



The Persian Menace

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #17

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, April 27
• *Clouds* Essay Due
- Monday, May 18
• Images Essay Due
- Sunday, April 19
Responses for Week 11 Due

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Four things today

- *Clouds*
- The transformations of Athens
- Athenian democracy
- The Persian threat

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Questions about whatever



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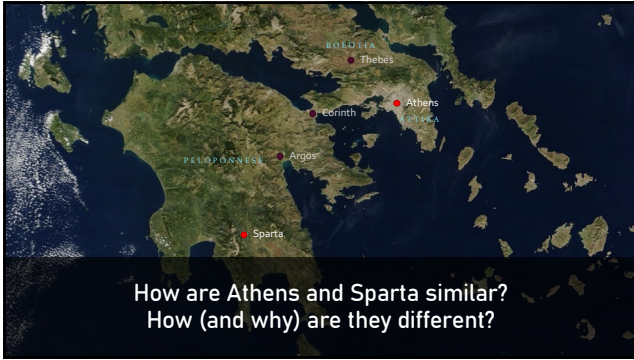
The middle part of *Clouds*

- "Socrates" and the gods
- Hens and roosters
- The chorus

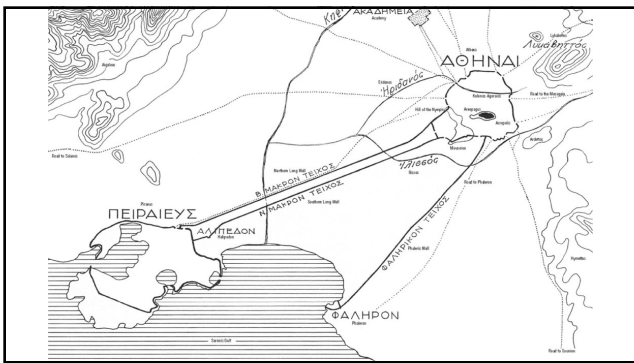
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Athens and the art of society

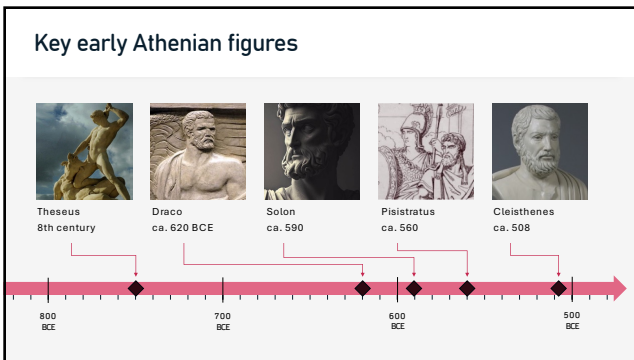
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Theseus

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

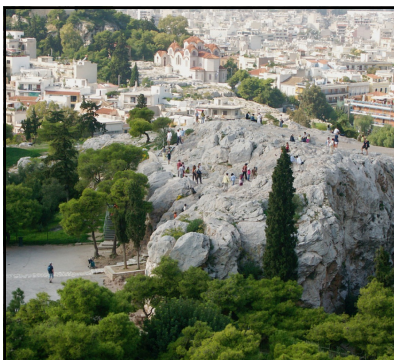
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Attica

- 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

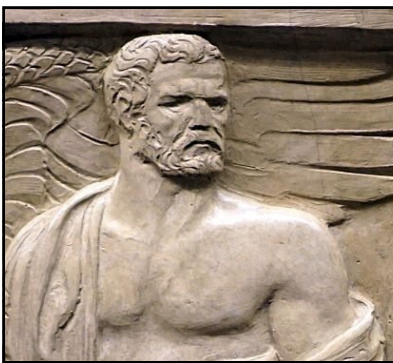
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Tyranny

- 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

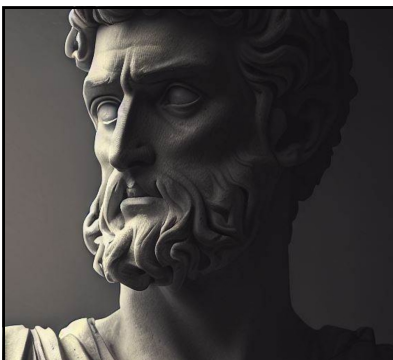
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Draco: Draconian laws

- 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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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

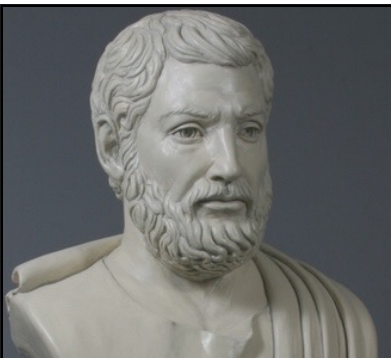
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Peisistratos

- 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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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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Athenian Democracy

- Citizen Assembly *ekklesia*
 - Quorum of 6,000
 - Legislation, election, decrees, trials
- Council of 500 *boulē*
 - Prepares measures for the Assembly
 - Executes will of Assembly (administration)
 - Chosen by lot
- Archons *archontes*
 - Chosen by lot
- Military magistrates *strategoi*
 - Elected by Assembly

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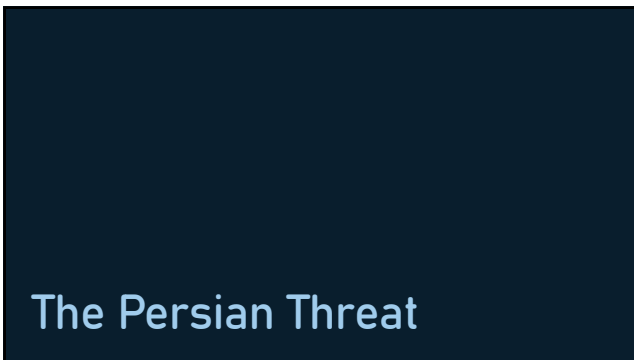
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What are the problems with democracy?

- Burden on voters
 - Travel required
 - Free time required
- Faction
- Demagoguery
- Tyranny of the Majority
- Ostracism

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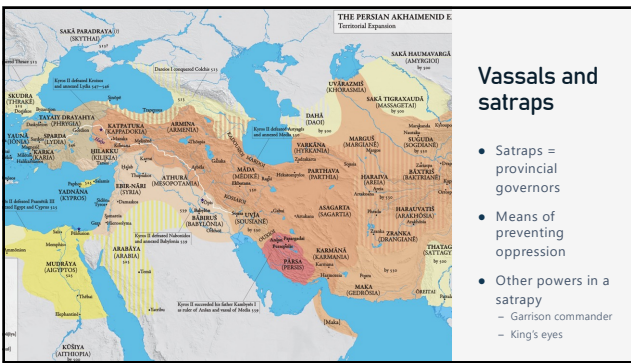
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Darius and Xerxes

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

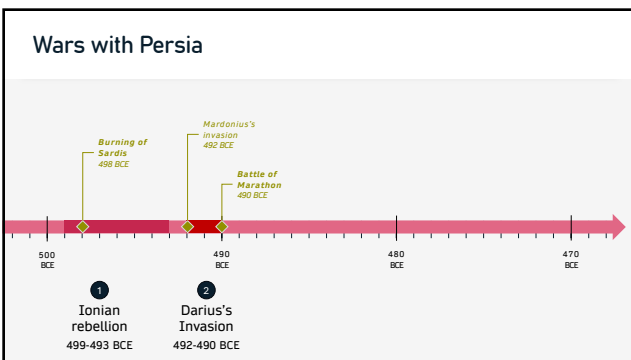
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Vassals and satraps

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

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Battle of Marathon

- Greeks assumed they would lose
 - Massive wealth and resources of Persia
 - Massive numbers in Persian armies
- Greeks win anyway
 - Persians attacked while disembarking ships
 - Athenians had the high ground
 - Greeks are fighting for their land and freedom
- Hope for victory
 - Persian armies untrained, forced to fight
 - Proved superiority of hoplite warfare
 - Proved superiority of Greek philosophy
- Fought by Athens alone

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Wars with Persia

Timeline of Wars with Persia:

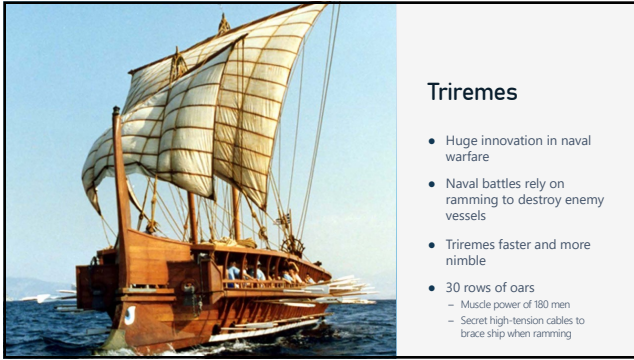
- 500 BCE: 1. Ionian rebellion (499-493 BCE)
- 498 BCE: Burning of Sardis
- 492 BCE: Darius's Invasion
- 492 BCE: Mardonius's Invasion
- 490 BCE: Battle of Marathon
- 483 BCE: Silver distribution vote
- Interbellum (483-480 BCE)
- 470 BCE

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Themistocles

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

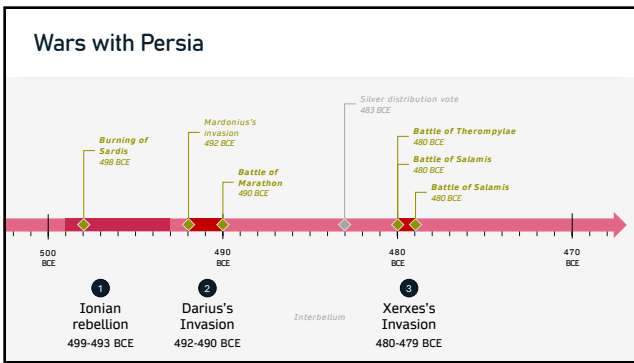
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Triremes

- 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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