

Princeton/Stanford Working Papers in Classics

Thucydides and the invention of political science

Version 1.0

November 2005

Josiah Ober

Princeton University

Abstract: Thucydides self-consciously invented a new form of inquiry, which can reasonably be called “social and political science.” His intellectual goal was a new understanding of power and its relationship to human agency and the deep structures of human society. His understanding of agency and structure is in some ways reminiscent of the reflexivity theory developed by Anthony Giddens.

© Josiah Ober. jober@princeton.edu