

Johann P. Arnason / Peter Murphy (ed.)

---

*AGON,  
LOGOS,  
POLIS*

The Greek Achievement  
and its Aftermath



Franz Steiner Verlag Stuttgart

Johann P. Arnason / Peter Murphy (ed.)

*AGON,  
LOGOS,  
POLIS*

The Greek Achievement  
and its Aftermath



Franz Steiner Verlag Stuttgart  
2001

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme  
**Agon, logos, polis** : The Greek Achievement and its  
Aftermath / Johann P. Arnason/Peter Murphy (ed.) - Stuttgart :  
Steiner, 2001  
ISBN 3-515-07747-2



ISO 9706

Jede Verwertung des Werkes außerhalb der Grenzen des Urheberrechtsgesetzes ist unzulässig und strafbar. Dies gilt insbesondere für Übersetzung, Nachdruck, Mikroverfilmung oder vergleichbare Verfahren sowie für die Speicherung in Datenverarbeitungsanlagen. Gedruckt auf säurefreiem, alterungsbeständigem Papier. © 2001 by Franz Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden GmbH, Sitz Stuttgart. Druck: Druckerei Peter Proff, Eurasburg.  
Printed in Germany

## Contents

Acknowledgements .....	6
Introduction .....	7
<i>Oswyn Murray: Gnosis and Tradition</i> .....	15
<i>Louis A. Ruprecht: Why the Greeks?</i> .....	29
<i>Christian Meier: The Greeks: The Political Revolution in World History</i> ....	56
<i>Kurt A. Raaflaub: Political Thought, Civic Responsibility, and the Greek Polis</i> .....	72
<i>Jean-Pierre Vernant: Forms of Belief and Rationality in Greece</i> .....	118
<i>Pierre Vidal-Naquet: Beasts, Humans and Gods: The Greek View</i> .....	127
<i>Cornelius Castoriadis: Aeschylean Anthropogony and Sophoclean Self- Creation of Anthropos</i> .....	138
<i>Johann P. Arnason: Autonomy and Axiality: Comparative Perspectives on the Greek Breakthrough</i> .....	155
<i>Peter Murphy: Architectonics</i> .....	207
<i>Vassilis Lambropoulos: On the Notion of the Tragedy of Culture</i> .....	233
Notes on Contributors .....	256

## Acknowledgements

This volume had its origins in *Agon: A Conference on the Common Place, Tragic Fate, Contemporary Return and Democratic Future of the Classical* held in April 1997 at The Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio). The conference was organized jointly by the international political and social theory journal *Thesis Eleven* (Sage Publications) and the Program in Hellenic Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University.

The editors of *Agon, Logos, Polis* want to thank Vassilis Lambropoulos and Artemis Leontis for their vigorous partnership in the organization of the conference, and for their generous hospitality in hosting the conference.

We would also like to thank Kurt Raaflaub – for his advice, help and encouragement in the moving of this project from manuscript to published volume – and, for their support of the Agon conference, Kermit Hall, Dean of the College of Humanities, OSU; The Thomas E. Leontis Endowment for Modern Greek, OSU; The Greek Ministry of Culture; The Foundation for Hellenic Studies (Washington, D.C.).

We are grateful for the generous financial support that made this publication possible; thanks are due to the Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, Professor Michael Osborne, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at La Trobe University, and to our fellow editors of *Thesis Eleven*.

The original version of Christian Meier's paper in this volume appeared as "Die Griechen: die politische Revolution der Weltgeschichte" in *Saeculum* 33 (1982) 133–47.

The editors thank Editions du Seuil for their permission to translate and reproduce the following essays: Jean Pierre Vernant "Formes de croyance et formes de rationalité en Grèce" in *Entre mythe et politique* (Editions du Seuil, 1966); Pierre-Vidal Naquet, "Bêtes, hommes et dieux chez les Grecs" in *La Grèce ancienne, rites de passage et transgressions* (Editions du Seuil, 1992); and Cornelius Castoriadis, "Anthropogonie chez Aeschyle et autocreation de l'homme chez Sophocle" in C. Castoriadis, *Figures du pensable* (Editions du Seuil, 1999).

The translation of the Castoriadis paper was done by Stathis Gourgouris.