

# THE RISE OF GREECE

Politics & War in the 5th century BC

## BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GREEK POLITICAL LIFE

- EQUALITY of CITIZENS before the law
  - Emphasis upon membership of the polis, of CITIZENSHIP
  - slaves, women and immigrants excluded
- A BOND of common interest between CITIZENS and POLIS

## Military Transformation

- Rise of the HOPLITES, infantrymen who
  - wore metal body armor
  - used spear and short sword
  - fought in a PHALANX
- Required teamwork, discipline, unity
- Equality of fighting men inspired equality of free men in all aspects of life

## The Fall of Kings

- Cities led by King and Council of Nobles
  - in ATHENS the AREOPAGUS
- nobles became very wealthy
- ⇒ gradual shift in power from king to nobles
- ⇒
- ARISTOCRACY – government by nobles
- PLUTOCRACY – government of the wealth

## Political Transformations

- CORINTH: an INDIVIDUAL seized power to rule as a TYRANT
- SPARTA: an OLIGARCHY of
  - Dual, limited MONARCHY
  - Powerful Military-based CITIZENSHIP
- ATHENS: period of TYRANTS gave way to DEMOCRACY

## TYRANNIES

*Tyrannos* = one who takes power by force

Could:

- provide STABILITY, e.g. DRACO of Athens:
  - appointed during an economic crisis
  - introduced very harsh laws (Draconian)
- be popular, e.g. Peisistratus of Athens

## THE REFORMS OF CLEISTHENES

- 508 – 502 BC
- Every free-born man living in Athens and its region ATTICA was a CITIZEN
- Not women, slaves, freed-slaves or foreigners
- He ENFRANCHISED – gave the vote to
  - all citizens

## The COUNCIL – BOULE

- Ran day-to-day affairs in the city
- Every citizen 30+ could sit on the council
- Members of the council
  - chosen by LOT
  - 500 members
  - Served a year

## The ASSEMBLY – ECCLESIA

- Held all LEGISLATIVE power
- All citizens 18+ could attend and vote
- Passed laws
- VETO or APPROVE all Council decisions
- Authorized WAR

## JUSTICE

- Assembly elected MAGISTRATES to
  - Administer JUSTICE
  - Judge civil and criminal cases
- Acted as the COURT OF APPEAL for judgments
- Acted as a CITIZEN JURY in many trials

# OSTRACISM

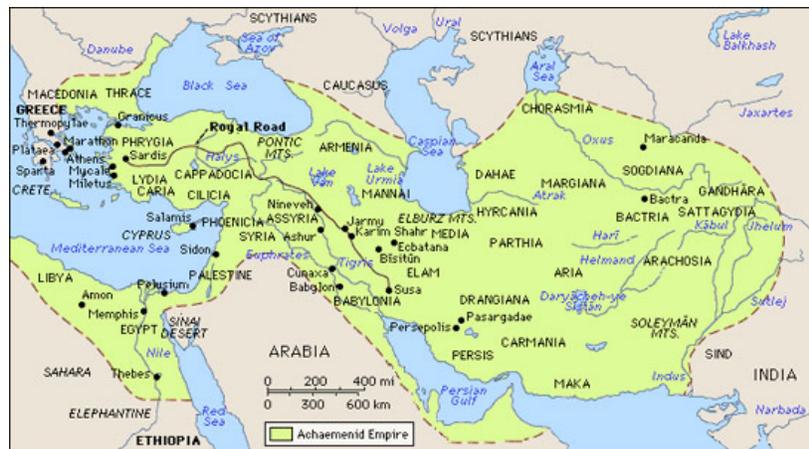
- The Expulsion of an individual from Athens
- For a period of 10 years
- Added 487 BC to the Constitution
- Assembly voted using OSTRACON – potsherds
- Expelled troublemakers and those becoming too powerful
- Discouraged those contemplating seizing power

# THE PERSIAN WARS

499–479 BC

# PERSIA IN ASIA MINOR

- 546 BC – Persia annexes Greek city-states in Asia Minor (Ionia)
- could keep Greek religion, Greek language, Greek traditions
- BUT
  - installed TYRANTS to rule each city
  - imposed high taxes
  - required citizens to fight in the Persian Army



## THE IONIAN REVOLT

- 499 BC – The tyrant of MILETUS got into trouble with his Persian masters
  - incited his fellow Greeks in Miletus to rise up
  - Other Greek cities under Persian control followed
- 498 BC – ATHENS intervened
  - conquered the city of SARDIS
- 495 BC – DARIUS of Persia restored control

## THE PERSIAN INVASION

- 490 BC
- 20,000 PERSIANS led by DARIUS
- 10,000 ATHENIANS met them at MARATHON
- Athenians badly outnumbered and expected to lose





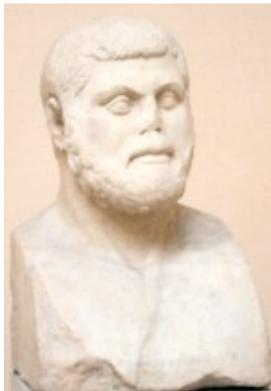
## The BATTLE of MARATHON

- Athenian phalanxes of hoplites ran at the enemy line in a dead run
  - Persian center COLLAPSED
  - Hoplites had the advantage in hand-to-hand combat
- ⇒ Deaths: 6400 Persians vs 192 Greeks
- Philippides = first marathon runner

# CONSEQUENCES

- Persians withdrew for 9 YEARS
  - ⇒ Greece able to prepare for future
  - ⇒ This saved Greece from Persian domination
    - Persians would not have stopped at Athens
    - Allowed Greek cultural accomplishments
- Showed Greeks that Persians could lose
  - ⇒ Perhaps the single most important battle in Greek history

## Importance to ATHENS



- CONFIDENCE (or PRIDE?)
- The feeling of COMMUNITY
- The soldiers of Marathon became the leaders of their generation

## THE SECOND INVASION

- XERXES (486-465 BC)
  - an army of ~ 150,000 men
  - a navy of 600 ships

### GREEK RESISTANCE

- Out of 700+ Greek city states 31 Resisted
  - Including Sparta, Athens and Corinth
  - Sparta led all land and sea operations
  - Sparta suffered the heaviest casualties

## THREE KEY BATTLES

- Thermopylae – 480 BC
  - 80,000 vs 7,000!
  - LEONIDAS led the 300 Spartans
- Salamis – 480 BC
  - 600 vs 200
  - Themistocles tricked Xerxes into Straits of Salamis
- Plataea – 479 BC
  - Mardonius led Persians
  - Pausanias of Sparta led the largest Greek army
  - Mardonius killed. Persians retreated. For good!

# CONSEQUENCES

- enormous psychological repercussions
  - Greek confidence swelled
  - aspects of Persian and Eastern culture influenced Greek culture

But:

- SPARTA WON ON LAND, ATHENS AT SEA
  - Who was the superior?
  - As they vied for dominance, they would clash