

Finley, J. H., Jr., Three Essays on Thucydides (Harvard Univ. Press) 1967

And finally, when we are uncertain how early the <sup>Alm' O. E. K.</sup> of the sophist Antiphon is to be dated or how representative the style of pseudo-Xenophon may be considered to be, it is extremely hazardous to argue on grounds of style alone that Thucydides does not in a real sense echo the Athens of Pericles. For the parallels between his History and the plays of Euripides make it abundantly clear both that he was himself deeply affected by ideas current there before his exile and that he attributes to his speakers thoughts and forms of argument which were equally well known. (54/3-5)

Now formal argumentation must have been the rule in the rhetoric of the fifth century. Antiphon repeats himself word for word in different speeches; Aristotle says of Gorgias and the early sophists that they provided their pupils with a limited stock of fixed arguments to be used as the occasion demanded; (5/3)

#### The Origins of T's Style

The T wrote some, perhaps most, of his History after 404, he nevertheless reflects with some fidelity the outlook and attitude of earlier years. (§5/4). Either the style of the speeches in T are anachronistic or the speakers spoke in such a way as T said they spoke (57/6)

For a decade before the outbreak of the war, antithesis was, as Plato and Thucydides suggest, a common instrument of speakers. (88/7) The speeches of T more faithfully echo the Athenian oratory which he knew before his exile than has commonly been thought (88/8) A peculiar mark of fifth-century thought was its capacity for general ideas (109/4); the speeches of T contain many abstract and general passages and in these passages antithesis is most marked (110/10). T followed the contemporary standards of artistic prose (113/1) in seeking for symmetry, variety of expression and boldness of idiom. His style is not unique (as Dr. Ros believes) (113/2) but followed the standards of artistic prose common during his early manhood (113/8). His individuality consists merely in his use of symmetry, variety, and boldness of diction - blending these elements (114/9)