

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

On pp. 31-33 Adcock illustrates with three instances of speeches in which any element of authenticity has often been denied and which scholars have too hastily regarded as going wholly beyond the historian's knowledge (33/6)

At one time Adcock accepted the thesis that one speech, the Epitaphios of Pericles, was written after the fall of Athens in protest against a movement that belittled Pericles, but Adcock thinks now he was mistaken in following what, at that time, was the dominant view, supported as it was by great names such as Eduard Meyer (37/3) "It now appears to me that it was written in 431 B.C., while the voice of Pericles still sounded in the historian's ears - the authentic echo of what was demanded of the citizens in that hour. It is then, as other speeches are, closely linked to the situation of the moment" (37/5)

"Thus, difficult as it is to be sure, it now seems to me that the picture of the high summer of Athenian power and warlike confidence was written at the moment when it was true" (38/2)

The speech attributed to him ((Pericles)) is often supposed to have been written after the fall of Athens, but there is no sufficient reason for thinking this was so (60/7)

When Thucydides says of the Ten Years War that it was continuous and so, as it were, bows out the Armistice of 423 B.C. . . . , he betrays his belief that this war was one single theme which he had done his best to chronicle. . . . The thirty Years Truce was a compromise, but it lasted fourteen years and might well have lasted longer (70/6-8)

Book VIII

Some ancient doubts of the Thucydidean authorship of this Book have been set to rest. It was not seriously denied even during that period of modern scholarship when such doubts were most fashionable. A careful examination of its style shows that no one else of that day could have written it, and that, even if it has not received a final polish and revision from end to end, it does not fall below some earlier books in that respect. (83/1-3)