



Sparta and the Art of War

History of Ancient Greece | Meeting #5

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 20
Proposal Due
- Thursday, October 2
No class meeting
- Sunday, September 28
Responses for Week 5 Due

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Five things today

- Panhellenism
- The Peloponnese
- The Spartan system
- Spartan women
- The Spartan mirage

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Quiz #3: Sparta and the Art of War

1. To ensure an ideal warrior culture, Spartans practiced all of the following **EXCEPT**:
 - a. physical training of all boys from age 7 onward
 - b. inspection of male infants, exposing the unfit to the wilderness to die
 - c. an expectation that men remain fit and ready to fight through age 60
 - ☒ d. ensuring plenty of leisure for study and writing poetry to create the most well-rounded soldiers
2. The helots were
 - a. protective armor worn over the shins
 - ☒ b. hereditary slaves of the Spartan state
 - c. elected officials in charge of the blacksmiths
 - d. a form of gastrointestinal disruption
3. The "mixed constitution" of the Spartan government included all of the following **EXCEPT**:
 - a. Two kings with military, religious, and judicial powers
 - b. Five men elected to keep an eye on the kings
 - ☒ c. A high priest who could overturn any law
 - d. A council of old men
4. Spartan women
 - ☒ a. were educated, exercised outside, and were well nourished
 - b. wore elaborate cosmetics
 - c. lived in the barracks with their husbands
 - d. held the political offices so the men could focus on training as warriors
5. The Spartans called themselves
 - a. the kryptoi (the secret police)
 - ☒ b. the homoioi (men of equal status)
 - c. the perioikoi (the dwellers nearby)
 - d. the malakoi (the jerks)

EC: What is "The Spartan Mirage"?

Extra Credit

5



Responses

6

Questions about whatever



7

Everyday religion

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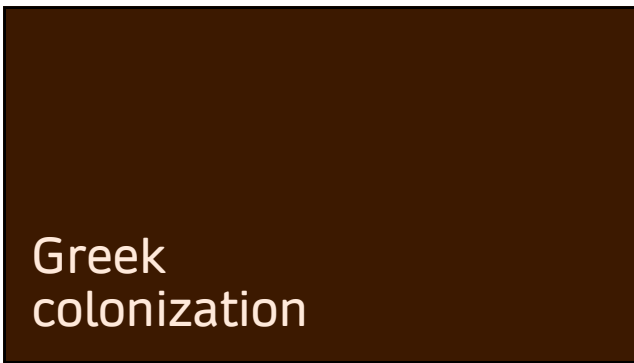
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Greek colonies

- Colonies are children of a particular polis
- Expansion of mother city's political, economic, and cultural power
 - New resources and markets for trade
 - Relief of population stress
 - Control of strategic locations

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Hellas and the colonies

- Colonies are closely linked with mother cities
 - Trade interaction
 - Movement of people and ideas
- Culture and thought in the colonies move with changes in the Aegean
- Hellas is the Aegean homeland plus its colonies

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Primary Source Reading

Herodotus

The Founding of Cyrene



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Archaic Hellas

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Panhellenism

- Strong polis identity
- Shared cultural superiority
- Mutual competition between poleis to achieve ideal society

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Dark age values in the Archaic Age

- *Xenia* guest-friendship
- *Timē* honor
- *Aretē* excellence
- Agonal man

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Sparta

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Sparta as a "warrior society"

- What might have driven the Spartans to become devoted to war?
- What factors make it hard for us to understand the Spartans?

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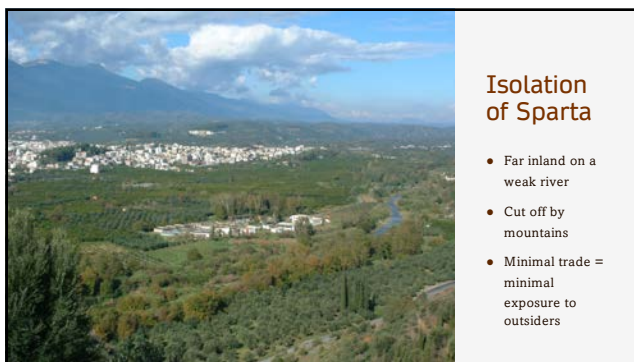
The Peloponnese

- XX

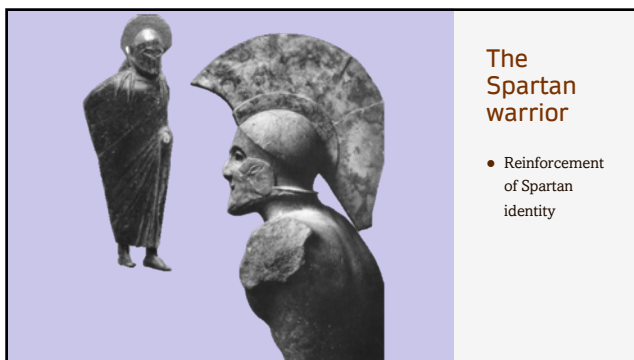
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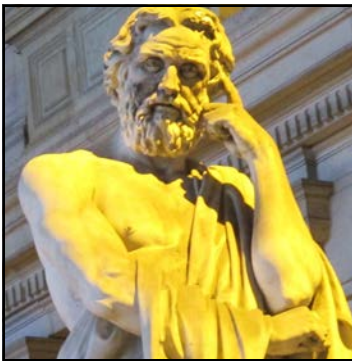
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The hoplite ideal

- Unity and strength of the hoplite army
- Becomes their vision for the ideal society

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Lycurgos

- Legendary early lawgiver
- All rules and institutions of Spartan society attributed to him

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Spartan social hierarchy

- *homoioi* "men of equal status," peers
Spartan citizen/warrior elite
- *periokoi* "dwellers nearby"
Laconians who were free, but disenfranchised
- *helots* heilotes, "prisoners of war"
State-owned serfs

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Homoioi

- Citizen body restricted only to the Spartan warrior families
- Families/clans are considered equal

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Sole devotion to Sparta and the art of war

- Must be physically fit
- Life in the barracks
- No arts and literature
- No skilled labor

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Primary Source Reading

Herodotus

The Spartan Way of Living



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Agogē

- Begin training from age 7
- Bond with older boy who guides through training
- Eat at mess with the men
- Rituals to toughen and train

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Primary Source Reading

Xenophon The Spartan Polity

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Helot

- Helots vastly outnumber the homoioi
- Food tribute goes to feed one Spartan family
- Kept in place and ritually oppressed
- Many nonetheless proud to be part of Sparta
- Spartan system could not exist without them

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Spartan women

- Handle estate, lands, helots while men are in the barracks
- More choice in marriage
- Educated, well-fed, and physically trained
- Reinforcement of Spartan patriotism

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Primary Source Reading

Plutarch Sayings of Spartan Women



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The Spartan constitution

- Two kings
- Ephors
- Gerousia
- Assembly of warriors

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Primary Source Reading

Aristotle

On the Spartan Constitution



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Primary Source Reading

Plutarch

The Great Rhetra

Διὸς Συλλανίου καὶ Ἀθανᾶς Συλλανίας ἱερὸν ἰδρυσάμενον, φυλὰς φυλάξαντα καὶ ὥβας ὠβάσαντα, τριάκοντα γερούσιαν σὺν ἀρχαγέταις καταστήσαντα, ὥρας ἐξ ὥρας ἀπελλάζειν μετὰξὺ Βαβύκας τε καὶ Κυακιῶνος, οὕτως εἰσφέρειν τε καὶ ἀφίστασθαι δάμω δὲ τὴν κυρίαν ἦμεν καὶ ράτος.

αἱ δὲ σκολιὸν ὁ δῆμος ἔλοιτο, τοὺς πρεσβυγενεῖας καὶ ἀρχαγέτας ἀποστατήρας ἦμεν.

Having founded a temple of Zeus Syllanios and Athene Syllania, having tribed [or preserved] the tribes and obeyed the odes, having established thirty as a council of elders together with [the leaders/kings], from time to time [to celebrate Apollo/hold assemblies] between Babycia and Cnacion, thus to bring in and to set aside. Ultimate authority and power is to be the people's.

If the people speaks crookedly, the elders and [leaders/kings] be setters aside.

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Spartan gods

- Not especially devoted to the gods
- Too proud to credit Ares or Zeus for their victories or blame them for defeats

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The "Spartan Mirage"



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