

Finley, J. H., Jr. Three Essays on Thucydides (Harv. U. Press) 1957

Assumes that books six and seven were written at a time not far removed from the late passages already noted in the preceding books. (128/4) The History is not a notebook of passages composed at widely different times but rather a unified interpretation of the war, and as such, an interpretation possibly only when his opinions were matured and the facts before him. (128/7)

The unity of the History is revealed not only by its consistent analysis of events but by a more subtle consistency of style and treatment. Hardly a page, one could almost say, fails to contain some sentence which in form or idea suggests another sentence elsewhere. The conclusion therefore follows that, by the time he wrote his History, Th had, as it were, simplified his thought into a number of fixed, clear patterns, the more important of which centered about the great questions of the war, while others denoted the various things that men would say or do under different circumstances and still others the historian's own methods, and that it is largely from the interplay of these patterns, great and small, that the unity of the work derives. (153/6-10)