

Political and Martial Aretê in the Archaic Period

Hellenic Unification

Foundation texts of Greek religion/mythology: *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, Hesiod [SLIDE]
 the latter includes the [Succession Myth, Titanomachy and Gigantomachy] Devolution of Man: from Golden to Iron Age; Pandora and Greek misogyny (cf. Eve); immoral gods esp. in *Iliad* and separation of Fate and Divine Will [SLIDE]

[SLIDE] Prometheus
 deep-
 rooted
 ambivalence
 about
 technology

Pan-Hellenic sanctuaries/divine cult worship

Cult centers including Olympia and Delphi [SLIDE]

Athletic competitions (e.g., Olympic Games, 776-AD 261) as part of religious occasion

From aristocracy to tyranny

Nature of aristocratic (*hoi agathoi*) power & attached original text.

Extensive middle class (*hoi kakoi*) develops
 yeoman farmers vs. tenant
 merchants

coinage: famous 4-drachma "Attic owls"-helps stimulate economy [SLIDES] x2
 democratization of warfare

Innovations in armor, weapons and tactics
 Middle class army
 Middle class political demands [SLIDES]

cf.
 type
 of
 knowledge

Tyrants (non-hereditary monarchs): Peisistratids

supported non-aristocratic population

promoted civic (rather than clan) identity

Panathenaic games - they sponsored or dictated but not voluntary
 oligarchy vs. democracy

maintain Solon's constitution (classification by wealth rather than birth); *seisachtheia*

From tyranny to democracy at Athens

Kleisthenes (508)

Isonomia by undermining regional/clan (coast, city, inland) ties, and aristocratic stranglehold on power through *trittys* 10 tribes, each 1/3 from

& isocles
 many
 equal
 sides

Legislative bodies

Council (*boulê*) of 500 so from each tribe 2 [SLIDES] bouleuterion

Assembly (*ekklesia*) of all male citizens

Areopagus (where they met) of 9 archons [SLIDES] x 4

the Pnyx

Extreme limitations of Athenian democracy: 85% of population excluded (see early U.S. history), including women (see Wine, Women, and Song) and children, esp. girls, metics (resident aliens), and ...

assigned by lot oversee various aspects of state - civic, religious, etc. vs. honorific in like and subsequent art
 det. of education

Sebastião P. Salgado mine in Brazil

slaves c. 25-40% of total population (100k in mid-5th cent.); foreign and Greek; not based on ethnicity or race; non-racist basis (Herodotus and the Ethiopians); treatment-extremely varied from domestic slaves in Athens to mines (e.g. at Laurium)

Successes of Athenian Democracy

- Distribution of wealth (1/5)
- Stability - lasted almost 200 years (with some brief interruptions)
- Set stage for classical period
- By far largest percentage of population to share rule up to this time in history
- Model for American democracy

SLIDE

Herodotus (the "father of history" [or historiography]) and the Debate over Political Systems

Herodotus and the Persian (see modern Iran) Wars

Background: Persian Empire huge, capital at Sousa [modern Iran], from Egypt to the Indus; Ionian Revolt (499-94); Burning of Sardis; Darius Mardonius' failed invasion (492)

SLIDE

SLIDE

SLIDE

First Persian War (490)

Darius launches invasion
Herodotus' religious view of history/tragic sequence

SLIDE

Marathon

Miltiades' tactic
Athenian hoplites are yeoman farmers in democratic state-high morale
Class stratification within Persian army-lack of morale
Victory: 192 vs. 6400 casualties!-military superiority of hoplites, and 26 mile run
source of great pride (*marathonomachomai* such as Aeschylus; see the Greatest Generation)

SLIDE x 3

Between wars (490-80)

Persia-Darius dies, Xerxes prepares for second invasion
Athens-Themistocles' promotion of navy and fortified harbor, called Piraeus, connected to Athens by the Long Walls
New vein of silver in Athenian mines at Laurium

SLIDE

SLIDE

SLIDE

118 x 120 ft, etc

170 towers

SLIDE

Aristocratic opposition; ostracism (*ostraka*) vs. aristocracy

SLIDE rabble navy

Second Persian War (480-79)

Xerxes launches expedition-pontoon bridge

SLIDE x 2

Thermopylae (480)-land battle

Leonidas and the Spartans' immortal bravery
anecdote about arrows; the meaning of "Laconic"
why Spartans so tough (see below)

Athens sacked (480)

Athens abandoned/population saved
oracle of the "wooden wall"

SLIDE

Salamis (480)-naval battle

SCITSE

Trick of Themistocles

Persian navy (500 ships) vs. Greek navy (380 ships) with Athenian triremes

Victory (and subsequent Athenian thalassocracy)

Xerxes and his throne/Persian retreat

Plataea and Mycale (479), though minor conflicts continue till 449 (Peace of Kallias)

significance of Persian Wars, including Athenian pride and optimism and especially Athenian cultural development; western history

Sparta's military state

Lebensraum policy: helots/Messenians

tough!

Reforms of "Lycourgos"

Physical and military training throughout life

Unfavorable climate for artistic achievement, but ...

Mixed constitution highly stable (admired by Plato)

Modern analogy to Sparta: fascism