## **CONTENTS**

List of Illustrations	xi
List of Tables	xii
Preface	xiii
List of Abbreviations	xvii
Athenian Money, Taxes, Revenues	xviii
Chapter One	
Introduction: Dispersed Knowledge and Public Action	1
Theory and Practice	3
Rational Choice and Joint Action	6
Premises and Problem	12
Caveats and Method	22
The Argument and Its Contexts	28
Experts and Interests	34
Hypothesis	37
Chapter Two	
Assessing Athenian Performance	39
Historical Evaluation	40
Aggregate Flourishing	43
Distribution of Coinage	48
Athens versus Syracuse and Sparta	52
Citations in Greek Literature and Other Measures	53
Athens × 12: A Multiperiod Case Study	55
Democracy as an Explanatory Variable	70
Republics, Democracies, and Athenian Exceptionalism	75
Chapter Three	
Competition, Scale, and Varieties of Knowledge	80
Competition and Its Consequences	80
Participation and Scale	84
Social, Technical, and Latent Knowledge	90
Preferences, Parties, and Costly Information	97
Hierarchy, Democracy, and Productivity	102
Knowledge Processes as Public-Action Strategies	106

viii CONTENTS

Chapter Four		
Aggregation: Networks, Teams, and Experts	118	
Institutional Design: Incentives, Low Cost, Sorting		
Establishing a Naval Station, 325/4 B.C.	118 124	
Demes and Tribes as Social Networks	134	
The Council of 500: Structural Holes and Bridging Ties	142	
Organizational and Individual Learning	151	
Boards of Magistrates as Real Teams	156	
Ostracism, Assembly, and People's Courts	160	
Chapter Five		
Alignment: Common Knowledge, Commitment,		
and Coordination	168	
Alignment and Hierarchy	169	
Following Leaders, Rules, and Commitments	172	
Cascading and Social Equilibrium	179	
A Trial for Treason, 330 B.C.	183	
Common Knowledge and Publicity	190	
Rational Rituals and Public Monuments	194	
Architecture and Intervisibility	199	
Scaling Common Knowledge	205	
Chapter Six		
Codification: Access, Impartiality, and Transaction Costs	211	
Intention and Interpretation	211	
Open Entry, Fair Procedure, and Transaction Costs	214	
A Law on Silver Coinage, 375/4 B.C.	220	
Silver Owls, Athenian and Imitation	226	
Approval, Certification, Confiscation	231	
Legal Standing and Social Status	241	
Rules and Rents: Historical Survey	245	
Expanding Access	249	
Democracy and Social Security	254	
Horizons of Fairness	258	
Chapter Seven		
Conclusions: Government by the People	264	
Knowledge in Action	264	
The Democracy/Knowledge Hypothesis Revisited	268	
Formality and Experimentation	270	
Institutions and Ideology	272	
Exceptionalism and Exemplarity	276	

CONTENTS	

APPENDIX A. Aggregate Material Flourishing	281
APPENDIX B. Distribution of Coins in Hoards	285
APPENDIX C. Prominence in Classical Greek Literature	287
APPENDIX D. Impact of Constitution and Historical Experience	289
APPENDIX E. Athenian State Capacity and Democracy, 600–250 B.C.	292
Bibliography	295
Index	333

