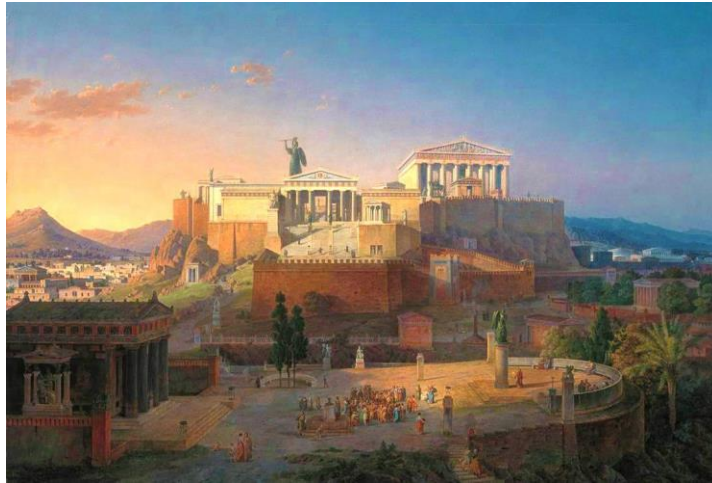


The Legacy of Greece



I. Hellas: The Land

- A. Geography played a major role in the development of Greek city-states.
 - 1. The islands of the Aegean served to link the Greek peninsula and Asia Minor.
 - 2. Small but fertile plains sustained Greek agriculture, while native olive trees and grapevines enabled Greeks to export olive oil and wine.
 - 3. Mountains and poor communications prevented the formation in Greece of a single great empire of the Near Eastern type.
- B. The Minoans and the Mycenaeans
 - 1. A civilization with writing and a noble class appeared on Crete by about 2000 B.C. (the Minoans).
 - 2. About 1650 B.C. Greek-speaking immigrants to the Balkans had formed the kingdom of Mycenae in southern Greece. Mycenaeans already worshipped the pantheon of later “classical” Greece.
 - 3. Collapse of Mycenae (probably due to internal conflict) was followed by the Dark Age (1100 B.C.-800 B.C.).
- C. Homer, Hesiod, Gods, and Heroes (1100-800 B.C.)
 - 1. Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey
 - a. The poems of Homer idealized the Greek past.
 - b. The Iliad describes the expedition against the Trojans.
 - c. The Odyssey tells of the adventures of Odysseus.
 - 2. Hesiod’s Theogony and Works and Days
 - a. a) The Theogony traces the origins of Zeus.
 - b. The Works and Days tells of Hesiod’s own village life.

II. The Polis

- A. The term polis (city-state) designated a city or town and its surrounding countryside.
 - 1. By the end of the Dark Age the city-state was the common social entity.

- B. The polis could be governed as a monarchy, aristocracy, oligarchy, tyranny, or democracy.
 - 1. Athens, Sparta, Thebes, and Corinth were leading Greek city-states.
 - a. Democracy and Oligarchies in the Polis (especially in Athens)
 - i. Greek democracies were really just expanded oligarchies.
 - ii. Many Greeks believed democracies to be unstable and violent.
 - iii. Oligarchies allowed social mobility and bestowed passive civil rights on all citizens.
 - iv. Outsiders generally were excluded from citizenship in polis.
 - v. Strong Greek identification with city-states helped prevent the formation of higher-order political loyalties.

III. The Archaic Age (800-500 B.C.)

- A. Overseas Expansion and Colonization
 - 1. Economic aspects: Greek wine, olive oil, pottery, and jewelry exchanged for wheat from the north Black Sea coast.
 - 2. A colonial expedition was organized.
 - 3. Colonization epitomized the energy and adventurousness of ancient Greeks.
- B. Lyric Poets
 - 1. Archilochus set a new tone in Greek literature.
 - 2. Sappho's poetry is personal and intense.
- C. Sparta and Athens
 - 1. Sparta became an oligarchy, with the political power held by two kings and twenty-eight elders. The Spartans conquered the Messenians and turned them into agricultural slaves.
 - 2. Evolution of Athenian Democracy
 - a. Power of big landholding aristocrats over poorer citizens led to recurrent trouble in Athens and political reforms.
 - b. Draco published first Athenian law code (621 B.C.).
 - c. Solon freed debt slaves, opened old aristocratic assembly to all citizens (around 594 B.C.).
 - d. Cleisthenes set up a form of representative democracy (after 508 B.C.).

IV. The Classical Period (500-338 B.C.)

- A. Persian War and Peloponnesian Wars prompted Herodotus and Thucydides to write histories. Thucydides founded discipline of history in the West.
- B. Greeks fight and defeat Persian invasions (499-479 B.C.)
 - 1. Battle of Marathon (490 B.C.)
 - 2. Battle of Thermopylae (480 B.C.)
 - 3. Battle of Salamis (480 B.C.)
- C. The struggle against Persians forced Greeks into military alliances.
 - 1. The Delian League was established as a naval alliance against the Persians.
 - 2. The Athenians turned the league into a vehicle for empire building.

- D. Alliances triggered a conflict between Sparta and Athens, known as the Peloponnesian War (431–404 B.C.).
 - 1. Athens's attempt to gain hegemony disturbed the Spartans.
 - 2. Athens's conflict with the Corinthians brought Sparta into the fray.
- E. The Peloponnesian War weakened Greece and allowed for Macedonian invasion and conquest.
 - 1. 1. Even after the Peace of Nicias (421 B.C.), Cold War conditions continued.
 - 2. Lysander and the Spartans defeated the Athenians in 405 B.C.
- F. Art and literature flowered during the Classical Period.
 - 1. Arts in the Periclean Age
 - a. Pericles made Athens a cultural center.
 - b. The Parthenon became the prototypical example of classical architecture.
 - c. Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides created enduring dramas.
 - 2. Daily Life in Periclean Athens
 - a. Material simplicity of Greek life
 - b. Women's place in Greek society
 - c. Greek religion
 - i. Greek religion lacked uniform creed, ethical code, or written scripture.
 - d. Temples and festivals
 - e. Mystery religions from the Near East
 - f. Greek pantheon—gods and heroes
 - 3. Philosophy in the Periclean Age
 - a. The Pre-Socratics Thales, Anaximander, and Heraclitus laid the foundations of science.
 - b. The Sophists and Socrates made human society and politics the object of analytic study. Socrates's method of questioning left a lasting impact on the Western world.
 - c. Plato believed that truth lay in the world of ideas.
 - d. Aristotle advocated a philosophy that put emphasis on the material world.
- V. The Final Act (404-338 B.C.).
 - A. Theban general Epimanolidas defeats Sparta at Leuctra (371 B.C.). Epimanolidas dismembers Sparta, frees the Messenians (helots).
 - B. King Philip of Macedon defeats the combined armies of Thebes and Athens in 338 B.C. at Chaeronea, establishing Macedonian domination of Greece and ending the Classical Age.