Translate the passage. As you translate the sentences, pay careful attention to words that go together, such as prepositional phrases and relative clauses. Breaking the sentences up into logical units is oftentimes a better first approach than attempting to translate all the words in succession.

Vocabulary and commentary is provided for each sentence. For words that do not appear in the vocabulary, please use your dictionary.

In his history of the Peloponnesian War (fought primarily between the πόλεις of Athens and Sparta), Thucydides documents the terms of a treaty made between the Spartans and the Persians in 412 BC. βασιλεύς here always refers to the King of Persia.

Ἐπὶ τοῖσδε ξυμμαχίαν ἐποίησαντο πρὸς βασιλέα καὶ Τισσαφέρνην Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι.

όποσην χώραν καὶ πόλεις βασιλεύς ἔχει καὶ οἱ πατέρες οἱ βασιλέως εἶχον, βασιλέως ἔστω· καὶ ἐκ τούτων τῶν πόλεων ὑπόσα Αθηναίοις ἐφοίτα χρήματα ἢ ἄλλο τι, κωλύοντων κοινῇ βασιλεὺς καὶ Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι ὑπὸς μὴ χρήματα λαμβάνωσιν Ἀθηναίοι μήτε ἄλλο μηδέν. καὶ τὸν πόλεμον τὸν πρὸς Ἀθηναίους κοινῇ πολεμοῦντων βασιλεύς καὶ Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι. καὶ κατάλυσιν τοῦ πολέμου πρὸς Αθηναίους μὴ ἔξεστο ποιεῖσθαι, ήν μὴ ἀμφοτέροις δοκῇ βασιλεί καὶ Λακεδαιμονίοις καὶ τοῖσ ξυμμάχοις.
Sentence One

Ἐπὶ τοῖσδε ξυµµαχίαν ἐποίησαντο πρὸς βασιλέα καὶ Τισσαφέρνην Λακεδαιµόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύµµαχοι.

ἐποίησαντο (3rd pl) they made
ξυµµαχίαν (acc sg) ἡ alliance
Τισσαφέρνη (acc sg) ὁ Tissaphernes (the Persian official representing Persia in this treaty)

Comments:
ἐπι: Translating prepositions can be tricky. In this case, when ἐπὶ is used with τοῖσδε, it literally translates as “on these things,” but in the sense of “based upon these things (terms).”

πρὸς: Another preposition that may initially elude translation. Use context to come up with the best meaning. What nouns does this preposition govern?

καὶ... καὶ: Note that here, the first καὶ links two accusatives, and the second καὶ two nominatives. It is not a “both...and” construction.

Sentence Two

ὁπόσην χώραν καὶ πόλεις βασιλεὺς ἔχει καὶ οἱ πατέρες οἱ βασιλέως εἶχον, βασιλέως ἔστω.

εἶχον (3rd pl) held
ἔστω let it be

ὁπόσην (acc sg) ἡ however much, all that

Comments:
ὁπόσην χώραν καὶ πόλεις βασιλεὺς ἔχει καὶ οἱ πατέρες οἱ βασιλέως εἶχον: This is a relative clause. ὁπόσην is a relative pronoun that here functions as an adjective. What noun does it modify?

οἱ πατέρες οἱ βασιλέως: The οἱ that modifies πατέρες is repeated. Why?

Sentence Three

καὶ ἐκ τούτων τῶν πόλεων ὁπόσα Ἀθηναίοις ἐφοίτα χρήσαντα ἢ ἄλλο τι, κωλυόντων κοινῇ βασιλεὺς καὶ Λακεδαιµόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύµµαχοι ὃπως µήτε χρήµατα λαµβάνωσιν Ἀθηναῖοι µήτε ἄλλο µηδέν.

ἄλλο (nom/acc sg) τὸ other
ἐφοίτα (3rd sg) accrued
κοινῇ (adv.) in common, together
κωλυόντων (3rd pl) Let them prevent
λαµβάνωσιν ~ λαµβάνουσιν

µηδέν (nom/acc sg) τὸ nothing
ὁπόσα (nom/acc pl) τὸ however much, all that
ὁπως so that
toúτων (gen pl) these
Comments:  
ὁπόσα Ἀθηναίοις ἐφοίτα: This is a relative clause. ὡς is a relative pronoun that here functions as an adjective. What noun does it modify? Note the accent on τι. Is this an interrogative or indefinite pronoun?

ἡ: Note the accent! This is a conjunction.

κωλύοντων: This form is an imperative. We cover imperatives in a later chapter. For now, translate the verb as “Let them prevent.” The “them” of this imperative is rendered in the nominative case in Greek.

ὅπως: This is a conjunction that introduces a Purpose Clause. Purpose clauses indicate the reason or purpose for which an action is done.

μήτε...μήτε: These negatives tend to link or join single words or clauses. What words are being linked in this sentence?

Sentence Four
καὶ τὸν πόλεμον τὸν πρὸς Ἀθηναίους κοινῆ πολεμοῦντων βασιλεὺς καὶ Λακεδαιμονίοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι.

πολεμοῦντων Let them make war

Comments:  
τὸν πόλεμον τὸν πρὸς Ἀθηναίους: The τὸν that modifies πόλεμον is repeated. Why?

πολεμοῦντων: As with κωλύοντων, above, this is an imperative that translates “Let them make war.” The “them” of this imperative is rendered in the nominative case in Greek.

Sentence Five
καὶ κατάλυσιν τοῦ πολέμου πρὸς Ἀθηναίους μὴ ἔξεστω ποιεῖσθαι, ἣν μὴ ἄμφοτέροις δοκῇ βασιλεί καὶ Λακεδαιμονίοι καὶ τοῖς ξυμμάχοις.

Comments:  
ἀμφοτέροις (dat pl) ὁ both  
δοκῇ ~ δοκεῖ  
ἔξεστω let it be possible  

δοκῇ ~ δοκεῖ: This form of δοκέω is often used impersonally. The subject of an impersonal verb is not rendered in Greek, and often is too vague to render from context. Translate as “it seems,” or “it seems best.” Other common examples of impersonal verbs include συμβαίνει “it happens,” ἔστι “it is possible/permitted,” and δηλοῖ “it is clear” (S 932-933). Many impersonal verbs take a dative, as here.