

# Ancient Greek Civilization: Sources and Material Records

## I. Introduction

### A. Challenges faced by historians

1. Limited sources for ancient civilizations
2. Continuous discovery and new perspectives

## II. Sources: How We Know About Ancient Greeks

### A. Physical remains

1. Bones, buildings, artifacts
  - B. Written remains
2. Greek texts or texts about Greeks
3. Blurred line between material and written sources

## III. Roles of Experts in Analyzing Sources

### A. Archaeologists

1. Excavate, classify, interpret material evidence
  - B. Paleographers
2. Decipher and elucidate texts
  - C. Epigraphists and numismatists
3. Interpret inscriptions on stones and coins

## IV. Archaeology vs. History

### A. Archaeologists study material culture

1. Examine changing patterns in physical record
  - B. Historians use documents and texts
2. Construct narrative of events and people
  - C. Both disciplines collaborate to reconstruct Greek lifeways

## V. Retrieving the Past: The Material Record

### A. Ancient Greece lies underground

1. Limited preservation of materials
  - B. Artifacts

2. Wood, cloth, leather rarely found
3. Metals: gold, silver, bronze, iron
4. Terra-cotta (clay)
  - a. Figurines, votive plaques, vessels
  - b. Basis for chronology of prehistoric & early historic Greece
  - c. Clay pots
5. Variety of shapes, sizes, purposes
6. Chronological sequencing & cross-dating
7. "Absolute" dating through objects from other cultures
  - a. Example: Egyptian scarab with king's name
  - d. Modern archaeology techniques
8. Carbon-14 dating for organic materials

## I. Introduction

- A. Importance of written records in understanding ancient history
- B. Limitations of wordless objects in learning about ancient people

## II. Retrieving the Past: The Written Record

### A. Materials used for ancient writings

1. Clay
2. Stone
3. Metal
4. Papyrus
5. Parchment (from 2nd century BC)
  - B. Greek alphabet and Linear B writing
  - C. Papyrus rolls
6. Process of creating
7. Average length and content capacity
  - D. Copying texts by hand
8. Expensive and time-consuming
9. Role of slaves in copying
  - E. Libraries and preservation of texts

10. Alexandria's library
11. Pergamum's library
  - F. Factors affecting survival of manuscripts
12. Environment
13. Literary tastes
  - G. Inscriptions on stone and metal

### III. Literary Sources and Genres

#### A. Variety of genres

1. Poetry (epic, lyric, tragedy, comedy)
2. Prose (history, biography, oratory, philosophy)
  - B. Importance of different genres as sources
  - C. Mythical vs. historical narratives
  - D. Limitations of written sources
3. Bias and subjectivity
4. Focus on privileged groups

### IV. Synopsis of Written Sources by Periods

#### A. 3000-700 BC

1. Bronze Age
2. Linear B tablets
3. Oral tradition
4. Homer's Iliad and Odyssey
  - B. 700-490 BC (Archaic Age)
5. Hesiod's Theogony and Works and Days
6. Lyric poetry
7. Absence of historical writings
  - C. 490-323 BC (Classical Period)
8. Herodotus and Thucydides
9. Xenophon
10. Drama, poetry, and philosophy
11. Tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides

12. Comedies of Aristophanes and Menander

13. Philosophers Plato and Aristotle

#### The Physical Context: The Land of Greece

- Greece covers the southern portion of the Balkan peninsula and the islands to the west and east of the mainland.
- Greece is about the size of England or the state of Alabama in the United States.
- The landscape is rugged, with mountains covering almost 75 percent of the land.
- Only about 30 percent of the land can be cultivated, and only about 20 percent is classified as good agricultural land.
- The mountains and lower hills cut the land into many narrow coastal plains, and upland plains and valleys.
- By far the easiest way to travel was by sea, especially in the islands and the southern mainland.
- The Aegean tied the Greeks to the Near East and Egypt, commercially, culturally, politically, and militarily.
- The Mediterranean climate is semiarid, with long, hot, dry summers and short, cool, moist winters.
- The generally mild weather permitted outdoor activity for most of the year.
- The soil in Greece, though rocky, is fairly rich.
- Wood, essential for fuel and construction, especially shipbuilding, was originally abundant in the highland areas.
- Water is scarce in Greece, and farming depended on the limited annual rainfall.
- Greece has a variety of local landscapes and micro-climates with different resources.

#### Food and Livestock

- The soil and climate amply supported the “Mediterranean triad” of grain, grapes, and olives.
- Bread, wine, and olive oil were the staples of the Greek diet throughout antiquity and for long afterward.

- Legumes, several kinds of vegetables, fruits, and nuts varied the basic components of bread, porridges, and olive oil.
- Cheese, meat, and fish supplemented the diet, but meat provided a very small part of the average family's daily food intake.
- The pasturing of small animals did not interfere with agriculture.
- Flocks of sheep and goats grazed on hilly land that could not be farmed and on the fallow fields.
- Pigs were kept for their economic importance.
- The Greeks did not care for butter and drank little milk.
- Their beverages were water or wine (usually diluted with water).

### Early Greece and the Bronze Age

- Ancient Greece was primarily a land of small-scale farmers, with agriculture being the fundamental economic fact that governed every aspect of Greek society, from politics to war to religion.
- Herds of cattle and horses were a status symbol for the rich, and only the wealthy could afford the luxury of keeping them in large numbers.
- The small agricultural plain and its surrounding hillsides were the major unifying forces within the Greek city-states, and the perpetual tension between those citizens who had much land and those who had little or none was the primary disunifying force throughout Greek history.
- Humans entered Greece about 40,000 years ago, during the Middle Paleolithic Age. These early inhabitants lived mainly by hunting and some gathering of wild plants.
- Early in the Neolithic Age, the inhabitants began to cultivate wild cereals and other plants, domesticate animals, and weave cloth on a loom. Agriculture forces people to settle down permanently, and small farming villages sprang up.
- Nearly four thousand years after the adoption of agriculture, another fundamental technological innovation was introduced into the villages of Greece: bronze.
- Neolithic craftsmen in southeastern Europe and western Asia were already skilled at smelting and casting copper, but adding 10 percent of tin to copper to

produce bronze was a pivotal step. Tools and weapons of bronze were considerably more efficient than those made of stone, bone, or copper.

- Greece attained a fairly high level of social complexity during its Early Bronze Age, with the remains of Lerna in Argolis, for example, showing that it was a large town with stone fortification walls and monumental buildings, the largest of which may have been the house of the ruling chief.
- The incursion of a new people who spoke an early form of Greek during the Middle Bronze Age is traditionally associated with the destructions and the cultural stagnation that followed in Lerna and similar sites in southern and central Greece. However, when the first Greek-speakers arrived and the route they took remain open questions today.
- The newcomers were part of a great and lengthy ancient migration of peoples, known collectively as the Indo-Europeans. Ancient Greece owed its rise in the second millennium to its close contact with the palace-kingdoms of the Near East.

#### Early Greece and the Bronze Age:

1. Proto-Indo-European: Scholars concluded that ancient languages, such as Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit, as well as their descendants, all descended from a common linguistic ancestor termed “Proto-Indo-European.”
2. Greeks: The Greek language completely submerged the non-Indo-European “Aegean” languages. It is likely that the Greek-speakers initially dominated the indigenous populations, but by the end of the Middle Bronze Age, the two peoples had merged into a single people and culture.
3. Aegean Civilizations: Around the time when Greek-speakers entered the Aegean (c. 2000 BC), the first palaces appear on the island of Crete, signaling that the Cretans had joined the company of complex state societies. Late nineteenth-century archaeological discoveries unearthed the ruins of Troy, Mycenae, and Knossos, confirming the Greeks’ remembrance of their heroic age (i.e., the Late Bronze Age) as a time of fabulous wealth and splendor.
4. Minoans: Crete became a land of small city-kingdoms, and the earliest large multiroom complex (which Evans named the “Palace of Minos”) was built about 2000 BC at Knossos. Other major palaces followed at Phaistos, Mallia, Zakro, and elsewhere, each center controlling an area of a few hundred square miles.

The Minoan political and cultural flowering in Crete was likely due to the island's inclusion in international trade.

- Ancient Greece was influenced by civilizations of the Near East, especially Egypt.
- Knossos was the center of a kingdom that utilized storage and redistribution for their economy.
- Linear A writing was used for economic and administrative records.
- Minoan art and architecture borrowed from older civilizations but developed their own style.

## II. Minoan Art and Architecture

- Knossos was constructed with stone and mud brick and had a large number of rooms.
- Porticoes, balconies, and loggias decorated the exterior, and light wells and conduits provided water and waste disposal.
- Minoan art features youthful and graceful men and women with gold jewelry.
- The city of Akrotiri on Thera was a prosperous city that absorbed Cretan art and culture into their own culture.

## III. Greece and the Aegean in the Late Bronze Age

- Trading contacts between Crete and southern and central Greece began as early as 2000 BC.
- Mycenaean civilization adopted the Cretan state model, including their writing system.
- The Mycenaeans eventually invaded Crete and took over their palace-centers.

## IV. The Early Mycenaeans

- During the Middle Bronze Age, Greece saw a rise in population, productivity, and trade, leading to the evolution of warrior-chiefs into monarchs.
- Bronze Age settlements in mainland and island Greece became major centers, with grand palaces built in the fourteenth and thirteenth centuries.
- Early Mycenaean civilization is known mainly through graves and offerings interred with the deceased, revealing their use of bronze daggers, tholos tombs,

and gold masks.

### The Mycenaean Period

- In Mycenae, Greece, “shaft” graves were used for burials from a little before 1600 to a little after 1500.
- The earlier graves contained many bronze weapons and local pottery, but little gold or jewelry.
- Later graves contained more expensive objects and attested to the growth of Mycenaean trade and the greater control of the ruling class over the economy and society.
- Tholos tombs were used from around 1500 BC by noble families to inter their dead.
- Shortly after the tholos tombs were used, Greeks from the mainland invaded and defeated the Cretans, taking over their wealthy society.
- The Mycenaeans ruled in the manner of Cretan kings but did keep certain mainland ways.
- The prosperity of Mycenaean Crete was short-lived and around 1375 BC, Knossos was burned and looted, leading to the decline of the Cretan economy and culture.
- The most likely suspects for the destruction of Knossos were other mainland Mycenaeans.

### The Linear B Tablets

- Linear B tablets have given up most of their secrets.
- It was discovered by Michael Ventris that the language of the Linear B tablets was not Cretan, but an early form of Greek.
- The decoding of Linear B has illuminated not only the historical relationship between Greece and Crete but also the workings of the Mycenaean palace system.
- The language of the Linear A script remains unknown.

### The Later Mycenaeans

- The palace-complexes whose ruins we see today were built in the fourteenth and thirteenth centuries during the final phase of Mycenaean wealth and power.

- They imitated Minoan style but were smaller and usually located on a commanding hill, encircled by high, thick walls for protection.
- They utilized space differently from the Minoans and made the megaron the focus of their palaces.
- The megaron was a large rectangular hall used for feasts, councils, and receptions of visitors.
- Despite their cultural similarities, the Mycenaeans were not unified politically but were divided into separate small kingdoms.
- The Mycenaeans had diplomatic relations with the Hittite empire, which covered Anatolia and Syria, and Egypt during its “New Kingdom” period (c. 1575–1087 BC).

#### A Brief Overview of Mycenaean Greece

- Mycenaean Greece was a prominent civilization that existed from approximately 1600-1100 BC.
- Mycenaeans were the people who occupied Greece during this period and are believed to be the ancestors of the classical Greeks.
- The Hittite archives record exchanges of letters and gifts between the Hittite kings and the Mycenaean Achaeans.
- Finds of Mycenaean pottery and metalwork show that they had a prominent position in the region, and they were likely seaborne marauders.
- The discovery of the “palace of Nestor” confirmed that the Pylos of the legends had been an actual Bronze Age center.
- Mycenaean kingdoms were large and highly organized, with centralized production and distribution systems.
- The king (wanax) stood at the apex of the pyramid, followed by the lawagetas, whose title may be loosely translated as “leader of the army.”
- Mycenaean society was divided into the highest officials, a large bureaucracy of military and administrative officers and minor officials, and the majority of people who produced the wealth.
- The palace-complex was the hub of the kingdom’s economy, employing large numbers of workers who turned raw materials into finished products for both

domestic consumption and export.

- Mycenaean religion involved honoring gods with processions, music, and dance, and propitiating them with gifts and sacrifices.
- Mycenaean gods included Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Hermes, Athena, Artemis, and possibly Apollo, Ares, and Dionysus, with the palace as the center of religious activity.

## Introduction

In this section, we learn about the "Dark Age" of Greece, a period of decline and slow recovery that lasted from the twelfth century BC until the eighth century. During this time, Greece underwent significant changes in social and political patterns, which gave rise to a new type of political organization, the city-state (polis).

## Decline and Recovery (c. 1150-900 BC)

During the Dark Age, Greece experienced a significant decline in its economic and cultural vitality. The elaborate redistributive system, palace staffs, state armies, and monumental stone buildings were no longer present. The luxury imports, such as bronze and gold, also decreased as trade links were broken. Towns and villages were abandoned, and people migrated to other places, resulting in overall depopulation. The population of Greece was at its lowest in a thousand years by 1000 BC.

## Emergence of the City-State (c. 900-700 BC)

During the Dark Age, Greece experienced a slow recovery. The people transitioned from being subjects of a centralized monarchy to autonomous groups living in small communities. These communities, known as "basileis," elected officials, including a leader or "archon," who governed the community. These communities traded with each other, which resulted in the establishment of marketplaces or "agoras." Eventually, these basileis merged to form a new type of political organization, the city-state or polis.

## Significance of the Dark Age

The Dark Age was a crucial period in Greek history that marked the transition from Mycenaean civilization to the emergence of the city-state. During this time, Greece underwent significant changes in social and political patterns, which gave rise to a new type of political organization that would shape Greek society for centuries to come.

## Recovery and Innovation in the Dark Age of Greece

- The Dark Age of Greece was a period of decline, poverty, and stagnation after the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization, but recent archaeological findings indicate that some regions recovered sooner than others and in different forms.
- Farmers, herders, women, potters, metalworkers, and carpenters continued their activities, though at a lower level of skill and refinement, and religious rituals and worship of gods persisted.
- New technological innovations appeared, such as the superior pottery style called Protogeometric, which originated in Attica and spread to other regions, and the mastery of iron smelting and working by Greek metal workers, who produced harder and more durable weapons and tools than bronze.
- An accelerated movement from the Greek mainland across the Aegean Sea to the Anatolian coast occurred around 1050, creating settlements that would become thriving cities and a large permanent presence in the East, ensuring that the Aegean Sea would one day be known as the "Greek Sea".
- The dissolution of ties that had bound the outlying settlements to the palace-complexes and to one another left them largely on their own politically and economically, leading to a possible reversion to government by local "big men" similar to pre-Mycenaean times.
- The Dark Age village of Nichoria in southwestern Peloponnesus was a fairly prosperous village-cluster presided over by a local "big man" who lived in a large tenth-century building that functioned as the religious center and communal storehouse.
- Lefkandi on the island of Euboea was a much wealthier settlement that revived after the collapse of the palace system and prospered during the Dark Age, with the discovery of a large Dark Age building and two burial shafts sunk into its central room revealing the burial of a wealthy, hereditary chief or an elite "warrior class" with Eastern contacts and his wife of equal social status, adorned with costly imports such as a gold necklace believed to have been fashioned in the Near East at least 650 years before the time of the burial.

## The Dark Age of Greece and the Eighth-Century Renaissance

In the Dark Age of Greece (1100-750 BC), the Mycenaean civilization collapsed, and Greek culture was impoverished and isolated. However, archaeological discoveries

at Lefkandi and Nichoria reveal that some regions of Greece were still wealthy and socially complex. Around 900 BC, the Geometric period emerged, characterized by new artistic and aesthetic features, such as linear angular motifs and the meander pattern. Ninth-century craftsmen produced costly luxury items like fine gold jewelry, ivory carvings, and bronze vessels, attesting to the renewed availability of raw materials from abroad.

Title: Homer and Oral Poetry

Homer is revered as the greatest Greek poet, who composed the Iliad and the Odyssey in the eighth and seventh centuries BC. These epics are set in the age of heroes, and though they may not tell us about actual Greek society, they give insight into its interests, passions, ideologies, and social institutions. Homer's Greece is divided geographically into independent regions of various sizes, each constituting a *demos*. The official title borne by warrior-leaders is *basileus*, which denotes a minor official, apparently a sort of mayor or headman of a town or village within a Mycenaean kingdom. The epics are not really about history nor are they about the Trojan War but about social dramas enacted against a background of history and war.

#### Social and Political Organization in Homeric Greece

- The Homeric *basileus* was not an absolute monarch but rather a chief, a leader with great authority and stature, yet limited power to coerce others.
- Social life was centered on local communities, which were closely knit through generations of intermarrying with other families within the village and in other villages of the same *demos*. Law was customary law, and public disapproval would have sufficed to deter antisocial behavior.
- The smallest unit of Dark Age society was the household (*oikos*), which was the center of a person's existence. Greek society was patrilineal and patriarchal. All members of a *basileus'* *oikos* do a share of the work, and most of the labor of a wealthy household was provided by slaves and poor free men who worked as hired hands.
- The main economic resource for each family in a village or town was its ancestral plot of farmland called a *kleros*. Without a *kleros*, a man could not marry. A lotless man had two options: he could eke out a precarious existence on a poor patch of unclaimed marginal land, or hire on as a *thes*.

- In Homeric society, raiding was a way of life, and chiefs constantly exchanged gifts and feasts. A basileus should be both a good warrior and a persuasive speaker, and his status is measured by how many warriors follow him. A weak successor will be challenged by rivals eager to replace him as head chief.
- Governmental institutions in Homeric society were few and simple. A council, the boule, made up of chiefs and other influential men, met to discuss policy for the demos. The leader has the decisive voice, but usually heeds the advice and counsel of the "elders." Their deliberations were presented to an assembly of the people, held outdoors in the agora or "place of gathering." The top basileus played a religious role in the life of the community, which was divinely sanctioned.

## Ancient Greek Society and Values

### Social Classes:

- Greek society was divided into social classes, including aristocrats (wealthy landowners), small farmers, and slaves.
- Aristocrats were considered the most important class and held political power.
- Small farmers had little political power and often struggled to make ends meet.
- Slaves were the lowest class and had no rights.

### Government:

- City-states were the basic unit of government in ancient Greece.
- Athens and Sparta were two of the most well-known city-states.
- Athens had a democratic government, while Sparta had an oligarchic government.
- The assembly in Athens was made up of male citizens who met regularly to make decisions.

### Religion:

- The ancient Greeks had a polytheistic religion, meaning they worshipped multiple gods and goddesses.
- Gods and goddesses were anthropomorphized, meaning they had human-like characteristics.
- Temples and sacrifices were an important part of religious practices.

Values:

- Homeric society valued bravery, loyalty, self-control, and hospitality.
- Warrior societies valued strength and skill in battle.
- Hospitality was very important and was enforced through the institution of xenia, or guest-friendship.
- Men were considered the dominant sex, and women were expected to fulfill traditional roles as wives and mothers.
- Greek women had limited opportunities for education and political power.

The "Dark Age" of Greece and the Eighth-Century "Renaissance"

The End of the Dark Age:

- Eighth century marked a period of population growth, technological innovations, and political centralization in many parts of Greece
- Known as the "Greek Renaissance" because it appeared to be a revival of the Mycenaean Age
- Trade links multiplied, communication with the East intensified, writing was reintroduced, and new communities were established
- People of neighboring areas celebrated religious rituals together, competed in producing luxury items and building monumental temples
- Eighth century was not a radical break from the past but rather an acceleration of trends visible since the tenth century

The Rise of a Landowning Aristocracy:

- Population growth put pressure on the land, and elite families had already appropriated the best pasture land for themselves
- They converted more of this land to growing crops, which allowed them to acquire more arable land and come to own a disproportionate amount of the total land
- Majority continued to live off small-to-medium farm plots and a few animals
- Scarcity of land was not an issue, but the most productive land was concentrated in the hands of a minority of families

- For those who couldn't inherit enough land, relocation abroad was a solution to land hunger

#### Colonization and the Growth of Trade:

- Substantial numbers of people left Greece to establish new farming communities in southern Italy and Sicily in the second half of the eighth century
- Overseas trade with foreigners, which had been increasing since the tenth century, expanded considerably in the eighth century
- Greek ships were competing with the Phoenicians in the Mediterranean
- Colonization and expansion of trade had broad economic effects throughout the towns and villages of the Greek world
- Writing spread quickly throughout the Greek-speaking world and was used for civic and commercial purposes

#### The Alphabet and Writing:

- Greeks borrowed letters from the Phoenician alphabet and adapted them to represent the sounds of the Greek consonants
- Changed the value of other consonant signs, making them into vowels, creating an alphabet that was largely phonetic
- One of the earliest uses for the alphabet was to write down verses of poetry
- Another early function of writing was to record ownership of personal property and keep commercial accounts
- Writing spread quickly throughout the Greek-speaking world as numerous local scripts with variations in forms, numbers of characters, and sounds

#### Art and Architecture:

- New direction in artistic representation became apparent in the pottery of the Late Geometric period
- Depictions of animals and humans became frequent, and artists began to paint action scenes
- Monumental temple emerged as the "signature" Greek architectural form in the eighth century
- Early temples resembled ordinary houses, but they became larger and more complex with time

- Greeks deliberately used elements of Near Eastern and Egyptian art, sculpture, and architecture in their works

## Archaic Greece (c. 700-500 BC)

### Introduction:

- The forces of change continued to sweep over Greece in the seventh and sixth centuries.
- Greeks founded more colonies and trade dispersed Greek goods far beyond the limits known to Bronze Age traders.
- The Panhellenic shrines, festivals, and oracles grew in number and importance, fostering the sense of a common Greek identity.
- The Archaic period also saw new forms of literary, artistic, and intellectual expression.

### Formation of the City-State (Polis):

- A city-state is a defined geographical area comprising a central city and its adjacent territory, which together make up a single, self-governing political unit.
- The Greeks called this arrangement a polis, which gives us "political," "politics," and "policy."
- All members of the demos, whether they lived in the capital or the countryside, were called politai (members of the polis).
- The process by which a demos became unified is called "synoecism," from sun-oik-ismos ("uniting the oikoi").
- Drawing them together into a single political unit was merely a matter of making formal the ancient ties of kinship and neighborliness.
- Regional unification appears for the most part to have been voluntary and peaceful, but some places used intimidation and even force to integrate reluctant towns and villages into a political union.

### The Dark Side of the Archaic Period:

- Wars among Greeks became more frequent, and warfare itself became more lethal.
- Strife within a demos became commonplace as leaders wrangled among themselves over power-sharing and the poorer citizens fought for economic

relief and their civic rights.

#### Suggested Readings:

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#### Archaic Greece

##### Government in the Early City-States

- Ethnos was a form of political organization in some regions without a capital polis or central government, but with a strong sense of common identity.
- Landowning aristocracy eliminated the position of paramount basileus and ruled collectively in emerging city-states.
- Early poleis had different governmental structures, but all followed a similar pattern of distributing leadership roles and increasing the importance of the council of aristocratic “elders”.
- New governance systems were a response to changing conditions such as sustained population growth, increasing productivity and trade, and complicated relationships with neighboring states.
- New system of governance was especially good for the large landowners who made up the government and were motivated to preserve their economic and political power.

##### The Colonizing Movement

- The colonization of Greeks from Aegean homelands began in the mid-eighth century to satisfy the Greeks’ growing appetite for imported goods, especially

scarce metals, and to provide citizens with enough fertile land to live a good life in their new poleis.

- Founding a colony required careful preparation, such as choosing a site for the colony, obtaining divine approval for it, planning out the new settlement, and choosing its oikistes (founder), always, of course, a man of high status.
- The colonizing movement had two phases: the first, beginning in the mid-eighth century, was directed to Italy and the western Mediterranean, while the second began about a century later and was concentrated on the north Aegean and the Black Sea.
- Western Greeks had rivals in Phoenicians from their colony of Carthage, while Greeks went to areas around the Hellespont and the Black Sea with good fishing grounds, rich soil, mineral wealth, and trading possibilities.

#### Greek Colonization

- Greeks founded ninety colonies in southern Europe and the Black Sea areas. The Greeks established new colonies throughout the Archaic and Classical periods until the Black Sea was almost entirely ringed by Greek poleis.
- The colonies became rich and powerful, including Byzantium, which later became the capital of the Roman Empire. They proudly proclaimed their Greekness and eagerly stayed abreast of cultural developments in the Aegean.
- Relations with the people into whose lands the colonists came were complex. The Greeks were intruders, and conflict with the native inhabitants occurred frequently. However, many colonies made accommodations with their non-Greek neighbors, trading and intermarrying with them, and sometimes even sharing their territory.

#### Title: Economic and Social Divisions in the Archaic Poleis

- The colonizing movement was only a partial remedy for the disparity in land ownership. As population at home continued to grow, each new generation of oikoi found it increasingly difficult to gain access to land, resulting in a widening of the existing economic and social gulf.
- The economic power of the aristocratic houses rested on their inherited landholdings, and they controlled a disproportionate share of the total agricultural land in the demos. They became even richer by concentrating on cash crops, such as wine and olive oil.

- The poorest farmers, who made up possibly a third or more of the demos, were reduced to the status of the *thetes*, hired hands who worked for mere subsistence. However, the majority of citizens in a polis were economically self-sufficient and not economically dependent on the rich.
- Within the middle group, there was greater economic and social gradation. Some nonnoble *oikoi* were fairly well off, while at the other end of the scale were those barely keeping out of debt. Upward mobility, even for the top of this group, was not easy. Yet, if a commoner family became wealthy enough, it could marry into the nobility.
- The gradations of the bottom group would have been only in the degree of abjectness, since the chances for economic betterment for the very poor were slight. It was not just poverty that made the lives of *thetes* miserable; they also had to endure the stigma of working for others, which for the Greeks meant loss of freedom.
- The only persons of lower status than these were the actual slaves, males and females acquired from the outside by capture or purchase who had no freedom whatever and no human rights and were legally classed as property. It was not until the sixth century that slaves began to pour into the poleis in large numbers.

#### Political Reforms and the Use of Slaves in Ancient Greece

- Some historians have suggested that the increased use of slaves in ancient Greece was a result of political reforms that abolished debt bondage within the polis. This change forced the wealthy citizens to turn to slave labor, which was more profitable than exploiting impoverished citizens.

#### Title: Citizenship in Ancient Greece

- All free-born members of the polis were considered citizens, but not all citizens had equal rights.
- Women citizens were denied participation in public affairs, which were exclusive to adult male citizens.
- Citizen privileges such as voting, holding office, serving as judges, and fighting in the army were divided unequally along economic and social lines.
- In the early city-states, only the rich and well-born possessed the full range of citizen privileges, while non-noble citizens of moderate means were barred from holding office, and the poorest citizens had no vote in the assembly.

- The struggle for full participation by all citizens in the governance of their poleis would be achieved only at the end of the Archaic period and then only in the democratic states. In oligarchic states, the poorest members would continue to be second-class citizens, and citizenship would be denied to ex-slaves and resident aliens.

Title: Resentment from Below and the Beginnings of Social Change

- The seventh century saw strong popular resentment against the wealth, power, and arrogance of the self-styled agathoi.
- Among the exploited have-nots in many Archaic poleis, the rallying cry was “redistribution of the land.”
- The middle group of independent farmers had few opportunities to acquire good land because aristocratic households were successful in holding on to most of the fertile soil.
- The middle group also chafed at the oligarchy’s hold on the magistracies, boards, and council, where political decisions were formulated.
- The well-off farmers were just as liable as the poorer ones to be cheated in the law courts and just as helpless against “crooked decisions.”
- The ruling oligarchs’ domination was short-lived, and more inclusive forms of government were emerging that would eventually give political power to the mass of people, including the poor.
- The spearhead of the protest against aristocratic excess was the middle group of independent farmers, over whom the oligarchs had the least control.

Title: Hesiod and Views from Below

- Hesiod’s *Works and Days* is a down-to-earth poem about rural village life in Boeotia, part of the polis of Thespieae.
- Hesiod’s moral program revolves around the virtue of arduous manual labor, which enables ordinary farmers to win the rewards of wealth, divine favor, and glory.
- Hesiod’s class of middling farmers exploited the labor of others and could afford to own at least one slave woman or man or take on a regular hired hand.
- Hesiod’s middle-class outlook is reflected in his attitudes toward marriage, where he values local girls for their moral standing rather than for political alliances.

- Women were considered weak but dangerous, and Hesiod's attitude toward them was validated in the myth of the first woman, Pandora.
- Hesiod's view was that Zeus would look favorably on those who were pious, hardworking, and just, and in the end, would punish those who were not.

Title: The Hoplite Army

- Battles between poleis were fought by heavily armored foot soldiers called hoplites, arranged in a tightly packed formation called the phalanx, which evolved from the looser type of mass.
- By 650 BC, polis armies were composed of hoplites who subscribed to the polis ideology that the citizen is the slave of the common good.

Ancient Greek Battle Tactics

- Hoplite Phalanx
- Battle Tactics
- Hoplite Weapons and Armor
- Courage and Duty
- Casualties and Duration
- Citizen Warriors and Light-Armed Troops
- Emergence of Tyranny
- Pattern of Tyranny
- Tyrant's Armed Followers
- Citizen Support
- Tyrant's Favorable Actions
- Success and Failure of Tyranny
- Arts and Sciences
- Art and Architecture
- Corinthian Potters
- Black Figure Technique

The hoplite phalanx was the primary form of battle tactics in Ancient Greece, where soldiers lined up shoulder to shoulder with each rank almost treading on the heels of the one in front of it. The opposing phalanxes formed up, charged at one another, and collided. The hoplite's weapons were a long heavy spear and a short slashing sword, and for protection, they wore a helmet, breastplate, and greaves made of bronze. The hoplites used a new type of shield called the hoplon, which was round, made of wood covered with a thin sheet of bronze, and was held by inserting the left arm through a central band and gripping a strap at the rim, which gave it maneuverability.

Hoplite battles were usually brief, lasting seldom over an hour, and casualties were relatively light for both the losers and victors, seldom over 15 percent. Not all citizens fought in the phalanx since the poorest men were excluded and served instead as light-armed troops.

The emergence of tyranny was the first serious challenge to oligarchic rule that came from within the elite group itself. A tyrant was what we call today a dictator or strongman, a single ruler who, however, lacked the legitimacy of the old paramount basileus. The tyrants favored the poor over the rich, sometimes confiscating the land of the wealthy and redistributing it to the poor, and making laws that limited aristocratic privilege. They initiated the construction of temples, harbors, and fortifications, as well as improvements in the water supply, drainage systems, and the like, all of which provided work for poor citizens.

The poleis of the Archaic Age and later competed with one another for eminence in art and architecture, poetry, philosophy, and science. In the Archaic period, the various poleis developed their own distinct artistic styles, especially in pottery. Corinth emerged as the leading commercial center of Greece, and their potters dominated the trade in finely painted pottery, exporting huge quantities of their specialty item, tiny perfume flasks. The enterprising Corinthians also invented a widely imitated technique called "black figure," which permitted the rendition of minute details.

## Art and Literature

### Art in Ancient Greece

- Archaic Greek pottery began with Corinthian black-figure, but Athenian black-figure pottery later replaced it

- Athenians invented a new style called "red figure," which allowed for a more refined rendering of detail
- Ancient Greek art consisted of life-size or larger stone and bronze statues of naked "young males" and clothed "young maidens"
- Gradually, sculptors departed from the rigidly stylized, static Egyptian model towards a more naturalistic representation of the human body
- The architecture of the Archaic period centered on religious buildings, with limestone and marble replacing mud brick and wood
- Greek temples began to look much as they would for the next five hundred years by the early sixth century
- The agora was the marketplace and public space of the city and therefore of the whole polis

#### Lyric Poetry in Ancient Greece

- Lyric poetry was the preferred genre of most talented poets during the Archaic period
- The roots of lyric poetry extend far back in time to folk songs created orally for special occasions
- Lyric poetry was divided into solo songs and choral poetry performed by a chorus of young men or women
- Lyric poetry was performed to the accompaniment of a lyre or a flutelike instrument
- Only a small fraction of all the verses composed then are extant today, much of them in fragmentary form.

Overall, Ancient Greek art and literature provide insight into the thought and concerns of the Archaic Greeks. The art developed from the influence of the Egyptians and gradually developed towards a more naturalistic representation of the human body. Lyric poetry was the preferred genre of the time and provided a way for the Greeks to express themselves through song and music.

#### Introduction

- The period of Ancient Greece is often divided into the Archaic period (c. 800-480 BCE), Classical period (c. 480-323 BCE), and Hellenistic period (c. 323-31 BCE)

- Archaic Greece was marked by the emergence of city-states (poleis) and the development of Greek art, literature, and philosophy
- This period also saw the rise of lyric poetry, which was performed by solo poets or choruses at public events or drinking parties

### Lyric Poetry

- Lyric poetry in Archaic Greece was primarily composed by upper-class men and dealt with personal topics such as love, friendship, politics, and morality
- Choral poetry was civic and integrative, retelling the myths of the polis, paying homage to gods, and expressing patriotic pride
- Examples of Archaic poets include Archilochus, Xenophanes, Hipponax, and Phocylides
- Sappho is the only known woman poet from this period, writing highly personal and erotic poetry about love between women

### Examples of Lyric Poets

- Archilochus of Paros wrote about drinking, sex, comrades and enemies, battles, and skewering pretentiousness
- Xenophanes censured aristocratic display of luxury
- Hipponax adopted the persona of an urban hustler, reveling in the low life of the city and making fun of his poverty
- Phocylides of Miletus wrote a collection of homespun maxims promoting the common-sense values held by ordinary citizens of moderate means
- Mimnermus wrote about the pleasures of wine and love, lamenting the sad necessity that these joys must fade with old age
- Ibycus wrote long choral narratives on traditional epic and mythological themes, but was most famous for his homoerotic poetry

### Philosophy and Science

- The Presocratics were the early Greek philosophers who lived before Socrates and his disciple, Plato
- The Milesians, who were from Miletus in Ionia, built upon the achievements of their Mesopotamian neighbors in astronomy and mathematics

- The Presocratics introduced “scientific” astronomy, seeking purely physical causes for the origins of the universe
- Thales of Miletus theorized that the origin of all matter was water, and that the earth was flat and floated on water
- Anaximander postulated that the earliest creatures arose out of the sea from slime warmed by the sun’s heat
- Anaximenes thought that everything had evolved from air, and that the earth floated on air

### Pythagoras and Xenophanes

- Pythagoras, known for his geometric theorem, left Samos due to Polycrates’ tyranny and settled in southern Italy with male and female disciples.
- Pythagorean doctrines combined mysticism, political theory, cosmology, and mathematics. He taught that arithmetic was key to understanding the universe.
- Pythagoras postulated that the earth was a sphere in the center of a series of hollow spheres, with the stars fixed on the outer shell and the planets on smaller shells within.
- Xenophanes’ ideas about the cosmos were based on personal observation, and he attacked conventional religious and ethical beliefs.
- Xenophanes believed that mortals made their gods in their own image, and he noted that different cultures depicted their gods differently.

### Subheading 2: Panhellenic Institutions

- The gatherings at Panhellenic sanctuaries played a prominent role in forging a common Hellenic identity among Greeks, even as they remained politically divided.
- The oracle of Apollo at Delphi was a major attraction, drawing visitors from all over the Mediterranean who consulted Apollo for prophetic advice.
- The Pythia, a priestess, divined Apollo’s messages, which were often ambiguous in meaning.
- The sanctuary at Delphi became a storehouse of information about political conditions across the Mediterranean world due to the many tyrants, foreign kings, and aristocratic leaders who consulted the oracle.

- The quadrennial games in honor of Zeus at Olympia drew spectators and contestants from the entire Greek world. The Olympics spawned three new Panhellenic athletic festivals, and other festivals featured competitions in choral and solo poetry and instrumental performances.
- The Panhellenic contests and rituals brought Greeks together in peaceful celebration, and poleis observed a sacred truce during the month of the Olympic games, channeling their rivalries into athletic contests instead.

### Subheading 3: Relations Among States

- The emergence of city-states complicated the problem of coexistence and led to serious warfare. As states attempted to extend their boundaries, disputes often erupted over borderlands.
- Mother-poleis' quarrels were often taken up by their colonies, with new enmities arising among poleis hundreds of miles away.
- Peloponnesus contained three major city-states - Sparta, Argos, and Corinth, and tensions between them were high. The Spartans conquered Messenia and warred against the Argives.
- Formal mechanisms were established for avoiding war, and temporary military alliances became more formal and longer lasting. Written treaties were made, and multistate alliances or leagues were formed.
- The polis-system spurred many advances and achievements of the Archaic Age. Greeks shared a common culture, and the concept of to helle<sup>̄</sup>nikon was introduced, which further unified Greeks.

### Introduction:

The text provides a brief history of ancient Greece, focusing on Sparta. It also gives translations and suggested readings.

### The Greek City-States:

The Greeks were hundreds of independent city-states, unfettered by an overarching government. By the end of the Archaic Age, the two most powerful states were Sparta and Athens.

### Translations and Suggested Readings:

The text provides some suggested readings for those who are interested in learning more about ancient Greece. For instance, "The Greek Tyrants" by Andrewes, "The

Greeks Overseas: Their Early Colonies and Trade” by Boardman, and “Archaic Greece. The Age of Experiment” by Snodgrass.

Sparta:

For much of the Archaic and Classical periods, Sparta was the most powerful city in the Greek world. Spartans shared many basic institutions with other Greeks.

However, Sparta was unique in many important ways. The intrusion of the state into the lives of individuals was substantial in all Greek states, but no state surpassed Sparta in the invasive role it played in daily life. Despite the interest the Spartans sparked in Greek intellectuals, it is difficult to write about Sparta and its surrounding territory, Laconia. This is because many of our sources are tainted by their acceptance of an idealized image of Sparta that historians call the “Spartan mirage.”

The Dark Age and the Archaic Period:

Laconia was an important center in the Bronze Age. Like much of the rest of Greece, Laconia experienced a sharp drop in population at the end of the Mycenaean period. Dorian newcomers entered the territory sometime in the tenth century BC. By the eighth century BC, new villages were founded as the population gradually increased, and four of those villages near the Eurotas River in the center of the Laconian plain united to form the city of Sparta. The emergence of a distinctive Spartan version of geometric art reflected increased contacts with the rest of Greece.

Helots and the Social Hierarchy:

To ensure control of the Laconian plain, its inhabitants were reduced to the status of helots, hereditary subjects of the Spartan state. The rest of the inhabitants of Laconia, who occupied the area surrounding the city of Sparta, became perioikoi. Unlike the helots, who were essentially slaves, the perioikoi remained free. Although they were obligated to serve in the army, they were not permitted to participate in the government. They did enjoy some local autonomy, however, and in many ways lived like the majority of Greeks who were not Spartans, working as homemakers, farmers, craftsmen, and merchants. Thus they constituted an essential part of the Spartan economic system. The Spartans also coveted the fertile Messenian lowlands, and at some time in the third quarter of the eighth century they invaded Messenia, beginning what modern historians call the First Messenian War.

## Notes on Spartan Society and Culture

### Introduction

This text provides insights into the society and culture of ancient Sparta. It describes

the source of Spartan prosperity and the threat it faced, the Spartan system, and the education and upbringing of Spartan boys and girls.

### Spartan Wealth and Prosperity

Spartan wealth and prosperity rested on insecure foundations. Civil unrest was avoided by exiling dissidents, but the growing desperation of the Messenians was a more serious threat. The Messenians rebelled in the wake of a major Spartan military defeat by the Argives at the Battle of Hysiae in 669 BC.

### The Second Messenian War

In the end, Sparta prevailed and the Messenians had no choice but to resign themselves to the rigors of their former helot status. The Second Messenian War had been a terrifying revelation of the potential risks of the helot system. As a result of the conquest of neighboring regions, the helots outnumbered Spartan citizens by a ratio that may have been seven to one or even higher.

### The Spartan System

The Spartans realized that if all potential hoplites could be trained to the highest degree of skill possible, Sparta would enjoy an overwhelming military advantage over its helots and other enemies. Therefore, the Spartans reformed their institutions with a view toward achieving two goals: freeing male citizens from all but military obligations, and socializing them to accept the regimentation and discipline required of a Spartan soldier.

### The Education and Upbringing of Boys

The Spartan ideal for a man was to be skilled and courageous in battle. Training was designed to produce men who conformed to this pattern alone. The Spartan educational system received legitimacy from the insistence that it was created by Lycurgus. The process of creating invincible warriors began at birth, for the state took upon itself the right to determine a new baby's viability.

### Becoming a Spartan Woman

Just as boys were brought up to become brave fighters, girls were raised to bear stalwart soldiers-to-be. Spartan females exercised outside, were well nourished, and drank wine as part of their daily diet. Childbearing was their only social obligation. Though, like all Greek women, they did know how to weave, they were free from the obligation to engage in any other form of domestic labor.

## I. Currents in Greek Thought and Education

- The influence of sophists, who taught paying pupils how to get by in the world, is seen in Thucydides' narrative and Euripides' verses.

- Sophists rejected assumptions concerning topics like noble birth and true merit, obligations owed to the gods, and the nature of law.
- Their works do not survive, but they aroused suspicion in Athens.

## II. Formal and Informal Education

- Greek education was informal, with a literary and aristocratic bias, and superficial.
- Mousike was a subject that included the memorization of poetry and learning to play the lyre, while some instruction in math was offered.
- Boys progressed to the age of soldiers and citizens, while girls learned appropriate social behavior and home management skills from relatives and experienced slaves.
- Adolescent boys were exposed to important influences of another kind, and the bond between the older lover and the younger beloved shored up the stability of society by encouraging imitation.
- Education in the city as a whole entailed any real questioning of conventional wisdom.

## III. The Sophists

- The sophists offered to teach skills in speaking and reasoning, and they delighted in exploring tricky questions about the workings of the world.
- They questioned conventional beliefs, and their instruction benefited only affluent students who could pay.
- They explored the notion of *nomos*, which meant both law and custom and began to diverge the harder people thought about the problem.
- An opposition evolved between the concept of *physis* and *nomos*.

Overall, education in ancient Greece was a blend of indoctrination and socialization calculated to foster the perpetuation of traditional values. The sophists brought about change and questioned conventional beliefs, leading to powerful tensions between the generations.

## Introduction

- Greek tragedies: part of a shared treasure of the community
- Not intended to be naturalistic or lifelike

- Characters represent humankind in all its aspirations and frailty
- Material intended to be heroic and grand
- Plots generally taken from the rich myths of the heroic age
- Limited by formalities, e.g. no violence on stage, all action within 24-hour period

#### Aeschylus

- The first of the famous tragedians of fifth-century Athens
- Added a second actor to the chorus, which allowed real conflict and moved tragedy beyond tableau into drama
- The trilogy known as the Oresteia: his greatest surviving achievement
- Culminates in a murder trial to draw attention to the importance of justice and the centrality of law
- Characters: Agamemnon, Clytemnestra, Aegisthus, Orestes, Electra, the Furies, Athena
- Themes: the difficulty of understanding and obtaining a just social and religious order
- The creation of responsible government in Athens as the antithesis of tyranny and disordered chaotic universe
- Choruses: celebrated the awesome power of the gods while also exploring the nature of the human condition

#### Sophocles

- Echoes Herodotus' warnings about the vicissitudes of fortune and the impossibility of judging a man's life until it is over
- The most famous play of antiquity: Oedipus Tyrannus
- Re-worked familiar plots of Greek mythology to express his view of the world
- Theban plays: Antigone, Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus
- Antigone: asks us to contemplate the painful tensions that arise in Oedipus' family after his death
- Sophocles sympathized with the plight of Greek women
- Choruses: celebrates the achievements of the human race

#### Euripides

- The playwright of Medea
- Innovation: undermined conventional views of what makes a hero
- Plot: tale of Jason, the celebrated leader of the Argonauts in their quest for the Golden Fleece
- Characters: Jason, Medea
- Medea's bitter laments enable the audience to see things differently
- Questions raised about a society that makes heroes of the kind of man who...

## Hippocrates of Cos and his School

- Hippocrates' school based their doctrines on case studies.
- There were over a hundred works associated with Hippocrates' school, and there is no certainty which were written by him.
- They aimed to explain natural phenomena rationally, rather than develop many cures for diseases.
- They rejected the label "sacred disease" for epilepsy and claimed it was invented by charlatans.
- Their treatise *Airs, Waters, Places* laid the foundations for epidemiology.
- The largest corpus of Hippocratic texts dealt with gynecology, where the absence of real data led to speculation.

## Historical and Dramatic Literature of the Fifth Century

- Tragedy and history were the main achievements of the Athenians during this period.
- Dozens of tragedians were active, but only the works of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides have survived.
- Herodotus' history of the Persian wars and Thucydides' history of the Peloponnesian War were the two works that survived entirely.
- Herodotus used the Greek word "historia" to describe his quest for understanding, which has given English and other languages their word for the investigation and analysis of the past.
- Herodotus was interested in the intelligence of clever queens and stressed the greater antiquity of Egyptian culture.
- Thucydides, on the other hand, showed no interest in women in his writing and believed that the actions of people were responsible for how things turned out.
- Thucydides was exiled after failing to keep the Spartans from taking Amphipolis and was able to gather information from non-Athenian sources.
- Thucydides' work showed his commitment to the search for knowledge and was written to be of permanent value.

## GREECE ON THE EVE OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

## Acropolis

- A place where many buildings, temples, statues, and votive offerings adorned the area.
- Pericles' building program enhanced his popularity and the support for the empire.
- However, it also provided an opening for Pericles' enemies to question the propriety of diverting League funds to the improvement of the hegemonic city.

## Agora

- A center for secular human activity in the Greek city.
- Served as a market, meeting place, and focus of social, political, and judicial activities.
- Men were supposed to be outdoors, while women were ideally indoors.
- The Athenian agora had public buildings, such as the round structure called the Tholos, law courts, altars, shrines, statues, inscriptions, fountains, drains, and trophies of war.
- The Pnyx, a hillside where the assembly met, was an important place for speeches, debates, and voting.

## Rural Life in Attica

- Public buildings, such as gymnasiums and stadiums, were also located away from the city center.
- The suburbs were cooler and shadier, and closer to plentiful supplies of water.
- Many citizens owned some rural property, and farming could be a part-time occupation.
- The city was neither a beautiful city nor a comfortable one, and many propertied citizens were happy to leave it.

## Intellectual Life in Fifth-Century Greece

- Greeks explored new ideas about the universe and humanity's place in it.
- Sixth-century Greek thinkers abandoned mythological and religious frameworks and attempted to explain the world by material processes alone.
- Anaxagoras viewed material objects as composed of infinitely divisible particles and conceived of their organization as the work of a force he called Nous.

- Empedocles propounded a cosmogony based on the idea of four primary elements, earth, air, fire, and water, and twin forces of attraction and repulsion.
- Leucippus and Democritus believed that matter was created of tiny particles called atoma, and there was void.
- Greek medicine was based on observation and systematic thinking, and medical centers had been established by 500 BC.

## Ancient Greek Architecture and Sculpture

### Introduction:

Greek architecture and sculpture were highly sophisticated and elaborate in ancient times. They used techniques to make their structures appear more solid and higher from a distance. Additionally, sculpture was an integral part of Greek architecture, depicting myths and history related to their gods and goddesses.

### Greek Architecture:

Greek architects made use of vertical elements and horizontal foundation, which made structures appear to droop towards the center. To counteract these illusions, they used techniques such as subtle swelling of the mid-portion of columns, tilting the columns and interior walls towards the interior, and increasing the height of the floor and steps towards the center. The Parthenon, a temple built of marble, had 46 columns, with the columns having a subtle swelling in the middle to appear more solid and higher. Other techniques such as tilting of columns, and increasing the height of the floor and steps towards the center were also used to enhance the structure's stability and height.

### Sculpture in Greek Architecture:

Sculpture played a significant role in Greek architecture, with the Parthenon having depictions of Athena and Athens' history and myths. The east pediment showed Athena's birth, while the west pediment depicted the contest between Athena and Poseidon for primacy in Athens. The temple also had a sculpted frieze running around the exterior wall of the cella or "inner shrine" showing human figures, horses, sacrificial animals, and the twelve Olympian gods. These figures likely depicted the procession at the Greater Panathenaic festival held every four years, and the presentation of a new dress for the goddess by young girls who had helped weave it.

### Greek Temples and Worship:

Greek temples were not places where worshippers congregated but were the private homes of the deity, whose image was placed inside, and the storehouse for the cult's

belongings. Within the cella of the Parthenon was a tall figure of Athena, constructed by fitting sheets of ivory and gold over a wooden scaffold. The temple also housed the treasury of the city of Athens and the Delian League. Additionally, in front of the Parthenon on the west stood a colossal bronze statue of Athena Promachos, standing at nearly 30 feet tall and was the work of the sculptor Phidias.

Ionic Order:

In contrast to the massive, solid, and plain Doric order, the Ionic order gave a slender, graceful, and ornate impression. The Erechtheion was the chief purely Ionic monument on the Acropolis, sacred to Poseidon Erechtheus, consisting of three Ionic porches. The south porch that faced the Parthenon employed six figures of maidens, called Caryatids, instead of columns, to support the roof.

Conclusion:

Greek architecture and sculpture were highly sophisticated and elaborate, using techniques such as subtle swelling of columns, tilting the columns and interior walls towards the interior, and increasing the height of the floor and steps towards the center to counteract visual illusions. Additionally, sculpture was an integral part of Greek architecture, depicting myths and history related to their gods and goddesses.

- Greeks had precious achievements to protect in various areas: art, trade, government
- The diversity of the Greek world that enabled dynamic creativity also fragmented their world
- The rule of elite free men over others persisted despite democracy
- Hindsight value: events of the 440s and 430s took on particular significance in the context of the Peloponnesian War that followed

Political Theorists' Views on Paid Labor and Voting Rights

- Political theorists from upper classes contended that indoor work disqualified people from voting
- Greeks had limited choices about how to support themselves and their families
- Tombstones frequently boasted of craft skills; ordinary people didn't feel embarrassed about their professions

Imperialism and Revenue

- Greeks regarded paid labor with disdain, but work still got done and money was made
- Revenue sometimes came from imperialism and exploitation
- The Athenians needed the tribute from subject allies to initiate the system of state pay for state service, expanding the proportion of citizens participating in government
- Democracy wasn't entirely dependent on empire, but it received impetus from the surplus funds generated by imperial tribute
- The empire's maritime nature served as the organizing principle of Greek trade; the Athenian Empire was central to commercial life

#### Agriculture and Trade

- Most people in the world made their living by agriculture before the nineteenth century AD, and Greeks were no exception
- Trade united far-flung states and served as vital conduits for the exchange of ideas
- Most trade went by boat since land traffic was slow and expensive
- Diversity of natural resources in the ancient world made trade a necessity; Athenian commerce was driven largely by the need for grain to feed a large population
- Athenians traded wine and oil for grain, hides, cattle, fish, hemp, wax, chestnuts, iron, and slaves from the Black Sea region and exchanged olive oil for papyrus, ivory, glasswork, slaves, and exotic animals in Egypt
- Other regions provided textiles, fine bronzework and boots, pigs, cheese, and grain, purple dye and dates, and metals
- Most goods flowed throughout the Greek world, but they flowed most into Piraeus

#### Metics in Fifth-Century Athens

- Rich residents of Athens who did not own land were the resident aliens called metics
- Metics played a key role in the economy, accounting for a significant proportion of the Athenian population

- They could not vote or hold office, but they lived in rented homes and mingled comfortably with citizen families
- Citizens, metics, and slaves often worked side by side
- Many of Athens' most distinguished intellectuals were metics, and metic women could not produce children who could enjoy Athenian citizenship, creating two classes of women available as long-term partners to citizen men
- Slaves who were granted their freedom became metics rather than citizens

### Suggested Readings

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### Women in Ancient Greece

#### Introduction:

This note will examine the depictions of women in Ancient Greece, including their roles in the *oikos* (family unit), society, and the economy.

#### Women's Depictions in Art:

Ancient Greek art often depicts women in different social groups. Prostitutes are shown entertaining men, while higher-status women are depicted in more domestic scenes such as spinning wool or adorning themselves with other women.

#### Oikos and Polis:

The *oikos* was the primary unit of production, consumption, and reproduction in Ancient Greece. Citizens became members of the polis (city-state) through their membership in an *oikos*. Family membership was determined by the father's decision to raise or expose a newborn child. Sons were typically raised as they were

seen as valuable labor and a means of perpetuating the family lineage. Daughters were often abandoned and left to die or sold into slavery.

Marriage:

Marriage was the social institution that sustained the oikos and its primary purpose was reproduction. A bride's father or guardian would declare, "I give you my daughter to sow for the purpose of producing legitimate children." The wife's dowry and the husband's contribution formed the economic foundation of the oikos. The division of labor was by gender, with women's work being indoors and men's being outdoors.

The Greek Economy:

Slaves were a "muted group" in Ancient Greece, and their names and thoughts were not recorded. Slaves were employed in the craft industries, with jobs often being gender specific. Men worked in factories while women worked in textile-related industries. The wealthier Greeks shunned indoor work as it was seen as demeaning and associated with slaves and women.

Conclusion:

Overall, the roles and depictions of women in Ancient Greece were largely determined by their membership in the oikos and their gender. Women's labor was primarily domestic, and their social and economic status were largely determined by their father's decisions. Slaves played a significant role in the economy, but their voices and experiences were not recorded in the historical record.

## The Role of Art in Understanding Ancient Greece

Introduction: In studying ancient Greece, art plays a crucial role in helping us understand the lives and culture of its people.

### Section 1: Depictions of Mythology

- Classical vases frequently depict scenes from Greek mythology
- Example: the east pediment of the temple of Zeus at Olympia tells the story of the chariot race between Pelops and Oenomaus
- Unlike sculpture, painting also portrayed mundane scenes of daily activities

### Section 2: Insight into Daily Life

- Vases provide social historians with information on how people spent their time at work and play
- Examples of laborers portrayed: shoemakers, blacksmiths, agricultural workers

- Vases provide insight into domestic spaces and relationships between men and women

### Section 3: Examples of Artifacts

- Example 1: marble statue of an elderly seer from the reconstruction of the east pediment
- Example 2: marble grave relief from Paros depicting a man and woman
- Example 3: Attic vase depicting craftspeople at work

Conclusion: The art of ancient Greece, particularly vases, provides valuable insights into the lives and culture of its people, from depictions of mythological events to everyday activities and domestic life.

### Politics

- Athenian democracy was a new form of government that allowed for popular participation.
- While the system of state pay for state service became the norm, the rich viewed it as a manipulative attempt to buy votes.
- Rich Athenians continued to enjoy substantial prestige, but they were harnessed into the service of the state through public services known as liturgies.
- Liturgies involved major outlays and allowed for the rich to reaffirm their status while performing vital functions for the community.
- Everyone profited from this system, as those who lacked the means to offer such services benefited from the generosity of those who provided them.

### Literature and Art

- The art and literature of the earlier fifth century were characterized by "grandeur."
- Talented poets, painters, architects, and sculptors carried the traditions of the sixth century throughout the wider Greek world.
- Lyric poetry was a necessary precursor to tragedy, and its practitioners were among the most distinguished writers of the fifth century.
- Pindar was a celebrated writer of epinician odes and his world view was diametrically opposed to that of democrats.

- Greek painters and sculptors shared a fascination with both the human and the divine and aimed to organize the world in harmony, balance, and proportion.
- During the fifth century, Greek artists began to emancipate themselves from the canons of the Archaic period, resulting in a spare austerity that distinguished Classical styles.
- Action became important in visual arts, with some of the most outstanding artists building a sense of anticipation and excitement.
- Relief sculpture on temples and grave stelai provided important venues for storytelling and character portrayal.

### Conclusion

- The fifth century BC was a time of political change and artistic growth in ancient Greece, with Athenian democracy and the Classical styles of art and literature emerging.

### I. Spartan leagues and Athens' conflicts with its neighbors

- Spartan leagues consisted of a series of battles punctuated by considerable intervals of peace
- The Peloponnesian War was fought fairly steadily for twenty-seven years
- Megara played an important role in the outbreak of both Peloponnesian wars
- Corinthians were alarmed by the Athenians' possession of the Megarian port of Pegae
- Athenians settled helots at Naupactus near the mouth of the Gulf, which drove an additional wedge into the Corinthians' sphere of influence
- Athens and Corinth locked in trade rivalry, moves that promised to expand territory easily accessible to Athenian shipping were bound to spark hostility

### II. Disaster in Egypt and the transfer of the League treasury to Athens

- Pericles persuaded Athenians to send ships to Cyprus and Egypt, but the Egyptian campaign ended in disaster
- Athenians decided to transfer the League treasury from Delos to Athens itself, proclaiming their ongoing supremacy
- Historians began speaking of the Athenian Empire instead of the Delian League, though the transformation had been going on for some time

### III. Pericles and the growth of Athenian democracy

- Pericles was the guiding spirit of Athenian imperialism
- The ekklesia met in the open air on the hill known as the Pnyx
- Athenians limited citizenship to those whose parents were both Athenians in 451
- Citizens' participation in assembly meetings varied widely
- Athens had no president or prime minister; the generals exercised power in politics only by virtue of the esteem in which they were held
- The Athenians had come to call their form of government *dēmokratia*
- Athenians were notoriously litigious people
- Pericles introduced a measure providing pay for jury service

### IV. Athenian officials and the judicial system

- Athens had many official positions
- Most offices were held by boards of several men, all serving one-year terms
- Wealth and lineage remained important factors in Athenian history
- The large size of Athenian juries facilitated the legal fiction that a decision of a jury was a decision of the demos
- Athenians were paid for serving on juries, boule, and even for attending the assembly
- Magistrates were also paid for their time spent serving the community

Overall, ancient Greece was a time of conflict and growth. The Spartans and Athenians often found themselves at odds, with tensions arising over trade rivalry and territory. Pericles was a guiding force in Athenian imperialism, and the Athenians prided themselves on their democracy, paying citizens for their time spent serving the community. Wealth and lineage remained important factors, and Athens had many official positions held by boards of several men. Despite the Athenians' notorious litigiousness, they came to call their form of government *dēmokratia*.

### The Rivalries of the Greek City-States and the Growth of Athenian Democracy

During the Persian invasion, Greek states formed an alliance led by the Athenians. This alliance enabled Athens to offer state pay for public services, such as jury duty, and expanding political participation to lower-class citizens who rowed the triremes.

This undermined the political power of wealthy aristocrats, but the civic disabilities of women and slavery were not addressed. Despite this, Athens became a significant cultural center, attracting artists, intellectuals, and tourists, and its imperial ventures increased the number of slaves in Attica.

The Delian League was created to prevent a Persian takeover of Greece. Athens was chosen to lead the League, and in exchange for contributions in ships or money, Athens agreed to lead the League in military operations against Persia while respecting the autonomy of each city-state. From the beginning, power in the League was concentrated in Athenian hands, and the goals were to contain Persia, gather booty, and seek revenge.

Over a quarter-century, the Delian League fought against Persia and made it impossible for them to establish naval bases in Ionia. During this time, Athens became an empire, and naval imperialism led to disagreements between Athenian leaders about Athens' relationship with Sparta. Themistocles encouraged competition with Sparta and the development of democracy, whereas Cimon favored Sparta and opposed democratization. Ephialtes and his associates furthered the growth of democracy by making attacks on the Council of the Areopagus, which led to a full-blown democracy, and the replacement of a more broadly based form of government.

The Peloponnesian War began, with Pericles shaping Athenian policy. Hostilities with Persia continued, and Athens chose to wage war with the Peloponnesian League. The first Peloponnesian War was not officially declared, but it lasted from 460-445 BC.

- The ostracism of politicians and their exile for ten years was a unique political practice in Ancient Greece.
- The Persian Wars marked a turning point in Greek history, leading to the emergence of a brilliant and original civilization.

The Ostracism of Politicians:

- The ostracism was a political practice where politicians were exiled for ten years based on receiving the plurality of six thousand votes cast by their fellow citizens.
- The first successful ostracism was that of Hipparchus in 487, who was related to the former tyrant Hippias, and all but one of the other men ostracized in the 480s

were members of the Alcmaeonid family accused of trying to betray Athens to the Persians in 490.

- Themistocles, who played a role in the first three ostracisms, had a dispute with Aristides over how best to face a renewed Persian threat, and the ostracism of 482 decided the issue, where Aristides left Athens, and the fleet that would save Greece was built.

#### The Invasion of Xerxes:

- In 484 BC, Xerxes made a decision to invade Greece, and the Greeks learned that ships were being built in large numbers throughout the ports of the Persian Empire.
- The Hellenic League formed an alliance, and Sparta received supreme command on land and sea.
- The Hellenic League decided to make a stand in central Greece, placing a land force at the pass of Thermopylae while the fleet settled in at nearby Artemisium.
- The Athenians voted to evacuate Attica and wait out the war on the island of Salamis and in nearby Troezen in the Peloponnesus.
- At the Battle of Salamis, the Persian fleet suffered a massive defeat, losing over two hundred ships, and Xerxes retreated to Asia.

#### The War Through Greek Eyes:

- Until recently, Greek historical sources and scholars who caricatured the Persian Empire as merely an “Oriental despotism” largely shaped views of the Persian Empire.
- Aeschylus produced a tragedy, *The Persians*, celebrating the Athenian role in the Persian defeat and the values for which they had fought—liberty as opposed to slavery, responsible democratic government as opposed to capricious autocracy and monarchy.
- Herodotus highlighted in his *Histories* the unexpectedness of the Greek victory and sought its causes in the fundamental institutions of Greek and Persian society and government.
- Greeks took inspiration from the epitaph composed for the Thermopylae dead attributed to Simonides.

#### Conclusion:

- The unity the Persian Empire had sparked would prove short-lived, and its fragility would place limits on how long Greek civilization could endure.
- The Persian Wars marked a turning point in Greek history, leading to the emergence of a brilliant and original civilization.

#### The Ionian Revolt

- Aristagoras, the tyrant of Miletus, appealed to Sparta and Athens for aid in the Ionian Revolt against Persia.
- Sparta declined the request, fearing a slave rebellion in their absence, while Athens sent 20 ships and Eretria sent 5.
- The revolt ended in a naval defeat near Miletus in 494 BC. Miletus was destroyed, and its people enslaved or relocated.
- This event had significant consequences as Persia and Greece had a shared memory of their mutual grievances.

#### The Growth of Athens and the Persian Wars

- Themistocles, a rising politician in Athens, persuaded the Athenians to fortify the three rocky harbors of Piraeus into a naval base, to counter the Persian threat.
- Darius, the Persian king, sent two expeditions to Greece, the second one to punish Athens and Eretria for their role in the Ionian revolt.
- In 490 BC, the Persian fleet arrived in Greece, and Eretria fell quickly.
- The Athenians and Plataeans fought the Persians in the Battle of Marathon, outnumbered by about two to one, but they won.
- The Athenians lost 192 men, while the Persians lost about 6400.
- The victory at Marathon changed the political leadership in Athens.

#### Athens After Marathon

- A new method of selecting archons was introduced in Athens, by lot, from candidates drawn from the demes.
- Themistocles may have inspired this reform, but he cannot have foreseen its long-term effects on Athenian politics.
- Selection by lot tended to discourage the machinations of special interest groups.

- Ostracism, a procedure intended to prevent the emergence of a new tyrant, was also introduced.
- The Athenians had the option of voting to send one of their fellow citizens into exile for ten years.

#### Topic 1: The Reforms of Cleisthenes

- After the exile of Hippias, renewed factional strife followed in Ancient Greece.
- Isagoras, an aristocrat, was elected archon in 508 BC on a platform of disenfranchising persons given citizenship by the tyrants.
- Cleisthenes, the leader of the Alcmaeonid family, opposed the plan and won popular support.
- Isagoras forced Cleisthenes into exile, but the Athenians blockaded the Spartans on the Acropolis, forced their surrender, and invited Cleisthenes and his followers back to Athens.
- Cleisthenes carried in the assembly far-reaching reforms intended to break the power of rich families.
- He transferred the civic functions of the four ancient Ionian tribes to ten new tribes established on a new basis.
- He divided Attica into three broad geographical areas: the city, the coast, and the plain, and subdivided each area into ten trittyes, or “thirds” composed of residential units called demes.
- The requirement that citizens identify themselves by their demotic instead of their father’s name undermined family loyalty.
- The ten new tribes also formed the basis for the creation of a new council, the Council (boule) of Five Hundred, with each tribe annually providing fifty members chosen by lot.
- The army was reorganized on the basis of the ten tribes, with each tribe electing its officers including a strate<sup>g</sup>os, or chief general.

#### Topic 2: The Rise of Persia

- The political transformation of Greek poleis occurred at the same time as the emergence of the Persian Empire.

- Cyrus II, who governed Persia, revolted and made Media the first of the satrapies (provinces) of the Persian Empire.
- Cyrus extended Persia to include all Western Asia and conquered the Lydian king Croesus that brought the Greeks of Asia Minor into the empire.
- Events within the Persian Empire delayed the confrontation between the Persians and the European Greeks for over half a century.
- Darius I centralized the government and moved the capital to Persepolis, reorganizing the empire.
- The Persians developed a cuneiform-based alphabetic script to write their language, but no Old Persian literature survives except for inscriptions primarily devoted to recording the building activities of the Persian kings.
- Historians working with archaeologists have succeeded in reconstructing the story of the rise of the Persian Empire.
- Persian history necessarily depends on non-Persian sources, Babylonian, Aramaic, Hebrew, and especially Greek historians.

### Topic 3: The Wars Between Greece and Persia

- Darius campaigned against the European Scyths and became the first Persian king to enter Europe, subduing Thrace and reducing it to a satrapy.
- In 499 BC, the Ionian Greeks revolted due to rising taxes and the puppet tyrants the Persians had imposed.
- Aristagoras, the tyrant of Miletus, set about overthrowing tyrants in the other Ionian cities, uniting them in revolt.
- Aristagoras hoped to add Naxos to his domain and persuaded the Persians to join him in an unsuccessful effort to subdue the Cyclades islands and perhaps invade mainland Greece.
- The Ionians showed their unity by issuing coinage on a common standard.
- Herodotus' account of Aristagoras' attempts to gain support from King Cleomenes sought to illustrate the Spartan character as most Greeks imagined it.
- The Persian Wars would redefine the course of Greek history.
- The Greeks won the Battle of Marathon, but the Persians would return for

### The Growth of Athens:

Under Peisistratus, Athens emerged as a cultural center of Attica. His building projects provided jobs to the poor and established Athens as a hub of trade. He replaced the private wells with public fountain houses and expanded job opportunities and housing in the city, resulting in population growth. Peisistratus also rebuilt the temple of Athena on the Acropolis and started a temple to Olympian Zeus. He established two new festivals and commissioned the first editions of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. The worship of Dionysus flourished, and the Dionysia was celebrated with competition in tragic drama.

### The Collapse of the Tyranny:

After Peisistratus' death, his son Hippias ruled alone, with his brother Hipparchus as co-tyrant. They adorned their court with celebrated writers, but their cultural prestige couldn't keep them secure. Hipparchus insulted Harmodius' sister, leading Harmodius and his lover Aristogiton to plot to assassinate the tyrants. Hipparchus was killed in the Panathenaic procession, and Hippias' paranoid autocracy replaced the benign government of two aristocrats. Hippias' tyranny lasted for four years until he was driven into exile by the exiled Alcmaeonids.

### The Persian Wars:

The Alcmaeonids, through their good relations with Delphi, successfully drove Hippias into exile. They rebuilt the temple of Apollo and provided a frontage of first-class Parian marble. The Spartans, known for being the enemy of tyranny, were receptive to their suggestion of "First free Athens" and blockaded Hippias on the Acropolis. When Hippias' children were captured, he capitulated and departed with his family to Sigeum. The Athenians remembered the heroism of Harmodius and Aristogiton rather than the Spartan intervention.

### Conclusion:

The history of Ancient Greece is filled with events of cultural and trade importance, but the growth of Athens, the tyranny collapse, and the Persian Wars are among the most significant events. They impacted not only the city of Athens but also other parts of Greece, contributing to the country's rich history.

### I. Solon's Reforms

- Solon offered citizenship to foreigners who would settle permanently in Athens with their families
- He empowered the Council of the Areopagus to punish those who could not support themselves, unlike the Spartan belief that soldiering was the only

appropriate work for a citizen

- Solon revised the system of property classes by adding a fourth class called the pentakosiomedimnoi, ranked according to agricultural wealth, and limited the magistracies to the first two classes
- The thetes, poor farmers and landless workers, were allowed to attend the assembly, while slaves and resident aliens were excluded
- Solon allowed any male citizen to bring an indictment if he believed a crime had been committed and serve as a juror in a trial
- Solon did not alter Draco's homicide laws but reduced the penalties for other crimes and decreed an amnesty for persons exiled for crimes other than homicide or attempted tyranny

## II. Peisistratus and His Sons

- Peisistratus, a distant relative of Solon, carried out a coup around 560 and seized the reins of government
- After about five years, he was driven out, but he returned with the help of mercenaries and governed Athens for over ten years until he died of natural causes in 527
- Peisistratus gave his tyranny legitimacy by maintaining Solon's system in force but manipulating the laws to benefit his friends and relatives
- Peisistratus strengthened the economy by offering land and loans to the needy, encouraging the cultivation of the olive, and expanding Athenian trade

## III. Peisistratus' Policies

- Peisistratus' policies focused on strengthening the Athenian economy through agriculture and commerce
- He offered land and loans to the needy and encouraged the cultivation of the olive
- Athenian trade expanded greatly under his regime

## IV. Significance of Solon and Peisistratus

- Solon established the notion of citizenship itself and created a free peasantry that formed the basis of the democracy
- Peisistratus' tyranny had an equalizing effect on Athenians, which led to the development of democratic institutions after his fall

- Athens continued to be the central place of Attica even during the Dark Ages
- Significant growth in wealth and overseas trade was evident during the later Dark Age
- The population around Athens rose sharply during the eighth century, and new settlements appeared throughout Attica
- Athens did not colonize overseas during the late eighth century
- The unification of Attica under the leadership of Athens was completed around the middle of the eighth century
- The Athenians ascribed the unification to Theseus, their legendary founder

#### The Early Government of Athens

- The government of Athens was aristocratic during the later eighth century
- The chiefs of Attica replaced the paramount basileus with three civic officials called collectively archons, who divided the leadership roles among themselves
- The archons governed Athens in concert with the Council of the Areopagus
- All Athenian citizens could participate in the government of Athens, but people who lived in or near Athens would find it easier to vote than those who lived farther away
- The basic social units in Attica were tribes, phratries, and clans

#### The Conspiracy of Cylon

- In 632 BC, Cylon attempted to become the tyrant of Athens but failed
- Cylon and his supporters were besieged by the Athenians and surrendered to the nine archons on condition that their lives would be spared
- The archon Megacles and his supporters killed them, and people believed that Megacles had committed sacrilege
- The Alcmaeonid genos, to which Megacles belonged, would contribute important politicians to Athens in the future

#### Draco and Early Athenian Law

- Draco codified Athenian law around 620 BC

- Draco's law concerning homicide replaced the family and kin with the state as the arbiter of justice in cases of both intentional and unintentional killings
- Draco's other laws were severe, naming death as the penalty even for minor offenses

#### The Reforms of Solon

- In the 590s, Solon tried to strengthen the fragile agricultural base of the Athenian economy by grafting onto it a thriving commerce
- The Athenians bartered crops suited to their land abroad for wheat and other goods
- The poor were losing the struggle to survive, and Solon was empowered to draw up a new law code that would ease their sufferings and avoid a tyranny
- Solon abolished debt slavery, but defended the rights of the elite to their land and to a preeminent role in government
- Solon's reforms included revising Athenian weights and measures to facilitate trade, encouraging the immigration of artisans to Athens, and prohibiting the export of grain

#### Conclusion

- Athens grew significantly during the Dark Ages, and the unification of Attica under the leadership of Athens was completed around the middle of the eighth century
- The early government of Athens was aristocratic, and the basic social units in Attica were tribes, phratries, and clans
- Cylon attempted to become the tyrant of Athens but failed, and Draco codified Athenian law around 620 BC
- Solon was empowered to draw up a new law code that would ease the sufferings of the poor and avoid a tyranny, and his reforms included abolishing debt slavery and encouraging the immigration of artisans to Athens.

#### Notes on Sparta and Athens:

##### Sparta:

- Eliminated male infants but nothing was said about girls, which created an imbalance in the sex ratio.

- Women could inherit all their father's land, leading many women to become extremely wealthy.
- Writers like Xenophon and Plutarch admired Spartan society, exaggerating its monolithic nature and obscuring patterns of historical change, making it attractive to subsequent thinkers.
- In modern political thought, Sparta has been idealized, from being a paradise of eunomia, to a forerunner of totalitarian regimes, and finally to a society that is more enjoyable and in many ways preferable to women in democratic Athens.
- There are differing views on Sparta, with some cherishing its virtues and others seeing it as a totalitarian regime.

#### Athens:

- Athens had resolved its problems by 500 BC, with the expulsion of the last tyrant, the establishment of a democratic government, and aristocratic stasis largely confined to competing for office and persuading the assembly.
- Athens was the second most powerful Greek polis, poised to play a major role in the great war against the Persian Empire.
- During the Late Bronze Age, Athens was the largest and most important settlement on the Attic peninsula and a major Mycenaean palace-center that exercised a loose control over the other fortified palace-centers in the region.
- The first sign of Athenian recovery from the post-invasion slump is the appearance of Protogeometric pottery around 1050 BC.
- Athens was relatively harmonious, wealthy, and had great numbers, which led to its rise in power.

#### Persian Empire:

- The Persian Empire was growing into an ambitious power that would threaten to engulf the Hellenic world.
- The strong Athens was vital to the defense of Greece against invasions by the Persian kings Darius I and Xerxes.

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## Notes on Sparta

### Social Structure:

- Agriculture was the sole basis of the citizens' economy in Sparta, unlike other Greek poleis.
- Despite the ideology of equality among citizens, wealth disparities still existed.
- Sparta was known as the "Men of Equal Status" due to the same training, uniform, and fighting in phalanx for all citizens.
- Sparta's social and educational system was successful in social engineering.

### Government:

- The government was a mixed constitution, consisting of monarchical, oligarchical, and democratic elements.
- Sparta's conservatism resulted in traditional institutions like monarchy and the council of elders remaining.
- The kings served as the head of government, military, religious, and judicial powers were exercised by them.
- The gerousia, composed of 28 men over the age of 60, served for life and were the highest honor a Spartan could aspire to.
- The ephors were elected annually and had the power to depose the kings, presided over the gerousia and assembly, and were in charge of the krypteia.
- The assembly was the most democratic organ of government but did not debate; citizens listened to a proposal made by the gerousia and voted to accept or reject it.

### Peloponnesian League:

- Sparta adopted a policy of alliance and gradually assumed a position of leadership.
- The Peloponnesian League included all the states in the Peloponnese except Argos and Achaia, as well as key poleis that lay outside the Peloponnese, such as Thebes.
- The purpose of the League was mutual protection.
- The government of the League was bicameral, consisting of the assembly of Spartans and the congress of allies in which each state had one vote.

### Historical Change:

- Lycurgan legislation was no longer enforced in Xenophon's time, and the Lycurgan system regulating public property was abandoned in the fourth century.
- This change led to the concentration of great wealth in the hands of a minority and created an impoverished underclass.
- Women owned a larger portion of private land in Sparta than in any other Greek city.
- Sparta was always plagued by a lack of men, and female babies were unlikely to have been eliminated through infanticide.

### Women in Sparta

- Spartan girls were categorized into age classes: children, young girls, maidens who had reached puberty, and married women.
- Spartan girls had a different upbringing than other Greek women, and it was attributed to Lycurgus.
- Due to the absence of men during military duty, women managed domestic affairs in Sparta.
- Aristotle criticized Spartan women for enjoying too much freedom, power, and prestige, which led to the degeneration of the Spartan ideal of equality among male citizens.
- Spartan daughters received half of their parents' property as dowries, whereas Athenian daughters received approximately one-sixth.

- Marriage in Sparta was not necessarily based on emotional attachment. Married men continued to live in barracks until the age of thirty, so young couples did not live together.
- According to Plutarch, Spartan marriages often took on a clandestine character where a "bridesmaid" captured the girl, shaved her head, dressed her in a man's cloak and sandals, and laid her down alone on a mattress in the dark.
- Other customs include the random selection of spouses by cohorts of potential brides and bridegrooms groping in a dark room.
- The absence of adultery at Sparta continued to evoke comment among non-Spartans.

#### Homosexuality and Pederasty

- Ancient Greeks did not have the binary division of homosexuality and heterosexuality.
- Same-sex erotic relationships did not preclude participants from entering into heterosexual marriages simultaneously.
- The attraction between teachers and students was considered constructive in the education of the young.
- The idealized model of the same-sex relationship involved an older person and an adolescent and was time-limited.
- For males and females alike, liaisons with members of the same sex provided much companionship, sexual pleasure, and a sense of spiritual well-being that many people in modern Western society nowadays associate with marriage.

#### Demography and the Spartan Economy

- Spartans never constituted more than a small fraction of their territory's population due to their conquests of Laconia and Messenia.
- Lack of trade and colonization limited the growth of Sparta's population.
- Xenophobia also restricted Sparta's numbers, and they did not marry foreigners or recruit large numbers of new citizens of non-Spartan origin.
- In times of emergency, Sparta took some exceptional measures like allowing non-Spartiate boys living in Sparta to be trained for service in the Spartan army and freeing some helots for military service.

## Sparta's Shrinking Population and Marriage Practices

- Spartan lifestyle exacerbated population decline
- Male infanticide was institutionalized
- Spartan soldiers had to stand their ground and give their lives for their country
- Women married only several years after becoming fertile, opportunities for conjugal intercourse were limited, and husbands were continuously absent at war or sleeping with their army groups
- Women also declined to bear children, and some probably had access to contraceptives
- Risk of maternity was considered equal to those soldiers faced on the battlefield
- Reduction in the number of Spartans was gradual
- Natural disaster, economic problems, and emigration of men accelerated population decline

## Helots and the Spartan System

- Spartan economic system enabled citizens to devote all their time and energy to the defense and welfare of the polis
- Perioikoi used silver and gold coins, while Spartans used only iron money until the end of the fifth century
- Goal for men was economic equality, which was an illusory ideal
- Messenia was conquered and divided up into nine thousand equal *kle<sup>-</sup>roi*
- At birth, each boy was allocated a share of this land by the state, and a family of helots came with the land
- Institution of helotry was essential in releasing Spartan men and women from the need to produce or purchase their food
- Owner of each *kle<sup>-</sup>ros* was entitled to receive a specified amount of produce annually from the helots who worked it
- Helots lived in stable family groups on a farm assigned to them, and could not be sold abroad
- They were subjected to an annual beating and wore a primitive and humiliating costume

- Helots rebelled in 464 and took advantage of the earthquake that had devastated Sparta
- Athenians settled many of them at Naupactus, on the northern side of the Corinthian Gulf
- Messenia regained its independence in 369 with the aid of Thebes and other Boeotian enemies of Sparta
- System of helotry distinguished Sparta sharply from other Greek states, making it the only polis with an economic system totally dependent upon geographical and social distance between landowners and workers on the land