

The Legacy of the Persian Wars

History of Ancient Greece | Meeting #7

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 19
Proposal due
- Monday, November 9
Birds essay due
- Sunday, October 18
Responses for Week 7 Due

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Five things today

- The Persian Wars
- The Age of Perikles
- Athenian theater
- Legacy of the Persian Wars
- Athenian democracy

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Quiz #5: The Legacy of the Persian Wars

- All of the following are true of the Delian League **EXCEPT**
 - its treasury was originally kept on the island of Delos, before being moved to Athens
 - it was an alliance of Greek city-states against Persia formed after the Persian invasions
 - the allies paid dues either in ships or in money
 - it was dissolved immediately after one year of decisive victories
- During the Undeclared War, things started going very badly for Athens when
 - Megara invaded Athens
 - Corinth invaded Megara
 - Athens invaded Sparta
 - Sparta invaded Boeotia
- Resident aliens in Athens were known as
 - metics
 - oligos
 - polis
 - thoroi
- All of the following are true about the full Athenian citizen assembly **EXCEPT**
 - A law passed in 451 BCE meant that both parents had to be Athenian to vote
 - it required a quorum of ten bearded citizens to pass important legislation
 - The frequency of its meetings increased from an average of once in a month to as often as once in every ten days
 - it met on the Pnyx
- Perciles is primarily known for being
 - the most prolific of the lyric poets
 - the most erotically explicit of the vase painters
 - the scholar most obsessed with mimesis
 - the guiding force of Athenian imperialism

Extra Credit

EC: Athens took pride in its radical democracy. In what ways was it unevenly representative of its (male) citizens? How might it be abused?

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Questions from the Responses

- Why did the Athens trust Solon so quickly?
- Why did Athenians adopt ostracism, and did it truly prevent the kind of tyranny that Solon feared?
- This made me wonder what Aeschylus was really trying to accomplish with *The Persians*.
 - Was he trying to show the suffering of the Persians and make the Greeks understand their enemies better, or was the goal to make the Persian defeat look deserved?
 - Persians practiced Zoroastrianism, so why would they even take into consideration of the Greeks warnings that the divine is on their side? Persians had their own divine on their side that was telling them this right of them to do?
- Do we have any Persian accounts of the battles?

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Questions about whatever



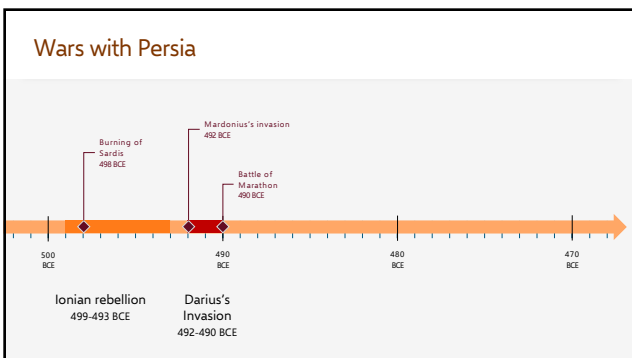
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The Persian Wars

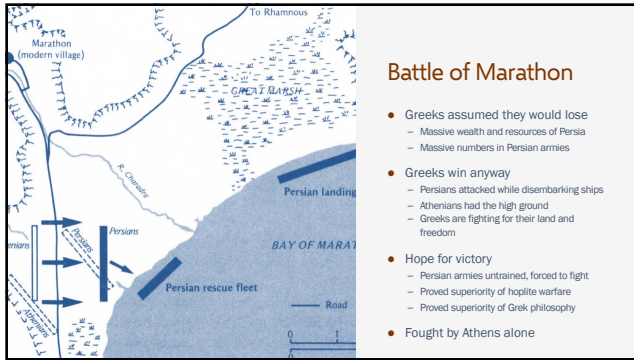


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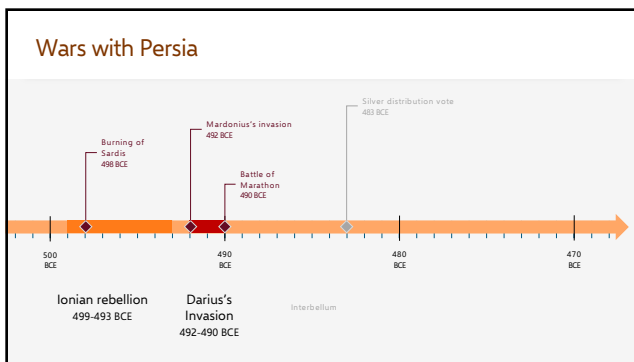
Wars with Persia



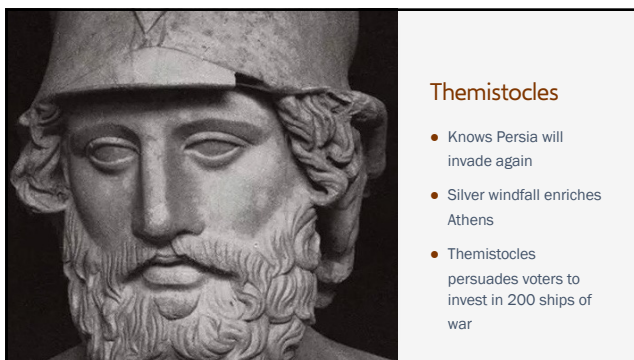
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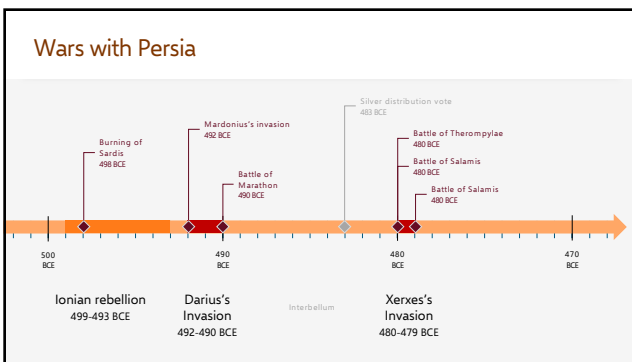
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Pericles

- Member of the board of strategoi
- Consistently prominent figure in Athenian politics
- Dominant voice in the move to raise Athens higher
 - Military and cultural hegemony
 - Use of the Delian League to assert dominance
 - “City on the hill”

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Primary Source Reading

Plutarch
Pericles and Cimon



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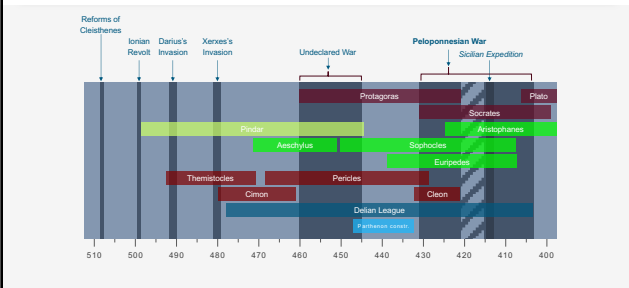


Fifth-Century Athens

- Philosophy
- Oratory and rhetoric
- Visual arts
- Performative arts

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Timeline: Fifth-Century Athens



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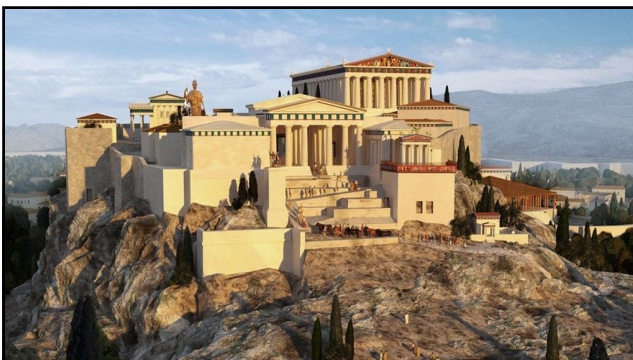
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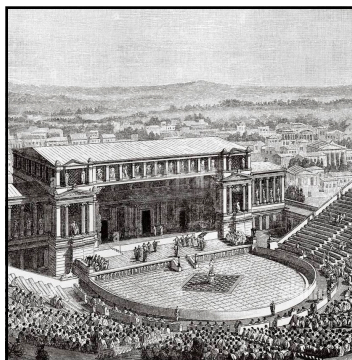
Verbal arts

- Philosophy and rhetoric
- Lyric poetry
- Tragedy
 - Aeschylus
 - Sophocles
 - Euripides
- Comedy
 - Aristophanes

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Athenian theater

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Tragedy

- Emerges from epic poetry, older rituals
- Two actors with masks
- Chorus
- Tragedy reinforces cultural values
 - Top down, objective, moralistic
 - Like epic poetry
 - Choices that cause suffering
 - Characters with a "tragic flaw"
 - Deus ex machina

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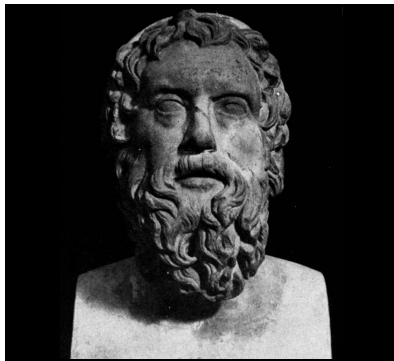


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Structure of Old Comedy

- *Prologos* Protagonist's idea
- *Parodos* Entry of chorus
- *Agon* Debate about idea
- *Parabasis* Chorus's monologue
- *Episodes* Idea implemented
- *Feast* Carnal celebration

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Aristophanes

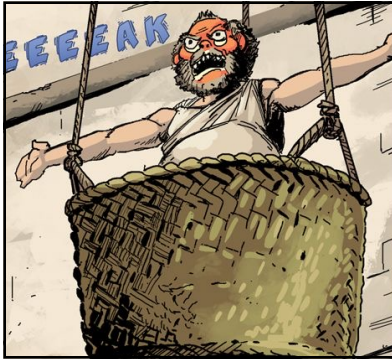
- "The Father of Comedy"
 - Clever plots
 - Wordplay
 - Explicit language
 - Political satire
- Targeted real-life figures

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Surviving comedies by Aristophanes

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|------------------------|-----|
| • <i>Archonians</i> | 425 BCE | • <i>Thesmophoria</i> | 411 |
| • <i>Knights</i> | 424 | • <i>Lysistrata</i> | 411 |
| • <i>Clouds</i> | 423 | • <i>Frogs</i> | 405 |
| • <i>Wasps</i> | 422 | • <i>Assemblywomen</i> | 392 |
| • <i>Peace</i> | 421 | • <i>Wealth</i> | 388 |
| • <i>Birds</i> | 414 | | |

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Clouds

- Two targets
 - Sophists
 - teachers of arguing falsely
 - Socrates
- Plato cited damage to Socrates's reputation as a factor in his trial and execution

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Birds

- An evocation of fantasy
 - Realistic friends in an unreal series of events
 - Escapist or satirical?
- Subtler than his other plays
 - Context: Sicilian expedition
- Social criticism
 - Nature of the polis
 - Ambition, societal discontent, and the desire for transcendence
 - Fantasy of self vs. fantasy of community
 - Three distinct camps: gods, humans, and birds

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Characters in *Birds*

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Peisthetaeros and Euelpides
pays 'teh' tay' rohs yool' pii' deez | Athenian citizens who seek to escape the trivialities of urban life
– Πεισθέταιρος = "the companion who convinces you"
– Ευελπίδης = "full of hope," "optimistic" |
| • Epops, the Hoopoe | ex-human Tereus; ancient king of the birds |
| • Prometheus | a messenger from the gods |
| • The gods | Poseidon, Heracles, Triballus |
| • The birds (chorus) | become the citizens of Cloudcuckooland |

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Legacy of the Persian Wars

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Hegemony

- Poleis are independent and sovereign
- Persian invasion causes a perceived need for leadership
- Athens becomes a viable rival for Sparta after Salamis

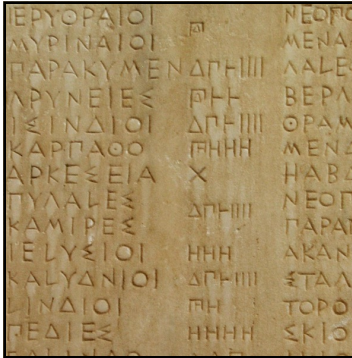
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Persian rule over Ionia

- Persian empire had absorbed Greek lands in Anatolia
- After Persian withdrawal, Greeks sought to take them back

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Delian League

- Spartans decline to lead Greeks on the offensive
- Athenians form naval alliance
 - Member states can contribute ships or tribute
 - Treasury kept on island of Delos
- Ionia and Caria recovered after several swift naval victories
- Delian League does not disband

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The "Athenian Empire"



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Delian League: Hegemony or Empire?

- Cleruchies and forced membership
- Citizenship Act of 451
- Transfer of the Treasury
- Coinage Decree
- Athenian "despotism"
- Support of demos, opposition of aristoi across Hellas

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Athenian Democracy

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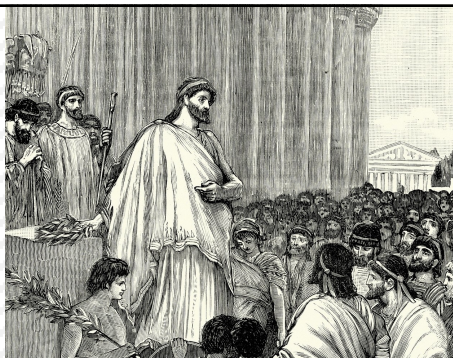
Athenian Democracy

- 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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Primary Source Reading

Pseudo-Xenophon
On the
Athenian
Constitution



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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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Primary Source Reading

Antiphon
Arguments in an Accidental Homicide



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Athenian classes

- Pentacosiomedimnoi 500+
 - Largest property-holders
 - Eligible for archonship and council
- Hippeis 300+
 - Rich enough to keep a horse
- Zeugitae 200+
 - Could afford yoked oxen / hoplite armor
- Thetes
 - Wageworkers
- Metics
 - Noncitizen resident aliens
- Slaves

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