

Classical Greece: Political and Military Heritage

The Rise of Greece

- Rapid Growth between 800-600 B.C.E.
- City States
 - o Single political entities
 - Ruled by either a Tyrant or aristocratic Council
- Inter-Civilization Trade
 - o Trade between city states strengthened relationships
 - Economic
 - Culturally
 - Athletic Competitions
 - Olympics
 - Language adopted from Phoenicians

Sparta

- Militaristic Society
- Constitutional Government
 - o Two kings
 - So not too much power
 - Performed ceremonial, judicial, and military roles
 - Hereditary
 - Descendants of Heracles
 - o Ephors
 - Decided Civil and Criminal Cases
 - o Gerousia
 - 28 elders
 - Discussed state policy
 - o Spartan Men all served military
 - Women's job to produce Spartan men
 - o Slavery
 - Helots did all manual labor

The Persian Wars

- The First Persian War (490 B.C.E.)
 - o Persians angry at Athens for supporting Ionians in uprising
 - o Persian King Darius I sends large invasion fleet to burn down Athens
 - o Battle of Marathon
 - Greeks, heavily outnumbered by Persian forces, rush at Persian lines (10,000 Greeks Vs 100,000 Persians)
 - Take the Persians by surprise and force Persians to retreat to their boats
 - About 193 dead Athenians, about 6400 dead Persians
 - Namesake of the famous 26 mile race
 - Two possible stories of origins
 - o Greek runner Pheidippides runs 26 miles from Marathon to Athens to announce Greek victory (Plutarch)
 - o Greek army has to run 26 miles back to Athens at end of battle to prevent Persian naval attack (Herodotus)
 - o Results of First Persian War
 - Persians retreat back to Persia
 - Darius I dies before he can raise another army to attack
 - Greeks united
 - Themistocles knew Persians would come back

- Built large navy to protect Athens
- The Second Persian War (480 B.C.E.)
 - Darius I's son Xerxes returns with another army
 - Meets small Greek army at Thermopylae
 - Battle of Thermopylae
 - Spartan King Leonidas and his 300 "Bodyguards"
 - Athenian General Themistocles led naval battle at Artemisium
 - Max – 8,000 Soldiers
 - Min (Day 3) – Spartans, 700 Thespians ,and 400 Thebans
 - Persian army numbers about 1,000,000
 - 3 day battle but Persians win
 - Result of Second Persian War
 - Persians burn empty Athens to the ground
 - Move on to Sparta
 - Athenian navy ambushed Persians and destroy Persian navy at Salamis
 - Persian army defeated one year later at battle of Plataea

Golden Age of Ancient Greece

- Greeks assured of dominance
 - Believe reason they won is because of their gods
- Era of cultural and economic prosperity in Athens
 - Led by Pericles
- Create Delian League
 - An alliance against future attacks
 - Turns into Athenian led empire

Athens

- Grew to prominence after Persian Wars under Pericles
 - Funded many public works projects
 - Including many of the buildings in the Acropolis
 - Including Parthenon
 - Used Delian League to build up Athenian Empire
 - Challenge to Spartan Power
 - Funded by silver mining
 - Slavery common
 - Political, Literary, Philosophical, Artistic Golden Age
- One of world's first democracies
 - Direct Democracy
 - Free Males allowed to vote and participate
 - Easily swayed by theatrical satires
 - Three Councils
 - Assembly
 - Made executive decisions (ex. go to war)
 - Participation by all
 - Voted by hand
 - Council
 - Ran daily affairs of city
 - Courts
 - Tried public and private suits

The Peloponnesian War (431–404 B.C.E.)

- Sparta jealous of power of Athens
- Spartan backed Peloponnesian League vs Delian League
- Sparta marches army north and forces Athens to hide inside city
 - Crowded conditions = Plague
- Sparta allies with Persians and eventually captures city
- Outcome of Peloponnesian War
 - Left Greece weakened
 - Recovered economically, but spirit and unity was dead

Warfare in Greece

- Phalanx
 - Soldiers are packed together, heavily armored with interlocking shields, and long spears
 - Soldiers called Hoplites
 - Armored with chest plate, shin guards, helmets, and shields bronze
 - Equipped with spears and swords
- Companion Cavalry
 - Mounted soldiers used to attack at the flanks of enemy position

