

The Rise of Macedon

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #19

1

Four things today

- Peloponnesian War
- Fourth Century Crisis
- Macedon
- Philip and Alexander

2

Questions about whatever

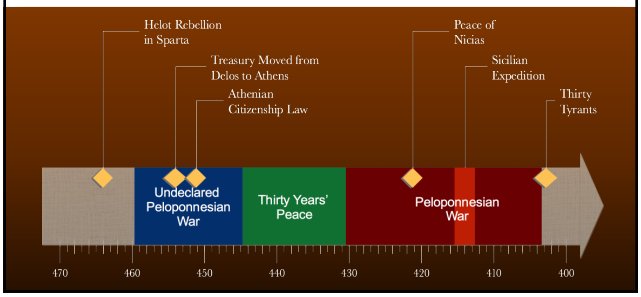


3

Wars Between the Greeks

4

Timeline: Peloponnesian Wars



5

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

6

Breakdown of the Peace

- Epidamnus and Corcyra
- Potidaean Ultimatum
- Megaran Decrees



7



Corinth appeals to Sparta

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

8

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

9



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

10



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

11



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

12



Alkibiades

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

13



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

14



Decelea

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

15



Battle of Aegospotami

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

16



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

17



Fourth Century Crisis

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

18

The Rise of Macedon

19

Macedon



20



Greek influence

- Barbarian kingdom but close to Greece
  - A lot of trade
  - Greek language and ideas
- Perception of Greece as the most advanced civilization
- Increases divide between coastal Macedon and more traditional tribes inland

21



Shared hatred of Persia

- Persia marched through Macedon on both invasions of Greece
- Tremendous damage and confiscation of food, supplies

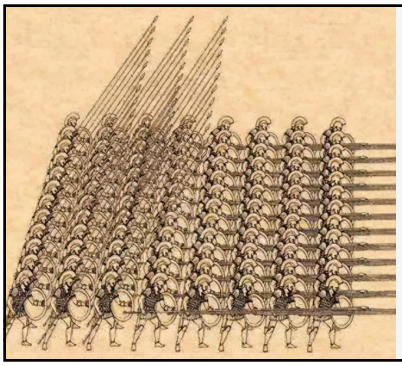
22



Philip II

- Macedon had been dominated by tribal chiefs with weak king
- Philip is the ultimate barbarian king
- Wins over chiefs
  - Charisma
  - Exceptional leadership ability
  - Promises of land, power, and wealth

23



Military reforms

- Reinvents hoplite warfare
- Professional army and cavalry
- Training and discipline
- New formations and tactics
- Siege engine

24

Philippian expansion



25



Dominion over Hellas

- The Greeks wear themselves out through constant war
- Philip uses their divisions against them to gain political power in Thessaly
- Many Greeks want Philip as the only possible leader against Persia
- Only one actual battle, and the rest Greece is Philip's control

26



Philip is killed

- Sudden and unexpected assassination
- Philip had prepared Alexander, but he is still only 20 years old

27

Alexander

28



29



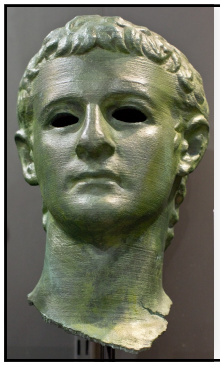
30



31



32



Alexander's youth

- Philip had multiple wives and sons
  - Choosing Alexander worsened rivalries between mothers and tribes
- Educated to think and strategize as a Greek
  - Trained by Aristotle
- Philip intended a transition and an evolution
  - from barbarian king (himself) to the ideal king (Alexander)
  - From Macedon's barbarian past to its evolved and civilized future

33

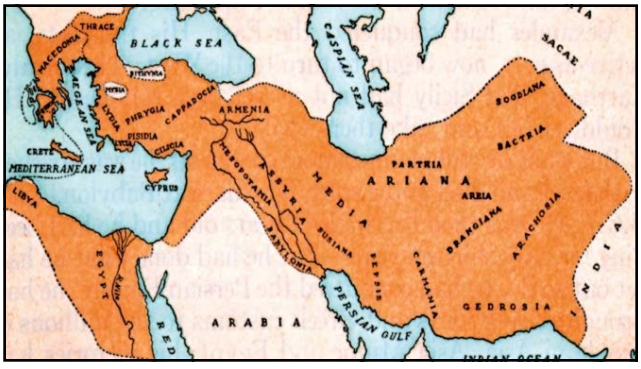
Alexander as a Greek



34

Alexander's conquests

35



36



37



Cultural synthesis

- Destroys Persepolis and makes Babylon his capital as "King of Asia"
- Sets about trying to merge Greek, Mesopotamian, and Egyptian achievements and culture
- Alexander's goal is to create the ultimate civilization

38



"To the strongest"

- Dies unexpectedly of illness at 32 years old
- Planned heir not yet born
- Supposedly answered "to the strongest"
- Death launches years of wars between Alexander's generals to control parts of his empire

39



40