

ATHENS AND SPARTA

The Struggle for Hegemony in the
5th century BC

SPARTA



- STATE-ORIENTED IDEOLOGY
 - The individual lived (and died) for the state.
 - Lives were designed to serve the state from birth to the age of sixty.
- The MILITARY at the CORE of SPARTAN culture



SPARTAN MILITARY

- Strength, discipline, simplicity, self-denial
- Infanticide
- Military School: Ages 7–20
- At 20, every male joined the ARMY
- At 30, soldiers became full CITIZENS
- Served in the military until 60

THE SPARTAN STATE

- MIXED GOVERNMENT:
- DUAL KINGSHIP
 - Military generals
 - Chief priests
 - Limited each other
 - Limited by the EPHORS



ASSEMBLY (APELLA)

- Limited in power
- All citizens over 30
- No debate
- Approved/rejected proposals from Council
- voted on foreign policy, including war
- elected elders for Council and EPHORS

COUNCIL (Gerousia)

- Oligarchic
- 30 citizens over 60
- selected for life by the Assembly
- could set aside “crooked” decisions of the Assembly

EPHORS

- Executive power, managed the polis
 - Presided over Assembly and Council
 - Judged civil trials
 - Balanced kings
 - Administered TAXES
 - Controlled HELOTS
- 5 at a time; could not be re-elected
 - selected by Assembly
 - all citizens eligible

SPARTAN LIVING

- large slave population – HELOTS
 - Outnumbered Spartans 10 to 1
 - Source of continuing TENSION
- Lived SIMPLY
 - Ate bland food
 - Dressed simply
 - Eschewed art, literature, drama, music

SPARTAN WOMEN

- many of these factors also true for WOMEN
 - taught to serve the state above all else
 - grueling physical education
 - marriage and procreation considered a duty
- BUT
 - could take NO POLITICAL ROLE in society



FREE WOMEN?

- Freedom of Movement
- Could own, inherit & control PROPERTY
- Received an education
- Married at 20, a man of comparable age
- Subject to the same divorce laws as men
- Could have LOVERS and even bear children with other men
- Had multiple roles in SOCIETY

ATHENIAN WOMEN

- No RIGHTS
- Weak, thoughtless, sexually-obsessed
 - Men controlled all aspects of life
 - Restricted to the home
 - Could not own property or inherit
- Married as teens to older men
- Had no public role except in religion



ATHENS vs. SPARTA

THE PELEPONNESIAN WARS



HELLENIC LEAGUE

Headed by Sparta

Divided in 481 BC

into:

DELIAN LEAGUE

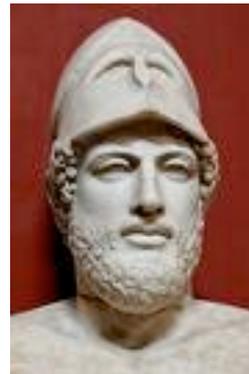
- Headed by Athens
- Formed 481 BC
- + 29 other states
- To protect from the return of Persia

PELEPONNESIAN LEAGUE

- Headed by Sparta
- Re-Formed 481 BC
- Mostly Spartan neighbor, inc. Corinth

ATHENIAN “EMPIRE”

- TAXES funded a “GOLDEN AGE”, a FLOWERING of CULTURE
- Led by PERICLES
 - 461–429 BC
 - Negotiated the 30-YEAR PEACE of 445





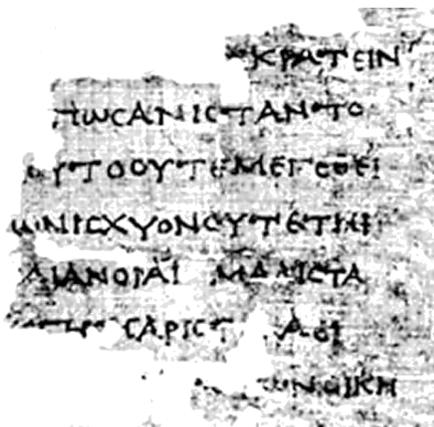
THE PELEPONNESIAN WAR

- 431 BC war breaks out
- 429 BC Pericles in a PLAGUE
- 10 YEARS of WAR
 - Sparta tried to fight on land
 - Athens tried to fight on the sea
 - ⇒ Fought to a DEADLOCK
- 421 BC Peace of NICIAS



THUCYDIDES

- *History of the Peloponnesian War*
 - Straightforward account
 - No mythical elements
 - Rational analysis





THE SICILIAN DISASTER

- 413 BC
- ALCIBIADES led attack on SICILY
 - 40,000 Athenians killed or captured
 - 1/2 of the navy destroyed
- Left Athens defenseless
- Sparta took advantage

THE END

- 405 BC Athens lose a key naval battle
- 404 BC TOTAL SURRENDER to Sparta
- Sparta installs THIRTY TYRANTS in Athens
 - an OLIGARCHY
 - Restricted citizens' rights
 - Reign of Terror
- 403 BC Return of a fragile, insecure democracy
- 399 BC Trial of SOCRATES

SPARTAN HEGEMONY

- Sparta undisputed major power – the **HEGEMON** – in Greece
- Did not control directly but
 - Exerted military and political control
 - Influenced domestic and foreign affairs