

# PLOUTARCHOS, n.s.

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Plutarchus



Plutarchus ein natürlicher maister vnd außspruchender schribt außser ein gepre-  
ter vñ amrichter des kaisers Crayano ist zu diser zeit an Irreichyming vñ gloub-  
würdigkeit in fast großer achung gewest. von dem Dolicares in Irreichyming vñ gloub-  
Plutarchus der natürlicher maister ist in dem heiligthumb nachhaftig in de wort  
ren lauter verstantlich vnd in dem heiligthumb schreim der sinnen ein großer willfür  
gewest das er leichtlich vnd in dem heiligthumb schreim der sinnen ein großer willfür  
chus tet sundern fleiß dem gepriet des kaisers hat vnderhalten namlich Gottes erbe-  
digkeit. sein selbs erfantet. der ambleret man got vil bacher von mancherley materien vnd  
ing. vnd er hat als ein hobgelerter man got vil bacher von mancherley materien vnd  
sachen in Irreichyming vnd Irreichyming man got vil bacher von mancherley materien vnd  
tapfcher bey Crayano angenehme begabung erlangt.

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# Competition in Context *philonikia* in *Agesilaus-Pompey*

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## Abstract

In the *Lives* of Agesilaus and Pompey, Plutarch explores the role of competition in government and demonstrates that the absence or excess of *philonikia* is detrimental to a state. This balanced treatment of competition's role in government contrasts with Plutarch's negative presentation of *philonikia* in the *Moralia*, wherein Plutarch is commenting on contemporary society. This paper explores the possible influence that Plutarch's exposure to contemporary politics had on his presentation of the role of political competition in *Agesilaus-Pompey*.

**Key-Words:** Plutarch, *Philonikia*, *Praecepta gerendae reipublicae*

**A**lthough Plutarch has been characterized as one who lives in the past, he was very much a man of his times<sup>1</sup>.

He looked to history for inspiration, but his writings were not intended for those

seeking to decipher the past. He wrote for his contemporaries, some of who were engaged in or aspiring towards a life in politics. Plutarch was a connected man, who was well travelled from an early age, and intimate with the political elite and a member of embassies<sup>2</sup>. He

<sup>1</sup> As quite bluntly stated by R. H. BARROW, 1967, 146: "Plutarch lived in the past. His mind ranges freely over Greek mythology, religion, literature, and history. If he reflects upon these, he reflects upon people and motives, rather than upon movement and development of ideas and thoughts."

<sup>2</sup> See C. P. JONES, 1971, 13-19 for a detailed reconstruction of Plutarch's activities during his youth. Plutarch mentions his trip to Egypt at *Quaest. conviv.* 678 C, travelling to Delphi with Ammonius during Nero's visit at *de E Delphico* 385 B, and Smyrna's litigations before the proconsul at *anim. an corp. aff.* 501E-F. Plutarch mentions his participation in a delegation sent to the proconsul of Achaëa at *Praec. ger. reip.* 816C.