

Notes on Quiz #4

History of Ancient Greece • Fall 2022

1. What was the Delian League? What was its original purpose, and how did it change over the years?

The Delian League is the modern historians' term for the naval alliance formed after the Persian Wars. The intent was to counterstrike against the Persians and win back Greek lands in the eastern Aegean and Anatolia previously conquered by Persia. A tribute of either ships or money was levied on all members of the league. Its treasury was at a neutral location, the temple of Apollo at Delos.

Originally Athens led the League as military hegemon. In a few short years the League had achieved its goal of winning back the Greek lands from the Persians, however, and after that the League became more and more about ensuring the cultural and economic preeminence of Athens, in opposition to its rivals Corinth and Sparta. Worse, Athens started punitively enforcing its dominance on member cities, forbidding them to leave the alliance and exacting retribution on cities that tried to do so or otherwise showed resistance. From the mid-century onward some modern historians call this alliance the Athenian Empire.

2. What struck you as most interesting in the text's discussion of family, marriage, and childhood, and why?

(This is a subjective question; the main point here is to discuss a distinctive element of Athenian society.)

EC1. All of the following are true about the Athenian Assembly EXCEPT:

(b) It required a quorum of at least 60 citizens to pass important legislation [a quorum was closer to 6,000]

EC2. What was a metic? What kinds of roles did they play in Athens's society and economy?

"Metic" is the term for a resident alien. As skilled artisans and entrepreneurs who contributed to the robustness of Athens's economy. Though they could not vote and paid special taxes, they were often wealthy or respected for their craft. Many were deeply integrated into culture and were often close friends of wealthy Athenians and aristocrats, joining the nobility in public and private social gatherings. This means they had cultural and even political influence behind the scenes.