

Emily

Find a piece of evidence from the ancient sources and discuss it

“It is acknowledged, namely that there are in the world three forms of government, autocracy, oligarchy, and democracy: autocracies and oligarchies are administered according to the tempers of their lords”¹

This quotation comes from a speech by Aeschines titled Against Timarchus, in which Aeschines accuses Timarchus of being unfit to be a part of public life. Aeschines was an “Athenian orator and politician”², who developed his oratory skills “in public speaking during his early career as an actor”³. His knowledge of Athenian law however he “gained from his time as a clerk”⁴. In total there are three of his original speeches that still survive all of which are for trails against his rival Demosthenes. Considering the nature of the source, and the context surrounding it we can infer that Aeschines would exaggerate so that the jurors would rule in his favor and in the case Against Timarchus this runs true as the outcome was that Aeschines won the case and Timarchus was disenfranchised. He charges Timarchus, not only from the courts but from all “public and religious functions”⁵

The speech was written in 345 BCE and given before the court between 344 BCE and 343 BCE, his other speech Against Ctesiphon was given in 336, this was the last speech that Aeschines gave to his rival Demosthenes however Demosthenes countered with his speech On the Crown which left Aeschines discredited and so he left Athens and set up a school of rhetoric at Rhodes

¹ Aeschines, 1.5

² Gagarin, 2010, p.21

³ Gagarin, 2010, p.21

⁴ Gagarin, 2010, p.21

⁵ Aeschines, 1958, p.3

Abbr.?

Why are these quotes?

This source is contemporary; however, its intended purpose was to win over the courts therefore it has an agenda. On the other hand, the speech itself is very useful in understanding what it meant to be a "good citizen" in ancient Greece as well as understanding the honor system as in the speech Demosthenes later goes on to accuse Aeschines of misconduct via bribery.

The ancient Greeks understanding of the words "Democracy", "Oligarchy" and "Autocracy" were much different for example In early Athenian democracy was "the principle of democratic equality of all citizens applied"⁶ which Aeschines uses in his speech, this could be for a range of different reasons such as to gain the audiences attention or to bring attention to his next statement, however from what democracy meant in ancient Greece this would have been an important subject to bring up at it as something that the Greeks held in high regard. In addition to this the way that they viewed "Oligarchy" was also different as an "oligarchic regime excluded some of the free population even from basic political rights"⁷, This would have been a regime that appealed to citizens but as Athens was primarily a port city most of the residence was Metics (permanent foreigners) .

Bibliography

Aeschines, 1958. *The speeches of Aeschines : against Timarchus, on the embassy, against Ctesiphon*. s.l.:W. Heinemann.

Gagarin, M., 2009. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome*. s.l.: Oxford University Press.

Aeschines. and Adams, C. (1968). *The speeches of Aeschines*. London: Heinemann.

Management

Time - ⑧ - I gave myself plenty of time
management - ⑤ - I found it difficult as I had no clear structure to follow

⁶ Dikastikos misthos, 2006

⁷ Hornblower, 2012, p.1036

Structure

② I found it difficult to structure this exercise as I've never done one before
References

⑦ I managed to provide foot notes however I found it difficult to ref. ancient sources.
Critical engagement

⑥ I found a lot about the course but found it difficult to engage the course with it

Improvements

① Referencing

↳ Footnotes - abbreviations

② Quotations - ~~need to be shorter~~ **Avoid**

③ Structure - I need to structure so that I can engage with the source

④ Be more confident in your view and vice.

⑤ Proofread more carefully. Avoid long sentences.

60.

