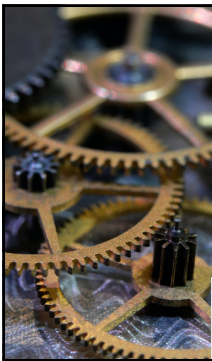




Sparta and the Art of War

History of Ancient Greece | Meeting #5

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 19
Proposal due
- Sunday, October 4
Responses for Week 5 Due

2

Five things today

- Spartan origins
- Homoioi and helots
- The Spartan way of living
- Spartan women
- The Spartan mirage

3



4

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 in 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 skin
☒ 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 elders
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 kyrioi (the secret police)
☒ b. the homioi (men of equal status)
c. the perioikoi (the dwellers nearby)
d. the melaktoi (the smirking ones)

Extra Credit

EC: What is "the Spartan mirage"?

5

Questions from the Responses

- If the Greeks did not have one written religious book or a single set of religious rules, how did they make sure people practiced the same religion and traditions throughout Hellas?
- How much people did really follow advice like Hesiod's and how did religion influence the way they worked and took care of their families?
- I would like to know more about Sappho's personal life and what inspired her to create her poems?
- I would like to find out more about how the structure of these poems came about. Did poets get paid for their work?
- What was the biggest city state in Greece that dominated the Olympic Games?
- I would like to learn more about how life was for the Greeks in Cyrene.

6

Questions about whatever

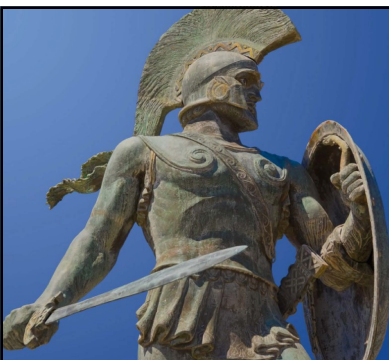


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Sparta



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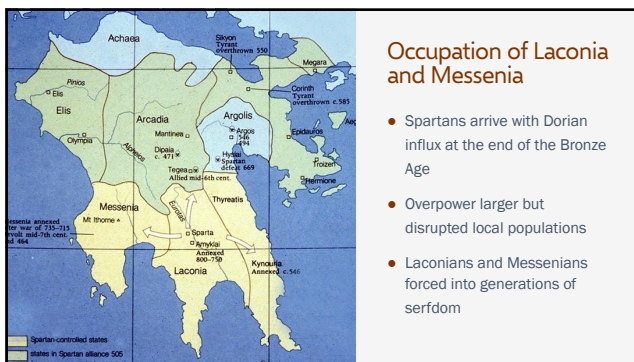
Sparta as a "warrior society"

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

9



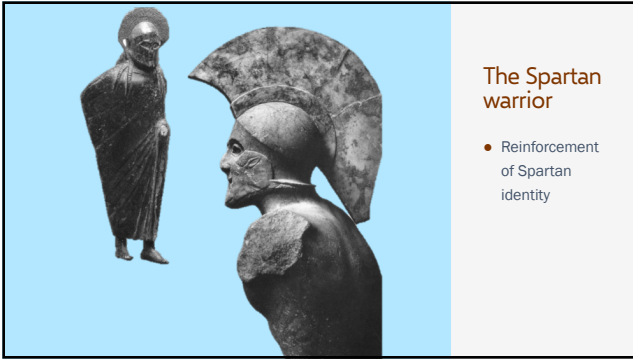
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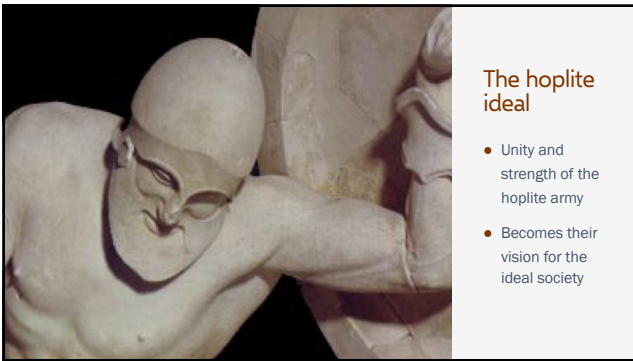
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14



15

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

16



Homoioi

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

17



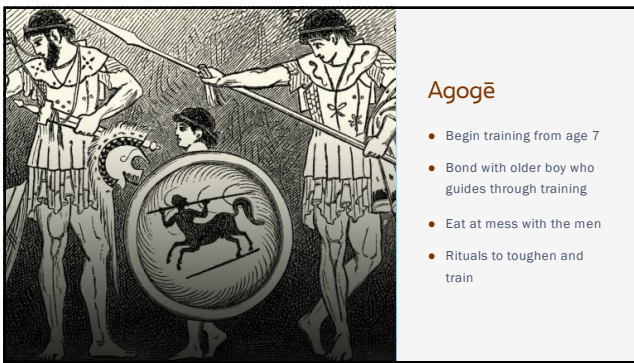
Sole devotion to Sparta and war

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

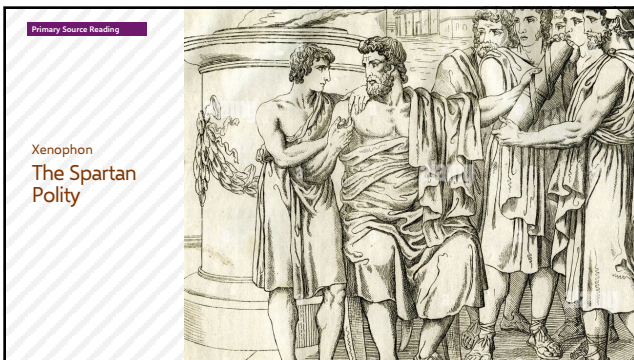
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21



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

22



Spartan women

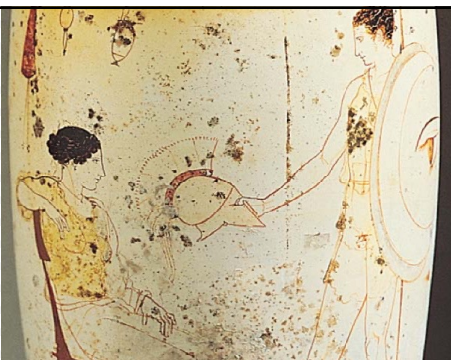
- Handle estate, lands, helots while men are in the barracks
- More choice in marriage
- Educated, well-fed, and physically trained
- Reinforcement of Spartan patriotism

23

Primary Source Reading

Plutarch

Sayings of Spartan Women



24



The Spartan constitution

- Two kings
- Ephors
- Gerousia
- Assembly of warriors

25

Primary Source Reading

Aristotle

On the Spartan Constitution



26

Primary Source Reading

Plutarch

The Great Rhetra

Διὸς Συλλανίου καὶ Ἀθηνᾶς Συλλανίας ἱερὸν ἱδρυσάμενον, φυλὰς φυλάξαντα καὶ ὥβας ὠβάσαντα, τριάνοντα γερούσιον οὖν ἀρχαγέταις καταστήσαντα, ὥρας ἐξ ὥρας ἀπελλάζειν μεταξὺ Βαβύκας τε καὶ Κνακίωνος, οὕτως εἰσφέρειν τε καὶ ἀφίστασθαι δᾶμον δὲ τὸν κυρίαν ἡμεν καὶ ῥάτος.

αἱ δὲ σκολιὰν ὁ δᾶμος ἔλοιτο, τοὺς πρεσβυγενεῖας καὶ ἀρχαγέτας ἀποστατήρας ἡμεν.

Having founded a temple of Zeus Syllanios and Athene Syllania, having tribed [or preserved] the tribes and obeyed the obes, 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.

27



Spartan gods

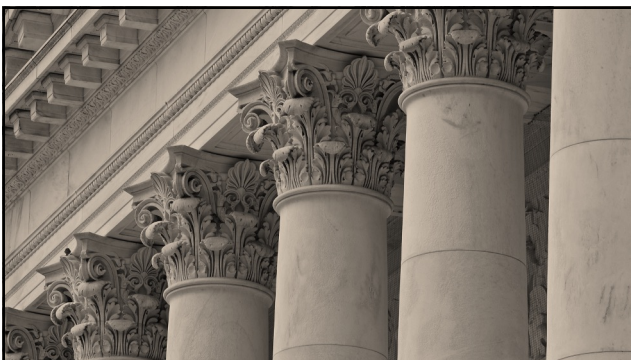
- Not especially devoted to the gods
- Too proud to credit Ares or Zeus for their victories or blame them for defeats

28

The "Spartan Mirage"



29



30