



**Sparta and Athens**  
Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #16

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**Upcoming Dates**

- Thursday, April 2, Tuesday, April 7, and Thursday, April 9  
• No class meeting
- Tuesday, April 27  
• Clouds Essay Due
- Tuesday, May 18  
• Images Essay Due
- No Responses this week

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**Four things today**

- Archaic Hellas
- Spartan women
- Athens
- Radical democracy

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### Quiz #1: Ancient Goddesses and Gods

- According to Pomeroy, Athena, the Greek goddess of war and wisdom, is "the most complex of the goddesses" because
  - She has a complicated love life
  - She works all day and parties all night
  - She possesses both masculine and feminine qualities
  - She has seven husbands
- A double standard seen in stories about the gods' and goddesses' relationships is
  - Goddesses are expected to sleep only with other gods, but gods can sleep with whoever
  - Goddesses can sleep with women but gods can never sleep with men
  - Gods can give fruit baskets and other gifts to their lovers, but goddesses can't
  - Curing your lover can only be done on Sundays
- The "virginal" Olympian goddesses (that is, goddesses who are unmarried and not bound to a male god) include all of the following [EXCEPT](#)
  - Athena
  - Artemis
  - Hestia
  - Hera
- Mother goddesses in various cultures make a connection between female fertility and
  - architecture
  - agriculture
  - astrology
  - astrophysics
- The pre-Olympian god Cronus is known for all of the following [EXCEPT](#)
  - Castrating his father with a sickle
  - Swallowing his own children
  - Being defeated by Zeus with the help of his wife Rhea
  - Barfing weekly in pomegranate juice

Extra Credit

EC. In the readings (Pomeroy or Hesiod), which goddess's story stood out to you? Why?

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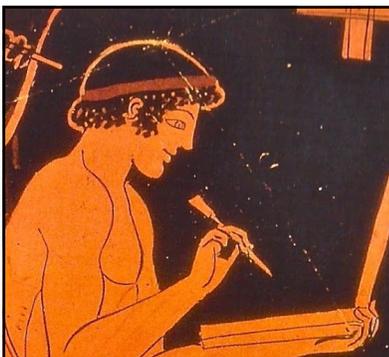
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### The Clouds Essay

- Goal: Use *Clouds* and one other work to say something about Athens and its culture
- Choice of three topics
- Make an argument (thesis)
- Choose three key moments that illustrate your thesis
- Compare to similar moments in another work from another work from ancient Athens

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### Guidance and resources

**Requirements for All Papers**  
All written assignments for this course MUST adhere to these requirements...  
Before starting on your assignment, please take time to read these. They're very short, and they cover the key requirements without being too cluttered. Please read them before submitting any paper.

**Essay on Clouds**  
A. INTRODUCTION  
1. Explain the title. The historical context...  
2. Introduce the author and the play and what you plan to discuss in terms of dramatic structure and conflict.  
3. Address any special issues and your essay's main focus (requirements for the topic, including formatting, citations, and citations).  
4. Focus on the introduction and bibliography. See the Research and Citation Center. You will be asked your instructor if your paper is not passing this.

**Research and Citations Center**  
Options are absolutely essential in any academic paper, but particularly so in history. Citations are the backbone of your research and must be clear, whether in a direct quote, paraphrase, or even just an idea.

**Writing a Position Paper for History Students**  
This is a Position Paper. It is a type of argumentative writing. It is a type of writing that is used to present a position on a topic and to persuade others to accept that position.

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### Clouds essay options

**Choose your topic from one of the three prompts below.**

<b>Option A</b> <b>Right and wrong in <i>Clouds</i>.</b> <i>Clouds</i> emphasizes traditional values throughout the play and then ends with violence. Does <i>Clouds</i> offer an internally inconsistent message on morality?	<b>Option B</b> <b>Aristophanes's agenda.</b> The surviving plays of Aristophanes range over a long and turbulent period of Athenian history. Do Aristophanes's opinions and technique change over time?	<b>Option C</b> <b>Socrates vs. <i>Socrates</i>.</b> The "Socrates" found in Aristophanes's <i>Clouds</i> is a deliberate distortion driven by a desire to discredit the real Socrates. What does this version of Socrates have in common with the one depicted in works by Socrates's student, Plato?
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**Choose a second work to compare with *Clouds*.**

<b>Popular options include:</b> • <i>Medea</i> by Euripides; • <i>Elektra</i> by Euripides or Sophocles; and • <i>Antigone</i> by Sophocles. • There are other possibilities as well.	<b>Popular options include:</b> • <i>Phaenomena</i> , mounted in 408 BCE, 11 years after the revised version of <i>Clouds</i> ; • <i>Birds</i> , mounted in 414; and • <i>Wealth</i> , mounted in 388.	<b>Possibilities include:</b> • <i>Phaedo</i> , which has Socrates discussing life and afterlife on the brink of his execution; • <i>Apology</i> , a version of Socrates's self-defense against charges of irreligion; or • any of the other dialogues that focus on how Plato wanted to show Socrates's methods and beliefs.
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### Structure of the *Clouds* essay

**INTRODUCTION**

**1**

- Discuss Work A
- Discuss Work B
- Analysis  
What do the way these works depict this part of the story tell us?

**2**

- Discuss Work A
- Discuss Work B
- Analysis  
What do the way these works depict this part of the story tell us?

**3**

- Discuss Work A
- Discuss Work B
- Analysis  
What do the way these works depict this part of the story tell us?

**CONCLUSION**

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### Citations and bibliography

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<sup>1</sup>Smith 2007, 34.  
<sup>2</sup>Smith 2007, 106.  
<sup>3</sup>Zimmermann 2009, 56.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Smith, John. 2007. *This Is the Title of the Book*. New York: Important Books Press.

Thayer, Charles C. 1999. *Abingdon, Virginia and History*. Seattle, WA: Small Town Press.

Thayer, Charles C. 2003. *More Abingdon Stories*. Seattle, WA: Small Town Press.

Zimmermann, Fred. 2009. *Did You Hear the One About the Walrus?* Chicago: Nunc Press.

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### Citing a play or poem

486 Four Texts on Socrates

[1] Smith 2007, 34. [2] Smith 2007, 106. [3] Zimmermann 2009, 56.

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1186

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Footnote or parenthetical citation:

*Clouds*, lines 1087–1104

Bibliography:

West, Thomas G., Grace Starry West, Plato, and Aristophanes. *Four Texts on Socrates: Plato's Euthyphro, Apology, and Crito, and Aristophanes' Clouds* (Rev. ed). Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998.



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### Questions about whatever



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# Archaic Greece

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**Foundations of Archaic Greece**

- Polis
- Hoplite armies
- Knowledge through creative expression
- Epic poetry as the foundation for public religion
- Colonization
- Panhellenism

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**The Polis**

- Urban centers formed during the early Iron Age
- Merging of farming villages around a common marketplace
- Often dear a defensible position

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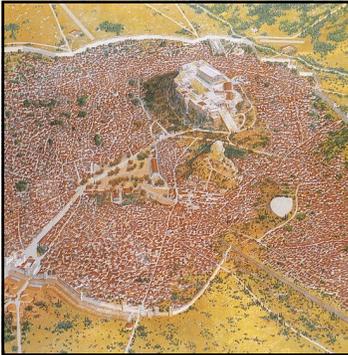
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### Characteristics of the polis

- City-state
- Synoecism
- Replacement of basileus with magistrates
- Council of "elders" (aristoi)
- Citizen assembly (demos)

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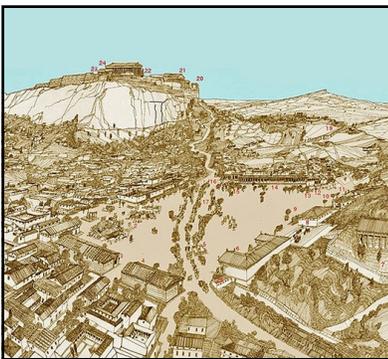
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### Agora

- Marketplace
- Social center
- Political nexus
- Religious hub
- The agora is the beating heart of the polis

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### Hoplite army

- Bronze Age: reliance on warriors, cavalry, single combat
- Iron Age: Hoplite army
  - Rows of men with overlapping shields
  - Crush less ordered infantry, especially from the high ground

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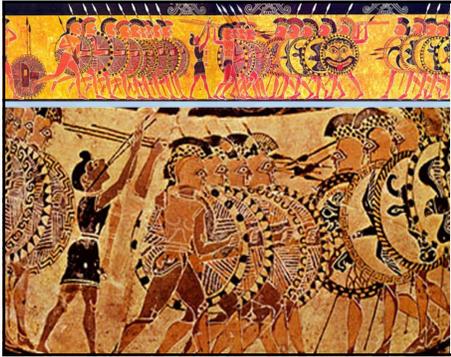
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**The phalanx**

- All men equal
- No heroes
- More inclusive of social strata

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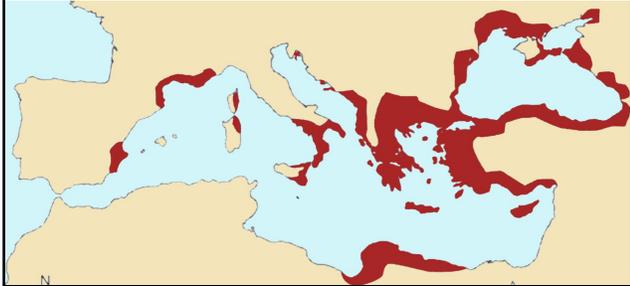
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**Greek expansion through colonization**



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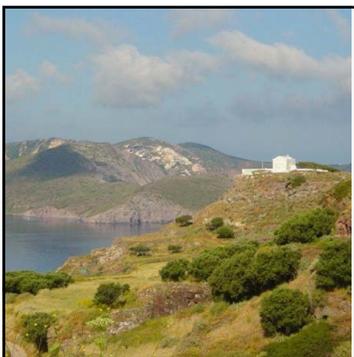
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**Greek colonies**

- 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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### Lyric poetry

- Epic poetry
  - Objective
  - Top-down
  - Reinforces rules of society
- Lyric poetry
  - Subjective
  - Personal
  - Questioning

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### Panhellenism

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

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# Sparta and the art of war

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**Occupation of Laconia and Messenia**

- Spartans arrive with Dorian influx at the end of the Bronze Age
- Overpower larger but disrupted local populations
- Laconians and Messenians forced into generations of serfdom

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**Isolation of Sparta**

- Far inland on a weak river
- Cut off by mountains
- Minimal trade = minimal exposure to outsiders

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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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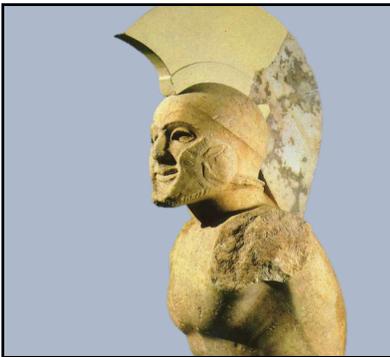
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**Homoioi**

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

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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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### Periokoi

- "Dwellers nearby"
- Free, but without a say
- Performed necessary skilled labor for Spartan warriors
  - Armor and weapons
  - Leatherwork

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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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**The Spartan constitution**

- Two kings
- Ephors
- Gerousia
- Assembly of warriors

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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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# Athens and the art of society

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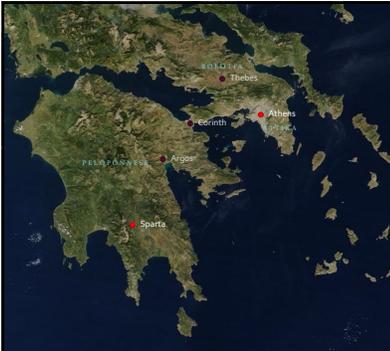
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**Athens and Sparta**

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

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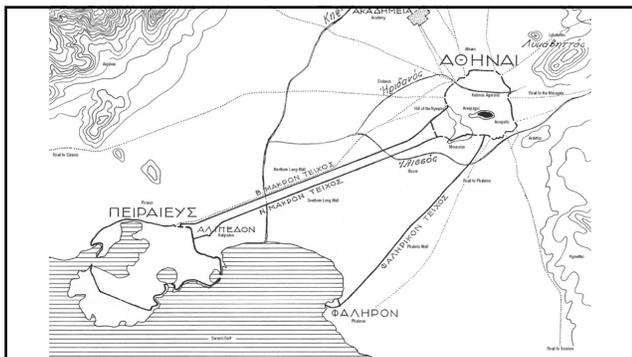
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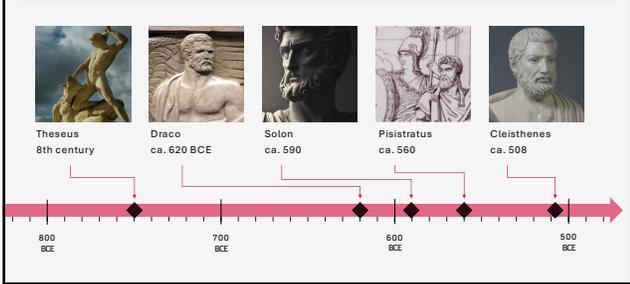


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### Key early Athenian figures



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### Theseus

- Slayer of the Minotaur
- Founder and patron of Athens
- Credited with unification of the entire Attic peninsula

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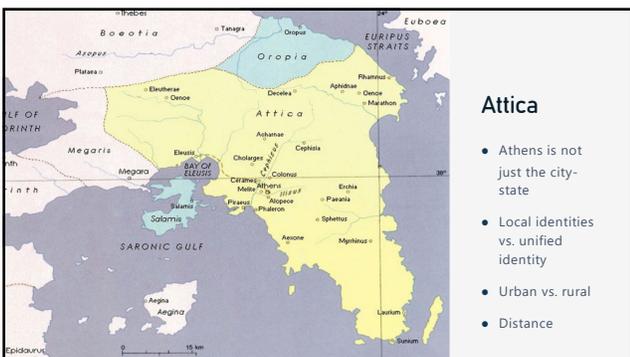
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### Attica

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

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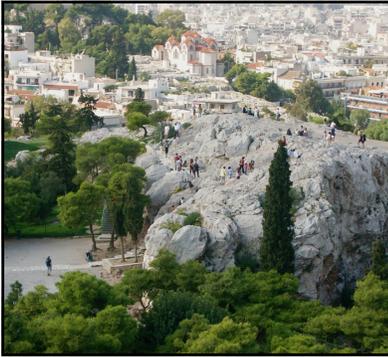
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### Eupatrids

- 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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### 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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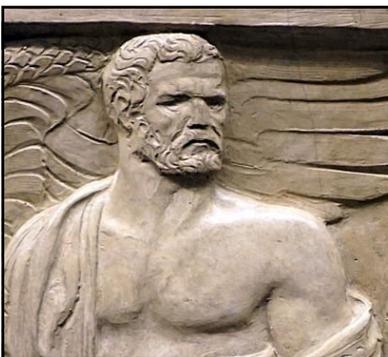
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### Draco: Draconian laws

- 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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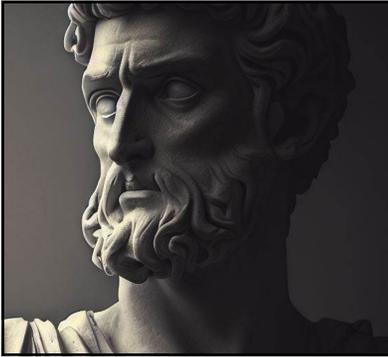
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### Solon: wealth, not blood

- 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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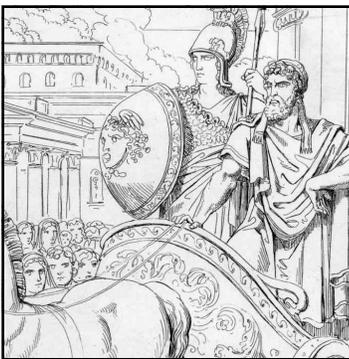
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### Peisistratos

- 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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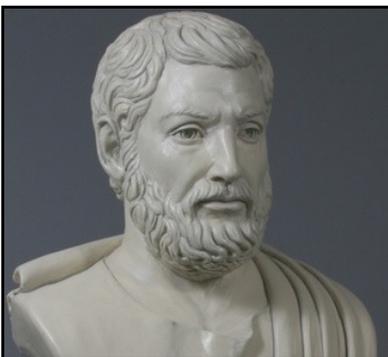
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### Kleisthenes

- Reformers came to power after a failed pro-noble coup
- Established radical democracy
  - Tribes repopulated to include citizens from across Attica
  - Council chosen by lot from a pool of eligible citizens

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