In early autumn 404 the Spartan commander Lysandros sailed his fleet into Piraeus, the harbor of Athens. He had cut the Athenians off from their vital grain supplies in the Black Sea and pared away their major maritime allies. Meanwhile, Spartan armies under Kings Agis and Pausanias had won control of Attika itself during the final, or Dekeleian, stage of the war. Defeated, isolated, and starving, the Athenians surrendered to these irresistible forces, thereby ending the Peloponnesian War. A weary Greece greeted the event with relief and enthusiasm. Even many defeated Athenians shared the sentiment. At Athens the Long Walls were pulled down with great festivity, all to the music of flute girls. Many Greeks hopefully thought that the end of the war would bring the beginning of freedom to them. That desire would prove to be an abiding yearning of the fourth-century Greeks. Their inability to realize it would equally prove to be their gravest political failure. Moreover, the war had left a predictable, bitter legacy. In short, victory had not brought peace. Rather, it caused as many problems as it had supposedly solved. The basic difficulty was that the Spartans, like many other conquerors, found it easier to defeat the enemy than to win the peace. The fault lay in the several factors that they lacked in some degree sustained experience in broader Aegean affairs, suffered from the insularity of their institutions, and lacked a corps of officers capable of effectively administering an empire. The sources of external trouble also numbered three. First and perhaps most perilous for them was their disagreements with their Greek allies, who expected rewards for their considerable efforts during the war. Second, the Spartans confronted serious internal problems in Athens itself. Defeat sparked among the Athenians a crisis that shook the very foundations of their democracy. Oligarch clashed with democrat in a conflict that the Spartans must either exploit or resolve. The last and equally intransigent quandry was their need to honor their treaty obligations to the Persians, whose decisive help had enabled them to defeat