

# Tweeting the War: Herodotus, Thucydides, and War in Ukraine on Social Media

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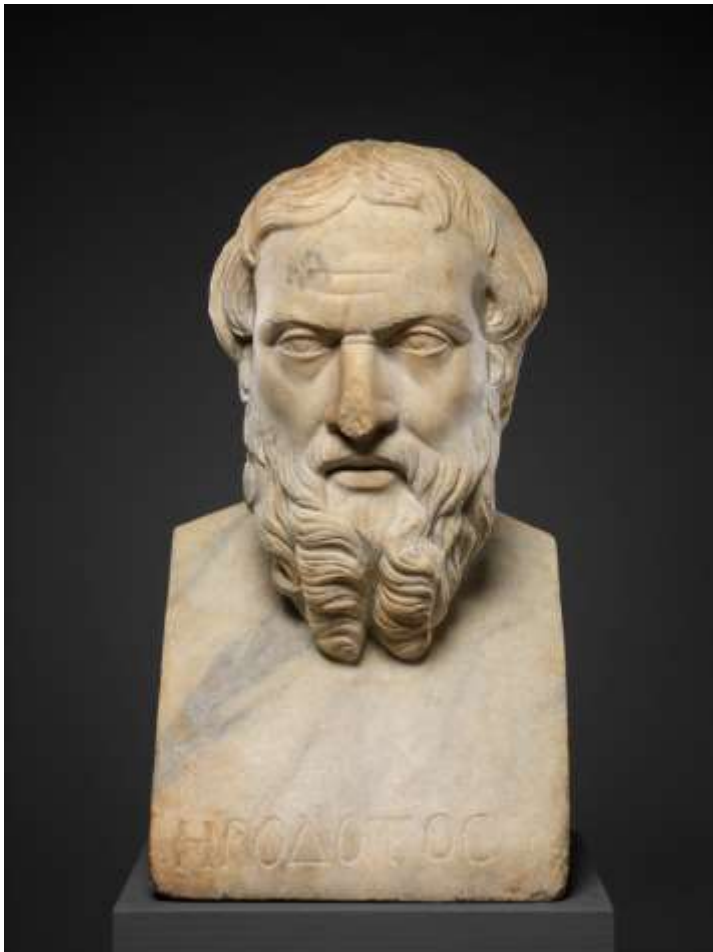
- QUOTES

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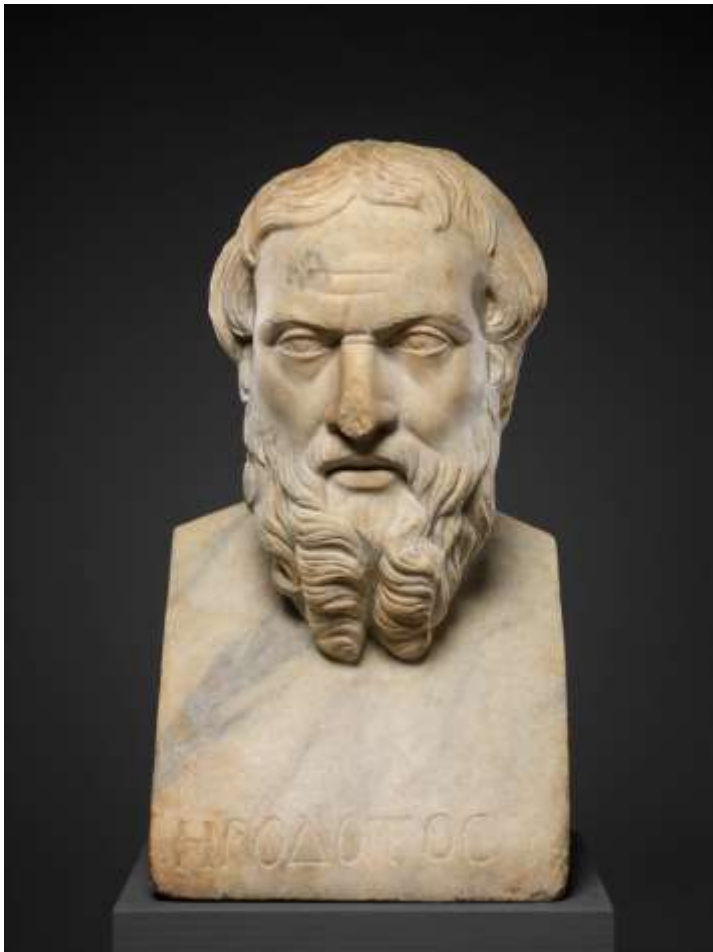


How does the ancient historical text  
(AHT) appear in the tweets?

# Herodotus



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- Most direct quotations (7) in the corpus of tweets are either  
**‘semi’ quotes**  
or  
**indirect references**  
in relation to Sparta.

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# ‘Semi’ quotes

Watching “300” tonight. [#Putin](#) is defiantly [#Xerxes](#) and [#Zelensky](#) is [#Leonidas](#). Sad part is Leonidas dies but saves Greece, let’s hope Zelensky lives and saves [#Ukraine](#).

[#UkraineRussiaWar](#) [#PutinWarCriminal](#) [#Moscow](#) [#Kremlin](#)



4:08 AM · Mar 27, 2022

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4:08 AM · Mar 27, 2022

- “The Lacedaemonians fought memorably, showing themselves skilled fighters amidst unskilled on many occasions [...]”

(Herodotus, 7.211)

translation by A. D. Godley. Cambridge. Harvard University Press. 1920.



# Not all the popular references related to Sparta come from Herodotus

- Some of the most famous Laconian sentences come from Plutarch.
- «μολὼν λαβέ» (‘come and take them’), «with it or on it», etc.

# Herodotus: direct quotes

- Only a couple of them are in relation to the Spartan resistance against the Persians at the Battle of Thermopylae.
- Most of them (5) are from Book 1, about the horrors of war.

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“No one is so foolish as to choose war over peace. In peace sons bury their fathers, in war fathers bury their sons.” (1.87.4)

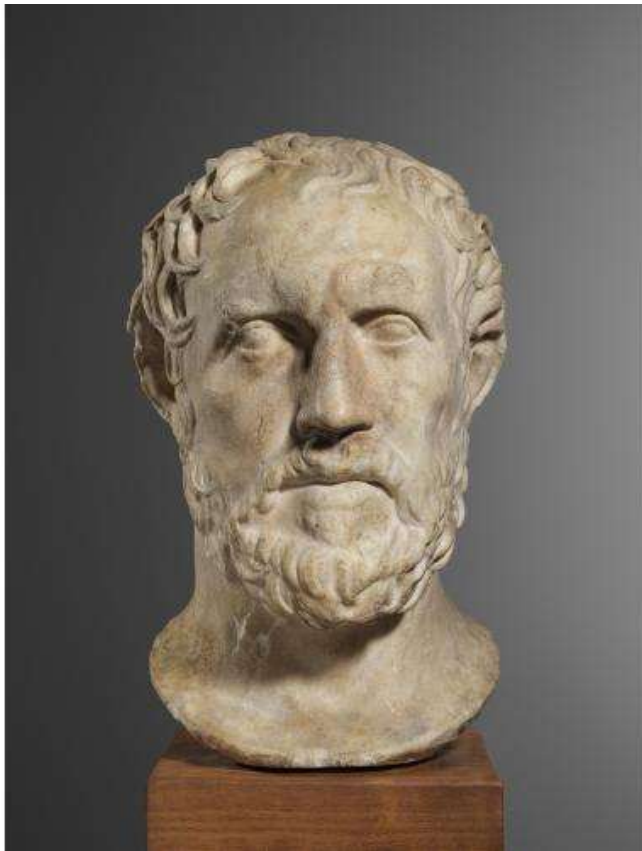
# Herodotus: direct quotes

- 3.127.2 The early reign of Darius, centered on Samos. (1)
- 7.226.2 Battle of Thermopylae. (2)
- 9.122.3 The very end of Herodotus' work, Cyrus's advice to prefer hardship to comfort. (1)

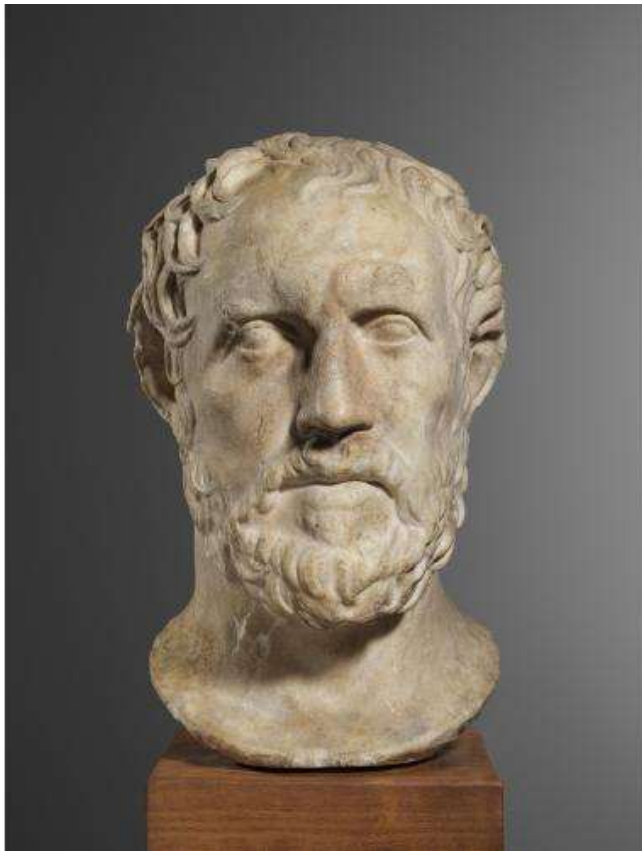
# Herodotus: direct quotes

- 3.127.2 The early reign of Darius, centered on Samos. (1)  
“Where there is need for cunning, force has no business.”
- 7.226.2 Battle of Thermopylae. (2)  
“If the Persians hide the sun, we will fight in the shade.”
- 9.122.3 The very end of Herodotus’ work, Cyrus's advice to prefer hardship to comfort. (1)  
“Soft lands breed soft men; wondrous fruits of the earth and valiant warriors grow not from the same soil.”

# Thucydides

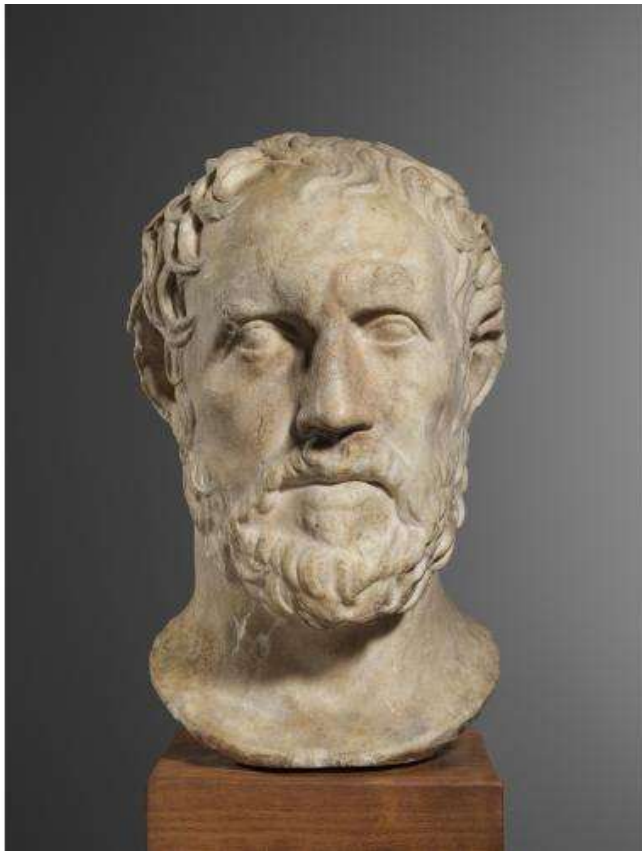


# Thucydides



- Most of the direct quotations in the corpus of tweets are from Thucydides.
- Unlike Herodotus' case, in the tweets the ancient author is mostly engaged directly (and not through popular media).

# Thucydides



- The direct quotations predominantly stem from two notable sections: the Melian Dialogue (10) and Pericles' funeral oration (10).



# Thucydides

- “The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.”  
(5.89.1) Melian Dialogue
- “These take as your model, and judging happiness to be the fruit of freedom and freedom of valor, never decline the dangers of war.”  
(2.43.4) Funeral oration
- The direct quotations predominantly stem from two notable sections: the Melian Dialogue (10) and Pericles' funeral oration (10).

London, J. M. Dent; New York, E. P. Dutton.  
1910.

# Thucydides, quotes

- 1.2.4 The beginning. (1)
- 1.69 Speech of the Corinthians. (1)
- 1.76 Speech of the Athenian envoys. (1)
- 2.34-46 Pericles' funeral oration. (10)
- 2.60 Pericles' third speech. (1)
- 3.82 Revolution at Corcyra, accounts of the evils of civil unrest. (2)
- 5.85-113 Melian Dialogue. (10)

# Notable tweets



**Euripides L Evriviades** 🇨🇾 🇪🇺 🇨🇪  
@eevriviades



“When one is deprived of ones liberty, one is right in blaming not so much the man who puts the shackles on as the one who had the power to prevent him, but did not use it.”

Thucydides  
History of the Peloponnesian War

[#Thucydides](#) [#Ukraine](#) [#StopWar](#) [#Russia](#) [#war](#)

- Former High Commissioner of Cyprus to the UK  
Euripides Evriviades quotes the Speech of the Corinthians (1.69)

# Paraphrases and altered quotes

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[#Ukraine](#): "The bread basket of Europe"

"Fertile soil is a fertile source of ruin." Thucydides

7:35 PM · Feb 23, 2023 · 417 Views

# Paraphrases and altered quotes

#Ukraine: "The bread basket of Europe"

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- “The goodness of the land favoured the aggrandizement of particular individuals, and thus created faction which proved a fertile source of ruin.”  
(Thucydides 1.2.4)

London, J. M. Dent; New York, E. P. Dutton.  
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# Paraphrases and altered quotes

[#war](#) [#Ukraine](#) [#Putin](#) [#Russia](#)

"Be convinced that to be happy means to be free  
and that to be free means to be brave.  
Therefore do not take lightly the perils of war."

-- Thucydides

[Thoukudídês] (c.455-c.400 BC)

Greek historian

author of the History of the Peloponnesian War

3:58 AM · Mar 24, 2022



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- "These take as your model,  
judging freedom to be  
happiness and courage to be  
freedom, be not too anxious  
about the dangers of war."

(Thucydides 2.43.4)

London, J. M. Dent; New York, E. P. Dutton.  
1910.

# Thank you for listening!

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