

**LIVES OF GREEK  
STATESMEN, SOLON-  
THEMISTOKLES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649638031

Lives of Greek Statesmen, Solon-Themistokles by Sir George W. Cox

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SIR GEORGE W. COX**

**LIVES OF GREEK  
STATESMEN, SOLON-  
THEMISTOKLES**



LIVES  
OF  
GREEK STATESMEN

5-95-5-0

*SOLON—THEMISTOKLES*

BY THE

REV. SIR GEORGE W. COX, BART. M.A.

AUTHOR OF

'MYTHOLOGY OF THE ARYAN NATIONS' &c.



LONDON  
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

1885

*All rights reserved*

© Mas 14'26 BF

## PREFACE



The history of a people is often best studied in the lives of individual citizens; and this is perhaps to a larger extent the case in the ancient Greek world than elsewhere. A Greek nation, in one sense of the word, there never was; but some individual Greek citizens proposed to themselves and acted on a policy which, if consistently carried out, might have had for its results the growth of a vigorous national life. Apart from this there is the personal interest which gathers round the career of great men, and which should lead us to examine most carefully the grounds of the judgements passed upon them.

Recd Mar 14'28 BF

These reasons have led me to hope that the cause of historical truth may be promoted by a series of lives of Greek statesmen from the dawn of contemporary history to the last days of the Achaian League. In a certain sense, it is true, all free citizens in such a city as Athens were statesmen; but even at Athens there were always some who rose to pre-eminence among their fellows, and the influence exercised by Perikles has been described by Thucydides as virtually the rule or sway of one single man. It is also true that the distinction now commonly drawn between military and civil life, between the statesmanship of legislative assemblies and the tactics of commanders in war, had no existence for the countrymen of Themistokles or Timoleon. The man who had most influence in debate might be also the most successful leader in the battle-field, or, as in the case of Kleon, he might not; but there was nothing to prevent him from appearing in the character of an orator or in that of a general, and he might be called upon at any time to lay aside the former for the latter. But in spite of this the rise and growth of a very definite ideal of statesmanship may be traced in the lives of the most prominent citizens in Athens, Sparta, or elsewhere: and in these lives we may perhaps best appreciate

the political education afforded in the Greek cities to the great body of the people.

In many cases also we have to do justice, so far as may be in our power, to men who have not generally been fairly dealt with, or to determine the character of measures which have not been fully understood. The *Seisachtheia* of Solon may be mentioned as an instance of the latter. As illustrating the former part of our task, the charges of corruption and treachery brought against Themistokles must compel us, if they are not fully proved, to reverse the verdict usually given on a general review of his career. It is not likely that I may have again to speak of this illustrious man, with whom even such historians as Thirlwall and Grote have failed to deal fairly. I have therefore felt it my duty to examine the whole evidence afresh with the utmost care. The result seems to me to involve the complete vindication of his good name; and I venture to hope that it may be accepted as the only judgement in accordance with all the facts of the case.

The lives given in this first volume may be regarded as presenting a picture of the whole Greek world down to the triumphant close of the great struggle with Persia. The second volume will deal with the statesmen whose lives belong for the most part to the period of the fatal struggle between Athens and Sparta.

In the spelling of Greek names I have followed the English form, wherever such forms can be said to exist, as with Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Thrace, Egean. Where the Latin forms are more familiar than the Greek, I have given both, as in *Korkyra* (*Coccyra*), *Kroisos* (*Cresus*). In a few cases I have taken the modern form, as with *Egina* for *Ægina* or *Aigina*. Otherwise I have adhered to the old Greek forms as transliterated by the great majority of our Greek historians and scholars for many years past. It should be remembered, however, that the Greek spelling involves practically no difference of sound from that of the Latin pronunciation, the sound of the C and K being identical, and the diphthong *ai* being pronounced as we pronounce *ai* in *fail*, and *ei* and *oi* like *ee* in *been*.

# CONTENTS



## SOLON

B.C.		PAGE
	Character of the evidence for the life of Solon . . . . .	1
	Solon as a poet . . . . .	2
	Character of Solon's poems . . . . .	3
	Existing fragments of his poems . . . . .	3
	Parentage of Solon . . . . .	3
	Circumstances of his early life . . . . .	4
	Solon as one of the Seven Sages of Greece . . . . .	4
	War between Athens and Megara for Salamis . . . . .	5
? 596	Renewal of the war with Megara by Solon . . . . .	6
	Chronology of the war with Megara . . . . .	6
	Stratagems ascribed to Solon . . . . .	7
	Reference of the quarrel to Spartan arbitration . . . . .	7
	Solon and the Sacred War . . . . .	8
	The religious association of houses, clans, and tribes . . . . .	8
	Amphiktyonic councils . . . . .	8
	The Delphian Amphiktyonia . . . . .	8
	Interests of pilgrims journeying to the Delphian Sanctuary . . . . .	9
	Sentence passed on Kirrha after the end of the Sacred War . . . . .	9
	Uncertain character of the evidence for the Sacred War . . . . .	10
	Alleged poisoning of the waters of the river Pleistos by Solon . . . . .	10
	Condition of the Athenian people in the time of Solon . . . . .	11
	The legislation of Drakon (Draco) . . . . .	11
	Character of the Drakonian legislation . . . . .	12
	Jurisdiction of the Council of Areiopagos . . . . .	12
	Conspiracy of Kylon . . . . .	13
	Epimenides the Cretan . . . . .	13
	Intestine divisions in Athens . . . . .	13



B.C.		PAGE
	Description of the state of Athens by Solon himself . . . . .	14
	Meaning of the terms used by Solon . . . . .	15
	Supposed condition of the peasantry of Attica . . . . .	15
594	Archonship of Solon: the Seisachtheia . . . . .	16
	Questions of debt and mortgage . . . . .	16
	Opinions of later writers . . . . .	17
	Land tenure in the days of Solon . . . . .	17
	Landowners and money-lenders . . . . .	18
	Removal of boundary marks by Solon . . . . .	18
	Gods of boundaries . . . . .	19
	The primitive Aryan family . . . . .	19
	Meaning of the change effected by Solon . . . . .	19
	Alleged inslavement of the land . . . . .	20
	The condition of the Hektemorians . . . . .	20
	Alleged debasement of the currency by Solon . . . . .	21
	Later ideas of the Seisachtheia of Solon . . . . .	21
	Theory of interest on loans . . . . .	22
	New classification of the citizens . . . . .	23
	Timoeratic constitution of Solon . . . . .	23
	The fourth class of citizens . . . . .	24
	The Eupatrids and the Thêtes . . . . .	24
	The Archons and the Probouleutic Council . . . . .	24
	Slow growth of the commonsalty . . . . .	25
	Influences of the ancient tribes . . . . .	25
	The Dikasteria . . . . .	26
	Special laws ascribed to Solon . . . . .	26
	Solonian law against neutrality in time of sedition . . . . .	27
	Travels of Solon . . . . .	27
	Legend of the visit of Solon to Kroisos (Cresus) . . . . .	28
	Tale of Kleobis and Biton . . . . .	28
	Ethical philosophy of Solon . . . . .	29
	The fall of Kroisos (Cresus) . . . . .	30
	Didactic purpose of the story . . . . .	30
	Factions at Athens . . . . .	31
	Peisistratos and the men of the bills . . . . .	31
561	Resistance of Solon to the usurpation of Peisistratos . . . . .	31

### *PEISISTRATOS*

Exclusiveness of the primitive Aryan family . . . . .	33
Primitive oligarchy . . . . .	33
Origin of kingship . . . . .	34

CONTENTS

ix

B.C.	PAGE
	34
	35
	35
	35
	36
	36
	37
	37
	38
	38
? 561	39
	39
	40
	40
	40
	41
	41
	41
?	42
?	43
?	43
	44
?	44
	45
	45
	45
514	47
	47
	48
	48
	48
	49
	49
	50
510	50
	50
	51
	51
?	52
	52

B.C.		PAGE
	Opposition of the Corinthians . . . . .	53
	Points of likeness between the Corinthians and the Spartans	53
	Points of difference between them . . . . .	54
	Schemes and intrigues of Hippias . . . . .	54
? 500	Second embassy from Athens to Artaphernes . . . . .	55
	Share of the Athenians in the revolt of Aristagoras . . . . .	55
490	The Persians with Hippias at Marathon . . . . .	56
	Visions and portents . . . . .	56
	Plans of Hippias . . . . .	56
	General character of the government of the Peisistratidai . . . . .	57

### *KLEISTHENES*

	Kleisthenes of Sikyon . . . . .	59
	The three Dorian tribes . . . . .	59
	Change of tribal names . . . . .	60
	Story of Kleisthenes and Hippokleides . . . . .	60
	Kleisthenes of Sikyon, and Kleisthenes of Athens . . . . .	61
	Principles involved in the reforms of Kleisthenes of Athens . . . . .	61
	Conditions of non-tribal citizens . . . . .	62
510	Substitution of new for the old tribes by Kleisthenes . . . . .	62
	The Ionian name . . . . .	63
	The ten Kleisthenean tribes . . . . .	63
	Composition of the new tribes . . . . .	63
	Causes of the opposition of Isagoras . . . . .	64
	Geographical distribution of the new tribes . . . . .	64
	The Council of Five Hundred . . . . .	65
	The Ten Generals . . . . .	65
	Constitution of the Council of Five Hundred . . . . .	65
	The Heliaia . . . . .	66
	Extent of the reforms of Kleisthenes . . . . .	66
	Election of the Archons by lot . . . . .	67
	Reforms of Aristides . . . . .	67
	The Archons and the Court of Areopagos . . . . .	67
	Ostracism . . . . .	68
	Need of such a measure . . . . .	68
	Working of Ostracism . . . . .	69
	Instances of Ostracism . . . . .	70
	Appeal of Isagoras to Kleomenes, king of Sparta . . . . .	70
	Expulsion of Kleisthenes from Athens . . . . .	71
	Return of Kleisthenes . . . . .	71
	Subsequent history of Kleisthenes and Isagoras . . . . .	71