

P2: Primary sources: Identify one primary source for your essay, and summarise the relevant information for your specific topic in 250 words. Remember to provide references throughout: Friday 8th November

---

The primary source I have chosen for Reconceptualizing Citizenship: Analysing Mothax Recognition within Spartan Societal Boundaries & Implications is the work of Plutarch on Lycurgus' background. (Plutarch, Lycurgus, 2.1)

The implications of this source are too important not to take a further analysis of; the exclusion of any mention that Lycurgus was a Mothax, explicitly class or otherwise, via poverty and/or birth from a potential helot mother (William Smith, 1867, A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology) despite their being older sources mentioning the concept of the class (Aristotle, '*Politics*', 3.1278a-3.1280a), (Xenophon, '*Hellenica*', 5.3.9) – and Aethenaeus explicitly mentions that he was also a slave, as was Callicratidas and Gylippos, the two other famous Mothax. This could be to remove the risk of those lower-class who may be reading from having ideas above their station – for there to be a way in society for those of lower standing to gain status.

The source also raises a few questions; if Lysander had a Spartiate father and Plutarch has left out that he also apparently had a helot mother, when there was at least 1 source mentioning this that could've supported this, how does he explain why he was allowed to go through the Agoge and become a Spartiate? He doesn't – he says that "youth in Sparta... succumb [to success and honour]" – he leaves it vague as possible, with no mention of the Agoge, of which there were many sources notably from Xenophon who lived near Sparta (Xenophon, '*Constitution of the Lacedaemonians*', 2) nor his potential half-slave heritage.

The questions of on what point does a Mothax actually start and end in the case of being half-citizen, half-slave, in poverty yet sponsored through the Agoge? Is it that Lysander, Gylippos and Callicratidas become Spartiate soldiers following their Graduation of the Agoge, and they are no longer Mothax? Are they Mothax and Spartiates? We have no source nor record for this anywhere from primary to the modern period, nor any assumption.

Plutarch's source on Lycurgus raises too many valuable questions on the validity of what a Mothax is and was during the time of the Spartans, his own period, and the reflection of Mothax up to the present day

The definition of a Mothax is explicitly that they are either; the son of a Spartiate and a helot slave, or a son of a Spartiate in poverty