

# Timotheos

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Timotheos was an Athenian general (*strategos*), son of the famous general Konon and member of a leading family of great power and wealth. He was a protagonist in the most significant moments of Athenian political and military life in the fourth century BCE, in parallel with the course of the Second Athenian League (see ATHENIAN CONFEDERACY, SECOND).

His first attested *strategia* (generalship) was in 378/7 BCE (Diod. Sic. 15.29.7), and it was followed by many successful operations in western Greece, where he extended the new league (CORCYRA, KEPHALLENIA, Akarnania, Molossia), defeated the Spartans near Leukades (Xen. *Hell.* 5.4.64–66; Nep. *Timoth.* 2), and revealed not only his military, but also his diplomatic and financial skills. In 373 he suffered a political setback after his removal and impeachment for delays during a naval expedition sent by the Athenians in aid of Corcyra; although acquitted, he left ATHENS and operated as chief commander of MERCENARIES at the orders of the Persian king (e.g., [Dem.] 49.9, 23).

In the 360s he recovered and reached the peak of his career thanks to the conquest of SAMOS and his operations in the North Aegean, where he intervened also against the Thracian king Cotys and against the Theban EPAMINONDAS, while he cooperated with the Spartan king AGESILAOS and the rebel satrap Ariobarzanes

(Isoc. 15.111; Dem. 23.150; Nep. *Timoth.* 1). However, failure to regain control over AMPHIPOLIS removed him from active service until the outbreak of the Social War in 357, when he was called back, together with IPHIKRATES, despite their old age. But after the ill-fated battle of Embata he concluded his career ingloriously, by reason of the trial brought by the other *strategos*, CHARES; after this he suffered EXILE until his death (Diod. Sic. 16.21.1–4; Nep. *Timoth.* 3).

His friend and teacher ISOCRATES tried to defend him in a long digression of the *Antidosis* (15.101–39). The digression did not save him, but the work had a wide resonance in the following centuries and set the topical portrait of a great statesman and a faithful and moderate citizen (*polites*), misunderstood by his fellow citizens.

SEE ALSO: Aegean Sea (Classical and later); Ariobarzanid Dynasty; Demosthenes, orator; Konon, Athenian *strategos*; *Strategoí*; Satraps; Social War, Classical Greece.

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