

## Simplified Timeline of the Early Peloponnesian War

431/0 BCE: Beginning of Peloponnesian War; Funeral Oration of Pericles  
430–426 BCE: Plague of Athens  
428/7 BCE: Mytilenian Debate  
422/1 BCE: Battle of Amphipolis; Peace of Nicias; *Erechtheus*  
~421–405 BCE: Construction of Erechtheion  
418/7 BCE: Battle of Mantinea  
~417–412 BCE: *Ion*  
416/5 BCE: Melian Dialogue  
415–413 BCE: Sicilian Expedition

## Erechtheus in the *Erechtheus* of Euripides

*Erechtheus* F 352 = Stob. Flor. 4.13.12.

Erechtheus(?): “So wise commanders ought to set a spear in motion with the gods, and not in spite of the gods.”

“ὥς σὺν θεοῖσι τοὺς σοφοὺς κινεῖν δόρυ στρατηλάτας χρή, τῶν θεῶν δὲ μὴ βία.”

*Erechtheus* F 353 = Stob. Flor. 4.13.13.

Erechtheus(?): “No one leading injustices to war comes back safe and sound.”

“οὐδεὶς στρατεύσας ἄδικα σῶς ἦλθεν πάλιν.”

*Erechtheus* F 360.7–8, 11–15 = Lycurg. 1.100.

Praxithea: “First, we are not an alien people from another place, but were born autochthonous.... Whosoever may inhabit a polis from another polis, like a useless fastening fixed in a piece of timber, is a citizen in word, but not in deeds. Next, we bear children for the sake of this: so that we may protect both the altars of the gods and the fatherland.”

“ἢ πρῶτα μὲν λεῶς οὐκ ἐπακτὸς ἄλλοθεν, αὐτόχθονες δ’ ἔφυμεν... ὅστις δ’ ἀπ’ ἄλλης πόλεος οἰκήσῃ πόλιν, ἀρμὸς πονηρὸς ὥσπερ ἐν ξύλῳ παγείς, λόγῳ πολίτης ἐστί, τοῖς δ’ ἔργοισιν οὐ. ἔπειτα τέκνα τοῦδ’ ἕκατι τίκτομεν, ὡς θεῶν τε βωμοὺς πατρίδα τε ῥυώμεθα.”

*Erechtheus* F 360a = Plut. Mor. Prae. Ger. Reip. 809d.

Praxithea: “I love my children, but I love my fatherland more.”

“Φιλῶ τέκν’, ἀλλὰ πατρίδ’ ἐμὴν μᾶλλον φιλῶ.”

Matthew Finnie

“Descent from the Earthborn: The Exemplar of Erechtheus within Euripidean Tragedy”

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## Erechtheus in the *Ion* of Euripides

### *Ion* 278, 282

Kreousa: “He dared to slaughter the maidens, victims before the earth.... The blows of the trident of Poseidon utterly destroyed him.”

“ἔτλη πρὸ γαίας σφάγια παρθένους κτανεῖν.... πληγαὶ τριαίνης ποντίου σφ’ ἀπώλεσαν.”

### *Ion* 1058–1060

Chorus: “May no other ever rule from the other households of the polis except one of the well-born Erechtheidai!”

“μηδέ ποτ’ ἄλλος ἄλλων ἀπ’ οἴκων πόλεως ἀνάσσοι πλὴν τῶν εὐγενετῶν Ἐρεχθειδῶν.”

### *Ion* 1291, 1293, 1295

Kreousa: “I sought to kill you, being an enemy to my house.... Yes, indeed, you were burning the house of Erechtheus.... You were about to inhabit my house, seizing my house by force.”

“ἔκτεινά σ’ ὄντα πολέμιον δόμοις ἐμοῖς.... μάλιστα: κἀπίμπρης γ’ Ἐρεχθέως δόμους.... ἔμελλες οἰκεῖν τᾶμ’, ἐμοῦ βία λαβῶν.”

### *Ion* 1463–1467

Kreousa: “I am no longer childless, and we are not barren. The house is established, and the land has a *tyrannos*. Erechtheus grows young again, and the earthborn house no longer looks upon the night, but looks up at the rays of the Sun.”

“ἄπαιδες οὐκέτ’ ἐσμέν οὐδ’ ἄτεκνοι· δῶμ’ ἐστιοῦται, γὰρ δ’ ἔχει τυράννους· ἀνηβᾶ δ’ Ἐρεχθεύς, ὃ τε γηγενέτας δόμος οὐκέτι νύκτα δέρκεται, ἀελίου δ’ ἀναβλέπει λαμπάσιν.”