

Thuc. I 1.1–2

1.1: Θουκυδίδης Ἀθηναῖος ξυνέγραψε τὸν πόλεμον τῶν Πελοποννησίων καὶ Ἀθηναίων, ὡς ἐπολέμησαν πρὸς ἀλλήλους, ἀρξάμενος εὐθύς καθισταμένου καὶ ἐλπίσας μέγαν τε ἔσεσθαι καὶ ἀξιολογώτατον τῶν προγεγενημένων, τεκμαιρόμενος ὅτι ἀκμάζοντες τε ἦσαν ἐς αὐτὸν ἀμφοτέροι παρασκευῇ τῇ πάσῃ καὶ τὸ ἄλλο Ἑλληνικὸν ὄρων ξυνιστάμενον πρὸς ἑκατέρους, τὸ μὲν εὐθύς, τὸ δὲ καὶ διανοούμενον.

[1.1] Thoukudidês Athênaios xunegrapse ton polemon tôn Peloponnêsiôn kai Athênaiôn, hôs epolemêsan pros allêlous, arxamenos euthus kathistamenou kai elpisas megan te esesthai kai axiologôtaton tôn progegenêmenôn, tekmairomenos hoti akmazontes te êsan es auton amphoteroi paraskeuê tê pasê kai to allo Hellênikon horôn xunistamenon pros hekaterous, to men euthus, to de kai dianoomenon.

[1.1] Thucydides, an Athenian, composed (a history of) the war of the Peloponnesians and Athenians, how they fought against each other, beginning right as it broke out and expecting that it would be great and of all that had come before most worthy of report (logos), inferring from evidence that both went into it at the peak of every preparation, and seeing that the rest of the Greek world was aligning itself against each other, part immediately, and part intending to.

[2] κίνησις γὰρ αὕτη μεγίστη δὴ τοῖς Ἑλλησιν ἐγένετο καὶ μέρει τινὶ τῶν βαρβάρων, ὡς δὲ εἰπεῖν καὶ ἐπὶ πλεῖστον ἀνθρώπων. [3] τὰ γὰρ πρὸ αὐτῶν καὶ τὰ ἔτι παλαιότερα σαφῶς μὲν εὐρεῖν διὰ χρόνου πλῆθος ἀδύνατα ἦν, ἐκ δὲ τεκμηρίων ὧν ἐπὶ μακρότατον σκοποῦντί μοι πιστεῦσαι ξυμβαίνει οὐ μεγάλα νομίζω γενέσθαι οὔτε κατὰ τοὺς πολέμους οὔτε ἐς τὰ ἄλλα.

[2] kinêsis gar hautê megistê dê tois Hellêsin egeneto kai merei tini tôn barbarôn, hôs de eipein kai epi pleiston anthrôpôn. [3] ta gar pro autôn kai ta eti palaitera saphôs men heurein dia chronou plêthos adunata ên, ek de tekmêriôn hôn epi makrotaton skopounti moi pisteusai xumbainei ou megala nomizô genesthai oute kata tous polemous oute es ta alla.

[1.2] For this was the greatest movement indeed for Hellenes and for a portion of the barbarians—you could say even the majority of mankind. For while events before these and those still older were impossible to discern clearly, owing to the amount of time (elapsed), still on the basis of the evidence that I happen on inspection to trust, going back as far as possible, I think that there were no great things, neither in wars nor in other things.

xynégrapse < *xyngraphê* (or *syngraphê*) = prose composition; contract
axiologôtatos = most worthy of report or account (*logos*)
tekmairomenos < *tekmêrion* = proof, evidence
paraskeuê = preparation