His exile lasted 20 years before he returned to Athens (21/1)

Adcock contends that the arrangement of Thucydides first book is not chaotic (21/10) but "these two parts of the book were written with each other in mind, and so about the same time" (22/1) Concession to a part of the book belonging to his youth rather than to his maturer years (24/1)

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The excursus in the second book (24/2) appears to go beyond the normal adherence to the events of the time and to be a parade of Thucydides' knowledge, based upon evidence on which the historian plumes himself (25/10). Adcock thinks a considerable interval of time lay between the writing of Book I and Book VI, and, in so far, ~~as~~ it tells against any theory that the whole work was written in one relatively short continuous period of composition. (26/1-2)

Adcock contends the burden of proof rests on those who assert that T inserted speeches of which he had no knowledge of their actual content (28/9) and he thinks circumstances strongly suggest that T did not insert in his history speeches which are wholly fictitious in the sense that they have no basis whatever of ascertained fact (29/1) It is not enough to say that he restricted himself to what the speakers were convinced was true, for now and again he makes a speaker say something which he knows the speaker cannot have believed to be true or something which he himself cannot have believed to be true in fact. (30/4)