

SSP100.001 Democracy Inaction
What does it mean to be Greek?

Herodotus *Histories* 8.144.2:

τὸ Ἑλληνικὸν ἔον ὁμαιμόν τε καὶ ὁμόγλωσσον καὶ θεῶν ἰδρύματά τε
κοινὰ καὶ θυσίαι ἤθεά τε ὁμότροπα

... the kinship of all Greeks in blood and speech, and the shrines of gods and the
sacrifices that we have in common, and the likeness of our way of life

Isocrates *Panegyricus* 50:

τοσοῦτον δ' ἀπολέλοιπεν ἡ πόλις ἡμῶν περὶ τὸ φρονεῖν καὶ λέγειν τοὺς
ἄλλους ἀνθρώπους, ὥσθ' οἱ ταύτης μαθηταὶ τῶν ἄλλων διδάσκαλοι
γεγόνασιν, καὶ τὸ τῶν Ἑλλήνων ὄνομα πεποίηκε μηκέτι τοῦ γένους ἀλλὰ
τῆς διανοίας δοκεῖν εἶναι, καὶ μᾶλλον Ἑλληνας καλεῖσθαι τοὺς τῆς
παιδείσεως τῆς ἡμετέρας ἢ τοὺς τῆς κοινῆς φύσεως μετέχοντας.

And so far has our city distanced the rest of mankind in thought and in speech that her
pupils have become the teachers of the rest of the world; and she has brought it about
that the name Hellenes suggests no longer a race but an intelligence, and that the title
Hellenes is applied rather to those who share our culture than to those who share a
common blood.