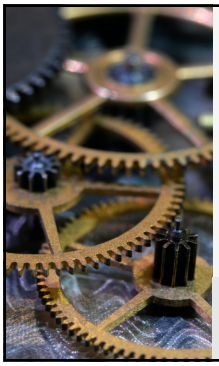


Wars of the Greeks

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #18

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, November 16
  Clouds essay due
- Thursday, November 26
  No class meeting
- Monday, December 7
  Images essay due
- Sunday, November 8
  Responses for Week 10 Due

2

Four things today

- Persian invasions
- Athens vs. Sparta
- The Undeclared War
- The Peloponnesian War

3



4

Quiz #7 | Wars Between the Greeks

1. Pericles's strategy for dealing with the Spartan threat to Athens was to
   a. march out and fearlessly fight the Spartan army
   b. evacuate the farmlands and bring everyone within the city walls
   c. sail to Sparta and attack the city
   d. surrender and hope for the best

2. People who taught the skill of arguing a question from any or all positions, as part of the art of rhetoric, in classical Athens were called
   a. sapiens
   b. solons
   c. socialites
   d. sophists

3. Sparta's victory over Athens was made possible by all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. Sparta's deal with India for naval assistance
   b. The devastating effects of plague in Athens
   c. The crippling losses from Athens's expedition to Syracuse
   d. The defection of an Athenian general, Alcibiades, to Sparta after accusations of religious desecration

4. The aftermath of the Peloponnesian War included
   a. Athens and its empire rising stronger than ever
   b. the Persians reoccupying Greek lands in Ionia
   c. decades of peace allowing the Greeks to recover
   d. the philosopher Socrates being hailed as a hero of Athenian cultural achievement

5. Famous tragic or comic plays from classical Athens include all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, about the women of Greece denying their husbands sex until they stop the war
   b. *The Oresteia* by Aeschylos, about Orestes seeking revenge for the murder of Agamemnon by his wife
   c. *Medea* by Euripides, about a sorceress who gets even with her cheating husband, Jason, by killing her children
   d. *Helxiai* by Thucydides, about the murder of fellow historian Herodotus by a vengeful scribe

Extra Credit

EC. In your opinion, why did Sparta and Athens really go to war with each other in the Peloponnesian War?

5

Questions about whatever



6



7



The debate

- Famous turning point in *Clouds*
  - Rewritten to be more emphatic
- Scathing indictment
  - of sophists (who teach people to speak falsely)
  - of philosophers like Socrates (who teach people to abandon tradition and the gods)
- Different tactics
  - Just Argument uses logic and expected beliefs
  - Unjust Argument uses attacks and emotional response
- Unjust Argument wins
  - Declares the Athenians to be already morally corrupted
  - Just Argument: "I can't argue with that"

8

The Persian threat

9



Darius and Xerxes

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

10

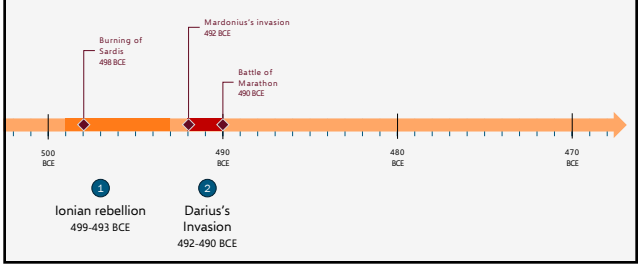


Vassals and satraps

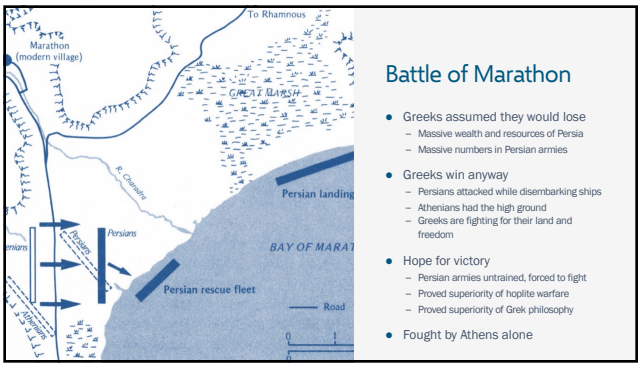
- Satraps = provincial governors
- Means of preventing oppression
- Other powers in a satrapy
  - Garrison commander
  - King's eyes

11

Wars with Persia



12

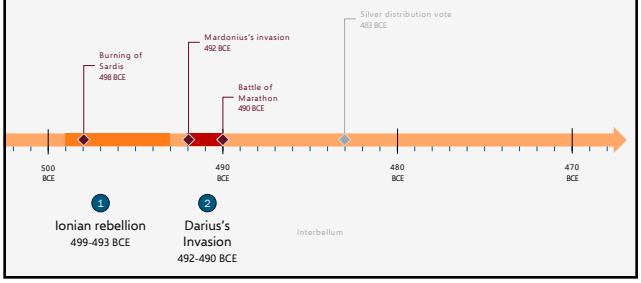


Battle of Marathon

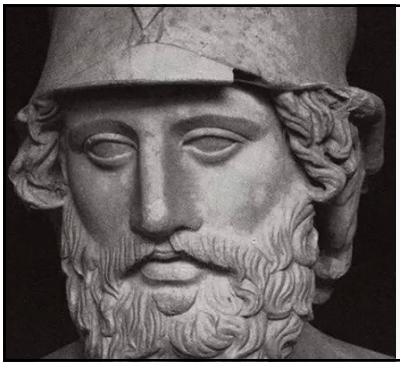
- Greeks assumed they would lose
  - Massive wealth and resources of Persia
  - Massive numbers in Persian armies
- Greeks win anyway
  - Persians attacked while disembarking ships
  - Athenians had the high ground
  - Greeks are fighting for their land and freedom
- Hope for victory
  - Persian armies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

13

Wars with Persia



14



Themistocles

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

15

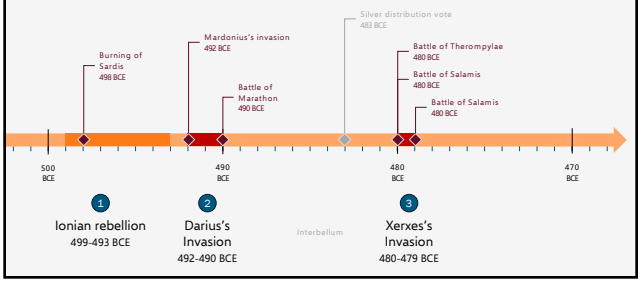


Triremes

- 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

16

Wars with Persia



17



18



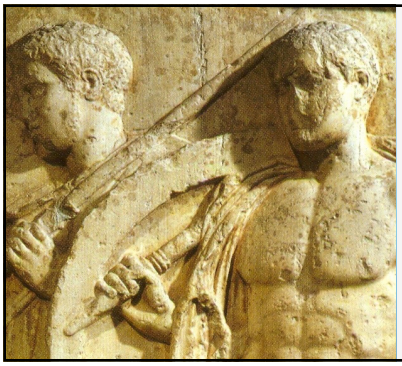
Battle of Salamis

- 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

19

Wars Between the Greeks

20

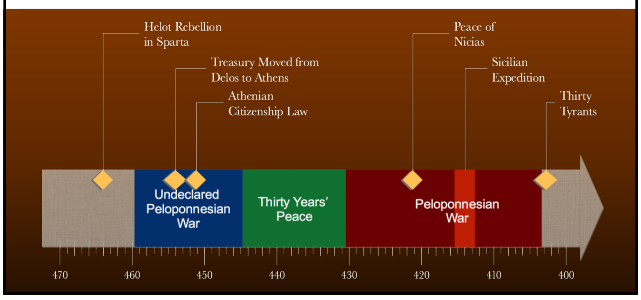


The Peloponnesian Wars

- Two or three wars
- Several parallel conflicts
- The name of the war

21

Timeline: Peloponnesian Wars



22



The Undeclared War

- Sparta dragged into war by Corinth
- Athens could have sued for peace
- Instead overextends itself in Egypt

23

The Thirty Years' Peace

- Neither side interferes with allies of the other
- Neutrals free to join either side
- Arbitration of disagreements
- No one can switch sides
- Sparta and Athens can use force within their alliances

24

Breakdown of the Peace

- Epidamnus and Corcyra
- Potidaean Ultimatum
- Megaran Decrees



25



Corinth appeals to Sparta

- Corinth is allied with Sparta
- Corinth declares war
- Demands Sparta join them in doing so
- Sparta reluctant

26

Strengths and weaknesses



Athens and allies

- Wealth
- Undisputed advantage at sea
  - Number and quality of ships
  - Training



Sparta and allies

- Undisputed advantage in infantry
  - Number and quality of troops
  - Training

27



Perikles's strategy

- Sparta has the advantage on land
- Athens can't be besieged (because of the Long Walls)
- Bring everyone inside the walls of Athens

28



The Plague at Athens

- Ancient cities are not meant to hold large populations
- Human and animal waste, no major river
- Killed ~75,000 to 100,000 people, ~25% of the population
- Economic and military disaster
  - Massive loss of manpower for war and labor
  - Many key figures killed including Pericles
  - Disillusionment with the gods and morality
  - Population polarized over the war

29



Peace of Nikias

- Kleon and Brasidas both die
- Nikias leads pro-peace faction
- Nikias arranges a truce
  - Athenians give up captured bases
  - Sparta gives up Athenian ex-allies
  - Megara and Corinth reject treaty

30



Alkibiades

- Popular and sexy
- Leader of the faction demanding defeat of Sparta
- Proposes bold expansion of war to Sicily
- Violation of the herms

31



The Sicilian Expedition

- Expedition to create a second front in Sicily
  - 200 triremes
  - ~15,000 troops
- Disastrous leadership
- Disastrous tactics
- Troops and ships all lost

32



Decelea

- Alkibiades defects to Sparta
- Advises creation of permanent Spartan base in Attica
- Minor part of Sparta's end game to win war

33



Battle of Aegospotami

- Athens must be defeated by sea
- Sparta must hire a navy
- Persia agrees…
- …in exchange for Ionia and Caria

34



Post-war Athens

- Abolition of democracy
- Thirty Tyrants
- Damage to Athens
  - Loss of many men and women
  - Rancor and disillusionment
  - Huge economic cost and loss of resources
- Trial of Socrates

35



Fourth Century Crisis

- Peloponnesian War solves nothing
- Followed by more decades of war

36



37