

Thucydides 8.18  
AGE Ch. 24

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 ἐποιήσαντο πρὸς βασιλέα καὶ Τισσαφέρνην  
Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι.  
ὀπόσῃν χώραν καὶ πόλεις βασιλεὺς ἔχει καὶ οἱ πατέρες οἱ βασιλέως εἶχον,  
βασιλέως ἔστω· καὶ ἐκ τούτων τῶν πόλεων ὀπόσα Ἀθηναίοις ἐφοίτα  
χρήματα ἢ ἄλλο τι, κωλυόντων κοινῇ βασιλεὺς καὶ Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ  
ξύμμαχοι ὅπως μήτε χρήματα λαμβάνωσιν Ἀθηναῖοι μήτε ἄλλο μηδέν. καὶ  
τὸν πόλεμον τὸν πρὸς Ἀθηναίους κοινῇ πολεμούντων βασιλεὺς καὶ  
Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι· καὶ κατάλυσιν τοῦ πολέμου πρὸς  
Ἀθηναίους μὴ ἐξέστω ποιεῖσθαι, ἣν μὴ ἀμφοτέροις δοκῇ βασιλεῖ καὶ  
Λακεδαιμονίοις καὶ τοῖς ξυμμάχοις.

### Sentence One

Ἐπὶ τοῖσδε ξυμμαχίαν ἐποιήσαντο πρὸς βασιλέα καὶ Τισσαφέρην Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι.

ἐποιήσαντο (3rd pl) they made  
ξύμμαχίαν (acc sg) ἡ alliance

Τισσαφέρην (acc sg) ὁ Tissaphernes (the  
Persian official representing Persia in this  
treaty)

#### Comments:

ἐπὶ: 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

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

εἶχον (3rd pl) held  
ἔστω let it be

ὅποσιν (acc sg) ἢ however much, all that

#### Comments:

ὅποσιν χώραν καὶ πόλεις βασιλεὺς ἔχει καὶ οἱ πατέρες οἱ βασιλέως εἶχον: This is a relative clause. ὅποσιν 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 ὅποσα Ἀθηναίοις ἐφοίτα χρήματα ἢ ἄλλο τι, κωλύοντων κοινῇ βασιλεὺς καὶ Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι ὅπως μήτε χρήματα λαμβάνωσιν Ἀθηναῖοι μήτε ἄλλο μηδέν.

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

μηδέν (nom/acc sg) τό nothing  
ὅποσα (nom/acc pl) τό however much, all  
that  
ὅπως so that  
τούτων (gen pl) these

**Comments:**

ὅποσα Ἀθηναίους ἐφοίτα χρήματα ἢ ἄλλο τι: This is a relative clause. ὅποσα 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?

ἦ: 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 κοινῇ πολεμούντων βασιλεὺς καὶ Λακεδαιμόνιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι.

πολεμούντων Let them make war

**Comments:**

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

πολεμούντων: 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 ἐξέστω ποιεῖσθαι, ἦν μὴ ἀμφοτέροις δοκῆ βασιλεῖ καὶ Λακεδαιμονίοις καὶ τοῖς συμμαχοῖς.

ἀμφοτέροις (dat pl) ὁ both  
δοκῆ ~ δοκεῖ  
ἐξέστω let it be possible

ἦν ~ εἶ  
κατάλυσιν –εως ἢ truce  
ποιεῖσθαι ~ ποιεῖν

**Comments:**

ἐξέστω: This verb takes a complementary infinitive.

δοκῆ ~ 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,” ἔξεστι “it is possible/permitted,” and δηλοῖ “it is clear” (S 932-933). Many impersonal verbs take a dative, as here.