Department of Classics presents: Citizen Soldiers in the Ancient Near East and Greece

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Author of Thebes: A History (Routledge 2017)



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Warfare was fundamental to state formation and the articulation of ideas about freedom, citizenship, and political participation in the ancient Near East and Greece. Military service provided opportunities for individuals and whole groups to gain civic rights and exert political influence. And although significant imbalances remained, leaders constantly had to negotiate between all levels of society. Despite the traditional dichotomy between East and West, this talk demonstrates that there were many similarities in how cities in ancient Mesopotamia and Greece waged war and engaged in politics.