

Annotation Model

Excerpt of the "Funeral Oration" by Pericles

As recorded by Thucydides in the History of the Peloponnesian War

? I wonder how Thucydides recorded Pericles' speech

Background Points on Pericles

- Pericles (490?-429 B.C.) was a Greek politician who was a prominent leader in Athens during the period of Athenian democracy.
- His name is usually used to represent the golden period of Athenian history just prior to the Peloponnesian War.
- Note that it was under his leadership that a number of Athenian landmarks were constructed, most notably the Parthenon, built between 447 and 432 B.C.

? I wonder what system of govt. the neighbors have

Greece is a democracy

Individual freedom +

govt. should protect the oppressed +

"For our system of government does not copy the systems of our neighbors: we are a model to them, not they to us. Our constitution is called a democracy, because power rests in the hands not of the few but of the many. Our laws guarantee equal justice for all in their private disputes; and as for the election of public officials, we welcome talent to every arena of achievement, nor do we make our choices on the ground of class but on the grounds of excellence alone. And as we give free play to all in our public life, so we carry the same spirit into our daily relations with one another. We have no black looks or angry words for our neighbor if he enjoys himself in his own way, and we even abstain from little acts of churlishness that, though they do no mortal damage, leave hurt feelings in their wake. Open and tolerant in our private lives, in our public affairs we keep within the law. We acknowledge the restraint of reverence; we are obedient to those in authority and to the laws, especially to those that give protection to the oppressed and those unwritten laws of the heart whose transgression brings admitted shame. . . ."

+ equality

? not sure what this means

+ tolerant + Greeks follow the law

Source: Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, trans. Rex Warner (London: Penguin, 1972),

Pericles has a very positive view of Greek democracy. He doesn't mention slaves or women in Greek society.