



Athens and the Art of Society

History of Ancient Greece | Meeting #6

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 20
Proposal Due
- Sunday, October 12
Responses for Week 6 Due

2

Five things today

- Sparta and Athens
- Archaic Athens
- Athenian transformations
- The Persians
- The Persian Wars

3



4

Quiz #4: Athens and the Art of Society

1. Stages of Athens's political development included all of the following **EXCEPT**:
 - a. Harsh penalties under the laws of Draco
 - b. Solon's class-related reforms
 - ☒ c. Pericles's killing of the tyrant and painting the statues in blood
 - d. Cleisthenes's reorganization of the tribes
2. The Athenian lawyer Solon wrote, "I took my stand with a strong shield covering both sides, allowing neither unjust dominance." Which sides was he talking about?
 - a. Sparta and Athens
 - ☒ b. rich and poor
 - c. Greece and Persia
 - d. mortal and divine
3. When Athens received a sudden windfall from the silver mines of Laurium, they spent the money on:
 - ☒ a. triremes
 - b. theatre-building
 - c. jewelry
 - d. hookers and blow
4. In Athens, the conspiracy of Cylon ended with:
 - a. a successful coup and a long tyranny by Cylon
 - ☒ b. the murder of Cylon's followers, who had sought sanctuary in the temple of Athena
 - c. the intervention of Sparta, who took the citadel of Athens by force
 - d. the treachery of Cylon and the flight of Alcibiades
5. The Greeks won all of the following battles against Persia **EXCEPT**:
 - a. the Battle of Marathon
 - ☒ b. the Battle of Thermopylae
 - c. the Battle of Salamis
 - d. the Battle of Plataea

Extra Credit

EC. Of the leaders discussed in this chapter, who stands out to you as having a particularly interesting or important legacy? Why do you think so?

5



Responses

6

Questions about whatever



7

Sparta

8



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

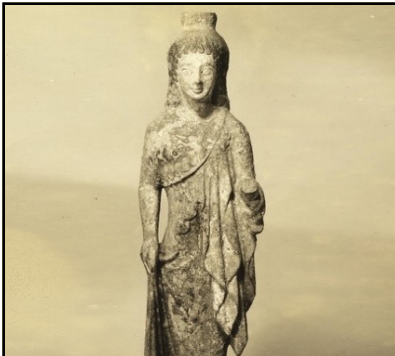
Διὸς Συλλανίου καὶ Ἀθανᾶς Συλλανίας ἱερὸν ἰδρυσάμενον, φυλὰς φυλάξαντα καὶ ὥβας ὠβάσαντα, τριάκοντα γερούσιαν σὺν ἀρχαγέταις καταστήσαντα, ὥρας ἐξ ὥρας ἀπελλάζειν μετὰ ξυ Βαβύκας τε καὶ Κυακιῶνος, οὕτως εἰσφέρειν τε καὶ ἀφίστασθαι δάμω δὲ τὴν κυρίαν ἥμεν καὶ ράτος.

αἱ δὲ σκολιὰν ὁ δῆμος ἐλοιτο, 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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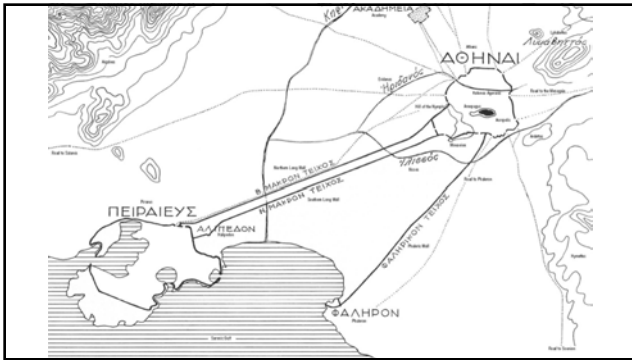
Archaic Athens

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Athens and Sparta

- How are they similar?
- How (and why) are they different?
 - Geographically
 - Ethnically
 - Culturally

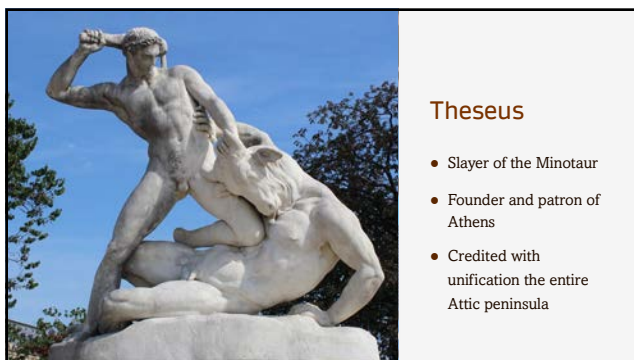
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Attica

- Athens is not just the city-state
- Local identities vs. unified identity
- Urban vs. rural
- Distance

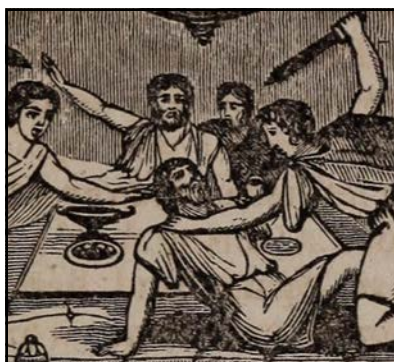
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Eupatrids

- Early Athens was an oligarchy
- Eupatrids = 'good families'
- Controlled Athenian government
 - Only eupatrids ran for archon
 - Council was made up of ex-archons

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Cylon and Megacles

- Winner at the Olympics
 - Father-in-law was tyrant at Megara
- Attempted a coup to become tyrant
 - Opposed by the people
 - Took refuge in Athena's temple
- Megacles lured them out of the temple to stand trial
 - Cylon and followers were then killed
 - Megacles convicted of murder
- Megacles's clan, the Alcmaeonidae, inherited a "stain" that lasted for generations
 - Cleisthenes, Pericles, Alcibiades, Cimon

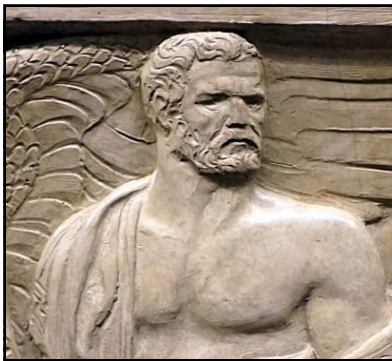
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Tyranny

- Greek tyrant is a champion of the people
- Rule often involves reforms
 - Civic improvements
 - Patronage of the arts
- Inherently divisive
 - Rules on behalf of a specific faction, not the polis as a whole

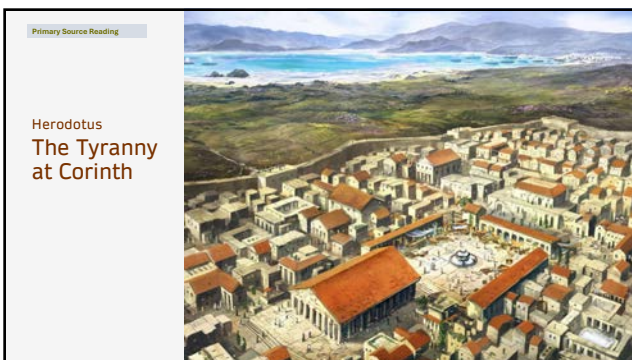
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Draco: Draconian laws

- Strict, publicly known law code
- Often involves disputes between citizens
 - In the past handled privately
 - Now a matter of public concern
- Shared rather than local identity
- Consistency of justice
 - Citizens know what to expect
 - Judges can't decide arbitrarily
 - Faith in central authority

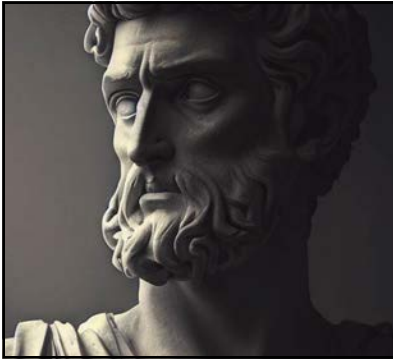
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Primary Source Reading

Herodotus
The Tyranny
at Corinth

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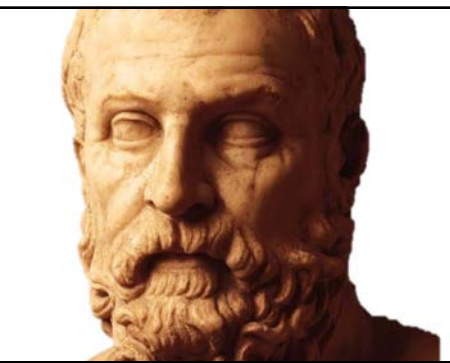
Solon: wealth, not blood

- Trusted by nobles and masses
- Enacts many economic and political reforms
- Eligibility for voting and office by wealth rather than blood
- Athens as a trading culture
 - Transactions represent change
 - Accumulation of wealth indicates skill and acumen
 - Social mobility valuable for bringing new ideas

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Primary Source Reading

Solon The Rule of Law



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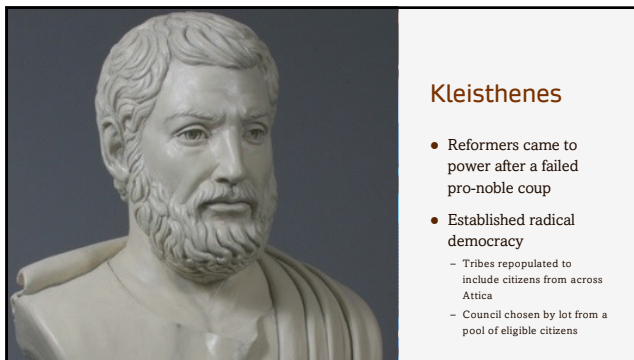
Peisistratos

- Champion of the people
 - Men of the Plain: large landowners
 - Men of the Coast: fishermen and craftsmen
 - Men of the Hill
 - poorer residents of Attic highlands
 - cities of Attica
- Formalized unification of Attica
- Took power, was forced out, took power again
- Rode into Athens in a chariot with Athena at his side

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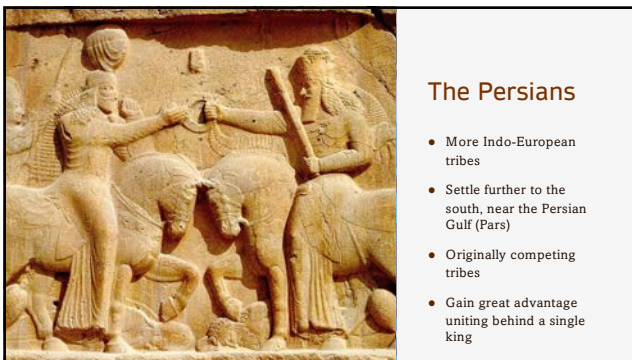
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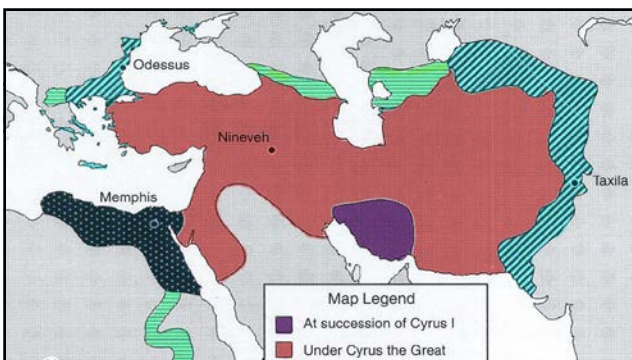
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The Persians

- More Indo-European tribes
- Settle further to the south, near the Persian Gulf (Pars)
- Originally competing tribes
- Gain great advantage uniting behind a single king

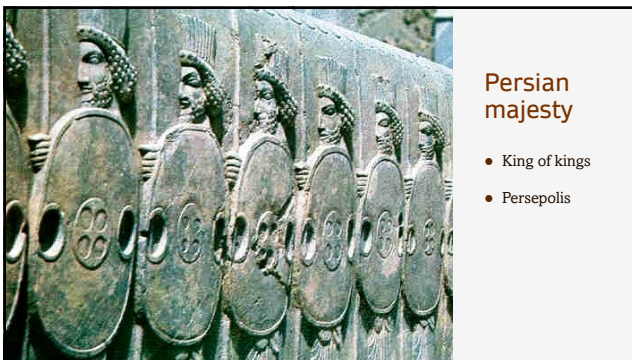
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The Persian Wars

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Darius and Xerxes

- Systems and institutions, not personal rule
 - Civil service
 - Infrastructure
- Continuity and stability across reigns

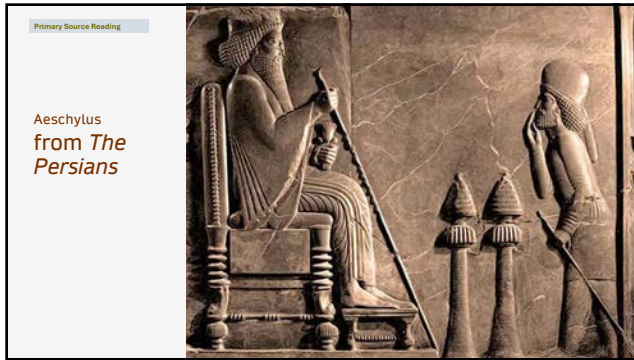
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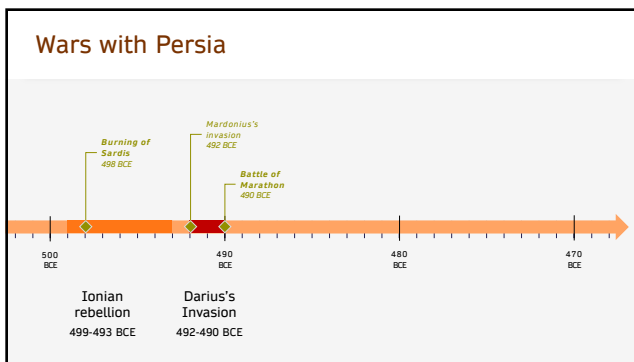
Vassals and satraps

- Satraps = provincial governors
- Means of preventing oppression
- Other powers in a satrapy
 - Garrison commander
 - King's eyes

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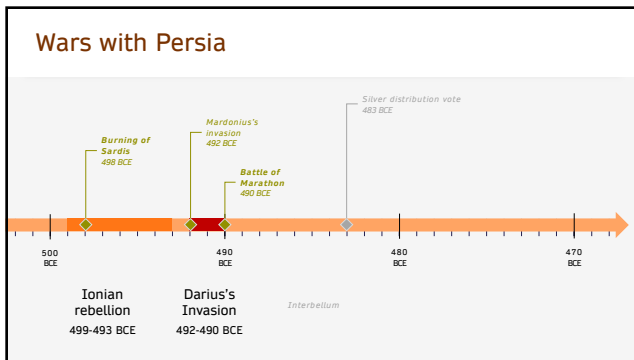
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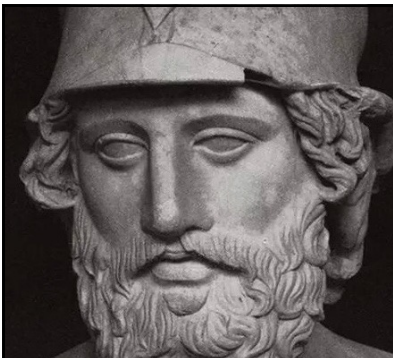
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Themistocles

- Knows Persia will invade again
- Silver windfall enriches Athens
- Themistocles persuades voters to invest in 200 ships of war

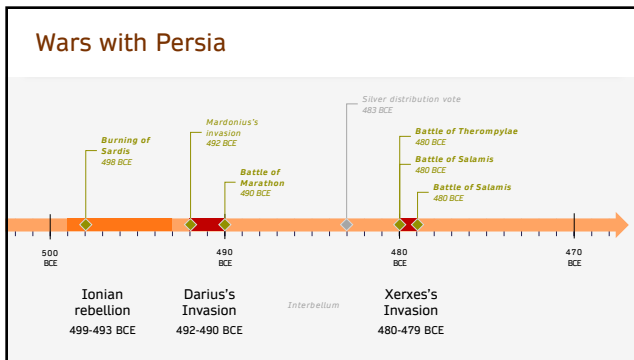
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Triremes

- Huge innovation in naval warfare
- Naval battles rely on ramming to destroy enemy vessels
- Triremes faster and more nimble
- 30 rows of oars
 - Muscle power of 180 men
 - Secret high-tension cables to brace ship when ramming

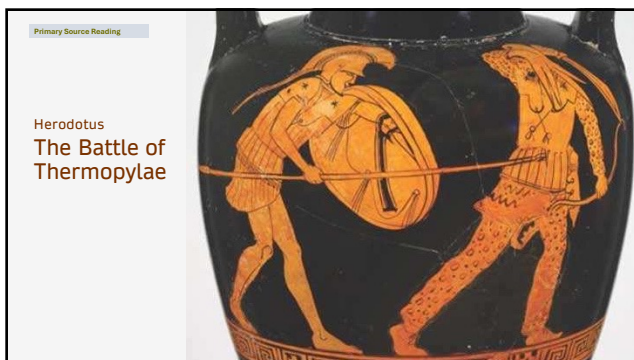
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Battle of Salamis

- Athens has the advantage
 - Persians outsource navy to Phoenicians
 - Athenians superior in naval strategy
 - Newer ships
- Persian navy tricked into ambush
- Athens now a viable rival with Sparta for leadership of the Greeks

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