

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

He said T, during the war, developed from a historian interested only in the most literal accuracy to an historian in the fullest sense of the word, a man able to analyze the fundamental process of state and society. (119/10). In the course of this argument more and more parts of the History were continually being vindicated as late. (120/1). In 1936 and 1937 A. Grosskinsky and H. Patzer gave a broader and "undoubtedly more correct interpretation" of the passage which seemed to say that exactitude and only exactitude was the foundation of the History with the result that the whole theory by which Pohlenz and Schadewaldt had distinguished between early and late passages fell to the ground, and when a still later study, that of F. Bizer, concluded that a late date fits the Archaeology bar better than an early one, virtually nothing remained of the whole movement which had sought to find in the extant History strong traces of its author's development (121/1-4)

That is not to say that early passages may not exist in the History; it is inconceivable that T did not take notes or that he failed to use them when he wrote his final work. It is merely to say that the work which we have should not be regarded as an agglomeration of passages written at widely different times and imperfectly blended together by reason of the author's premature death, but rather as composed primarily at one time with the help of earlier notes and, if broken at the end and incomplete perhaps in several places, yet possessing after all the unity which might be expected to result from a period of more or less sustained composition. (121/5-7)

Thus it will not be maintained here that he ((T)) wrote absolutely consecutively or that a given passage may not have been written after one that follows it (we cannot hope to follow such a delicate thing as composition with anything like complete accuracy), but only . . . that books six and seven are so closely knit with what precedes, that the whole work betrays a plan consistently worked out and therefore (it is natural to suppose) worked out in a period of more or less sustained authorship (123/8-10f)