

Outline 5.3 - Democracy and Greece's Golden Age

I. Pericles' Plan for Athens

A. Introductory Paragraph

1. A wise and able statesman, Pericles led Athens during most of its golden age. Honest and fair, Pericles had popular support for 32 years.
  - a) He was a skillful politician, an inspiring speaker, and a respected general.
  - b) Because of this, ~461~429 BC is often called the Age of Pericles.
2. Pericles had three goals.
  - a) To strengthen Athenian democracy
  - b) To hold and strengthen the empire
  - c) To glorify Athens.

B. Stronger Democracy

1. To strengthen democracy, Pericles increased the number of public officials who were paid.
  - a) Most positions in public office were unpaid. Only wealthier Athenian citizens could afford to hold public office.
2. Now, even the poorest citizen could serve if they were elected. Because of this, Athens had more citizens in self-government than any other Greek city-state.
  - a) This reform made Athens one of the most democratic governments ever.
3. Direct democracy, a government where citizens rule directly and not through representatives, became an important part of Periclean Athens.
  - a) Few other city-states practiced this style of government.
  - b) In Athens, males who served in the assembly made all the important government policies that affected the polis.
  - c) In a speech honoring the ones who died in the Athenian war, Pericles expressed his great pride in Athenian democracy.

C. Athenian Empire

1. After the defeat of the Persians, Athens helped organize the Delian League.
  - a) After a while, Athens took over leadership of the league and dominated all the city-states in it.
  - b) Pericles used the money from the league's treasury to make the Athenian navy the strongest in the Mediterranean.
2. A strong navy was important because it helped Athens strengthen the safety of its empire.
  - a) Prosperity depended on gaining access to surrounding waterways.
  - b) Athens needed overseas trade to obtain supplies of grain and other raw materials.

3. The Athenian military allowed Pericles to treat other members of the Delian League as part of the empire.
  - a) Some cities in the Peloponnesus resisted Athens and formed their own alliances.
  - b) Sparta in particular was greatly opposed to Athens.

#### D. Glorifying Athens

1. Pericles used money from the Delian League to beautify Athens.
  - a) He did so without the approval of the league.
2. He also persuaded the Athenian assembly to vote huge sums of the league's money to buy gold, ivory, and marble.
  - a) Still more money went to pay the artists, architects, and workers who used these materials.

### II. Glorious Art and Architecture

#### A. Introductory Paragraph

1. Pericles' goal was to have the greatest Greek artists and architects create magnificent sculptures and buildings to glorify Athens.
  - a) He planned one of architecture's noblest works, the Parthenon.

#### B. Architecture and Sculpture

1. The Parthenon, a masterpiece of architectural design/craftsmanship, was not exactly unique.
  - a) Greek architects constructed the 23,000 square-foot building in the traditional style used to create Greek temples for 200 years.
2. This temple built to honor Athena (the goddess of wisdom/protector of Athens), had examples of Greek art that set standards for future generations of artists around the world.
  - a) Pericles entrusted most of the work on the Parthenon to the sculptor Phidias.
  - b) Within the temple, Phidias crafted a giant statue of Athena contained gold and ivory and stood over 30 feet tall.
3. Phidias and other sculptors during this age aimed to create figures that were graceful, strong, and perfectly formed.
  - a) Their faces showed only serenity. Greek sculptors also tried to capture the grace of the idealized human body in motion.
  - b) They were aiming for ideal beauty, not realism.
  - c) Their values of harmony, order, balance, and proportion became the standard of classical art.

### III. Drama and History

#### A. Introductory Paragraph

1. The Greeks invented drama as an art and built the first theaters in the West.
  - a) Theatrical productions in Athens were both an expression of civic pride and a tribute to the gods.
  - b) As part of their civic duty, wealthy citizens had the cost of

producing the plays.

2. Actors used colorful costumes, masks, and sets to dramatise stories.
  - a) The plays were about leadership, justice, and the duties owed to the gods.
  - b) They often included a chorus that danced, sang, and recited poetry.

## B. Tragedy and Comedy

1. The Greeks wrote two kinds of drama, tragedy and comedy.
  - a) A tragedy was a serious drama about themes like love, hate, war, or betrayal.
  - b) These dramas featured a main character, or tragic hero.
  - c) The hero usually was an important person and often gifted with extraordinary abilities.
  - d) A tragic flaw usually caused the hero's downfall. Often this flaw was having excessive pride.
2. In ancient times, Greece had three notable dramatists who wrote tragedies.
  - a) Aeschylus wrote 80+ plays. His most famous work is the trilogy Oresteia.
  - b) It is based on the family of Agamemnon, the Mycenaean king who commanded the Greeks at Troy.
3. The plays examine the idea of justice. Sophocles wrote more than 100 plays, like the tragedies Oedipus the King and Antigone.
  - a) Euripides wrote the play Medea, and he often featured strong women in his works.
4. In contrast to Greek tragedies, a comedy contained scenes filled with slapstick situations and crude humor.
  - a) Playwrights often made fun of politics and respected people and ideas of the time.
  - b) Aristophanes wrote the first great comedies for the stage, including The Birds and Lysistrata.
5. Lysistrata portrayed the women of Athens forcing their husbands to end the Peloponnesian War.
  - a) The fact that Athenians could listen to criticism of themselves showed the freedom and openness of public discussion that existed in democratic Athens.

## C. History

1. There are no written records from the Dorian period.
  - a) Homer's epic poems are not accurate recordings of what took place.
  - b) Herodotus, a Greek who lived in Athens for a time, pioneered the accurate reporting of events.
  - c) His book on the Persian Wars is considered the first work of

history.

2. The greatest historian of the classical age was the Athenian Thucydides.
  - a) He believed that certain types of events and political situations repeat over time.
  - b) He felt that studying those events and situations would aid in understanding the present. The approaches Thucydides used in his work still guide historians today.

#### IV. Athenians and Spartans Go to War

##### A. Introductory Paragraph

1. As Athens grew in wealth, prestige, and power, other city-states began to view it with hostility.
  - a) The conflict was strong between Sparta and Athens. Many thought that a war between the two was inevitable.
  - b) Leaders in Athens and Sparta pushed for a war to begin, as both groups of leaders believed their own city was better.
  - c) Eventually, Sparta declared war on Athens in 431 BC.

##### B. Peloponnesian War

1. When the Peloponnesian War between the two city-states began, Athens had a stronger navy.
  - a) Sparta had a stronger army, and a better location, as it could not easily be attacked by sea.
  - b) Pericles' strategy was avoiding land battles with the Spartan army and wait for an opportunity to strike Sparta from the sea.
2. Spartans marched into Athenian territory. They swept over the countryside, burning the Athenian food supply.
  - a) Pericles responded by bringing residents from the surrounding region inside the city walls.
  - b) The city was safe from hunger as long as ships could sail into port with supplies from Athenian colonies and foreign states.
3. In the second year of the war, however, disaster struck Athens.
  - a) A plague swept through the city, killing  $\sim\frac{1}{3}$  of population, including Pericles.
  - b) Athens continued to fight for several years. Then, in 421 BC, the two sides signed a truce.

##### C. Sparta Gains Victory

1. The peace did not last long. In 415 BC, the Athenians sent a huge fleet carrying more than 20,000 soldiers to the island of Sicily.
  - a) Plan was to destroy the city-state of Syracuse, one of Sparta's wealthiest allies.
  - b) The expedition ended with a defeat in 413 BC.
2. In his study of the Peloponnesian War, Thucydides recalled...
  - a) The Athenians were destroyed with a total destruction.
  - b) There was nothing that was not destroyed, and few out of many

returned home.

- c) Somehow, a weakened Athens fended off Spartan attacks for 9 years.
- d) Finally, in 404 BC, the Athenians and their allies surrendered. Athens had lost its empire, power, and wealth.

## V. Philosophers Search for Truth

### A. Introductory Paragraph

1. After the war, many Athenians lost confidence in democratic government and began to question their values.
  - a) Several great thinkers appeared. They were determined to seek the truth, no matter where the search led them.
  - b) The Greeks called these people philosophers (glovers of wisdom)
2. These thinkers based their philosophy on the following two assumptions:
  - a) The universe (land, sky, and sea) is put together in an orderly way, and subject to absolute and unchanging laws.
  - b) People can understand these laws through logic and reason.
3. One group of philosophers, the Sophists, questioned people's unexamined beliefs and ideas about justice and other traditional values.
  - a) One of the most famous was Protagoras, who questioned the existence of the traditional Greek gods.
  - b) He also argued that there was no universal standard of truth, saying:
  - c) "Man is the measure of all things." These were radical and dangerous ideas to many Athenians.

### B. Socrates

1. One critic of the Sophists was Socrates. Unlike the Sophists, he believed that absolute standards did exist for truth and justice.
  - a) He encouraged Greeks to go farther and question themselves and their moral character.
  - b) Historians believe that it was Socrates who once said, "The unexamined life is not worth living."
  - c) Socrates was admired by many who understood his ideas. However, others were puzzled by this man's viewpoints.
2. In 399 BC, when Socrates was about 70 years old, he was brought to trial for "corrupting the youth of Athens" and "neglecting the city's gods."
  - a) In his defense, Socrates said that his teachings were good for Athens because they forced people to think about their values.
  - b) The jury condemned him to death. He died by drinking hemlock, a slow-acting poison.

### C. Plato

1. A student of Socrates, Plato, was in his late 20s when his teacher died.
  - a) Later, Plato wrote down the conversations of Socrates as a means of philosophical investigation.

- b) ~370 BC, Plato wrote his most famous work, *The Republic*. In it, he set his vision of a perfectly governed society.
- 2. It was not a democracy. In his ideal society, all citizens would fall naturally into three groups: farmers and artisans, warriors, and the ruling class.
  - a) The person with the greatest insight and intellect from the ruling class would be chosen philosopher-king.
  - b) Plato's writings dominated philosophic thought in Europe for nearly 1,500 years.
  - c) His only rivals in importance were his teacher, Socrates, and his own pupil, Aristotle.

#### D. Aristotle

- 1. Aristotle questioned the nature of the world and of human belief, thought, and knowledge.
  - a) Aristotle came close to summarizing all the knowledge up to his time. He invented a method for arguing according to rules of logic.
  - b) He later applied his method to problems in the fields of psychology, physics, and biology.
  - c) His work provides the basis of the scientific method used today.
- 2. One of Aristotle's most famous students was Alexander, son of King Philip II of Macedonia.
  - a) Around 343 BC, Aristotle accepted the king's invitation to tutor the 13-year-old prince.
  - b) Alexander's status as a student abruptly ended three years later, when his father called him back to Macedonia.

### VI. History Through Art - Greek Art and Architecture

#### A. Introductory Paragraph

- 1. During ancient times, the Greeks established artistic standards that strongly influenced the later art of the Western world.
  - a) The aim of Greek art was to express true ideals. To do this, the Greeks used balance, harmony, and symmetry in their art.
- 2. A major branch of Greek art was sculpture.
  - a) Greek sculptors did not create realistic works, but instead made statues that reflected what they considered ideal beauty.
  - b) Greek art also included pottery.
- 3. In Greek architecture, the most important type of building was the temple.
  - a) The walled rooms in the center of the temple held sculptures of gods and goddesses and lavish gifts to these deities.

#### B. Nike of Samothrace

- 1. Discovered in 1863, the Nike (Winged Victory) of Samothrace was created ~203 BC to honor a sea battle.
  - a) Through its exaggerated features and artful portrayal of flowing drapery, the Nike conveys a sense of action and triumph.
  - b) Currently, it is displayed at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

### C. Red and Black Pottery

1. Greek art also included pottery, which is known for its beauty of form and decoration.
  - a) The two major types of Greek pottery are black-figure pottery (shown on the vessel) and red-figure pottery (shown on the plate).
  - b) The vessel shows a scene from Greek mythology.
2. The god Zeus, disguised as a bull, carries off a young woman named Europa.
  - a) The figures on the plate demonstrate the importance of the sea and seafood in Greek culture.

### D. The Parthenon

1. Built ~447~432 BC, the Parthenon was a Greek temple dedicated to Athena.
  - a) It serves as an example of the Greek expression of harmony, symmetry, and balance.
  - b) Just as Greek philosophers tried to understand the basic laws of nature, so Greek architects looked to nature for guidance.
2. They discovered a ratio in nature that they believed created pleasing proportions and used that ratio to design the rectangles in the Parthenon.

### E. Dramatic Masks and Theater

1. In the 6th century BC, the Greeks became the first to use theater for its own sake and not for religious rituals.
  - a) They wrote two types of plays, comedy and tragedy.
  - b) For both forms, actors wore theatrical masks that exaggerated human expressions.
2. The plays were performed in outdoor theaters.
  - a) The stage or dancing floor was partially surrounded by a semicircular seating area fitted into a hillside.

## VII. Information Boxes

### A. Athenian and United States Democracy

1. Athenian Democracy
  - a) Citizens: male; 18 years old; born of citizen parents
  - b) Laws voted on and proposed directly by assembly of all citizens
  - c) Leader chosen by lot
  - d) Executive branch composed of a council of 500 men
  - e) Juries varied in size
  - f) No attorneys; no appeals; one-day trials
2. US Democracy
  - a) Citizens: born in United States or completed citizenship process
  - b) Representatives elected to propose and vote on laws
  - c) Elected president
  - d) Executive branch made up of elected and appointed officials
  - e) Juries composed of 12 jurors

- f) Defendants and plaintiffs have attorneys; long appeals process
- 3. Both
  - a) Political power exercised by citizens
  - b) Three branches of government
  - c) Legislative branch passes laws
  - d) Executive branch carries out laws
  - e) Judicial branch conducts trials with paid jurors
- B. History Makers - Pericles 495~429 BC
  - 1. Pericles came from a rich and high-ranking noble family.
    - a) His aristocratic father had led the Athenian assembly and fought at the Battle of Salamis in the Persian Wars.
    - b) His mother was the niece of Cleisthenes, the Athenian noble who had introduced important democratic reforms.
  - 2. Pericles was well known for his political achievements as leader of Athens.
    - a) Pericles, however, was harder to know.
    - b) One historian wrote: "He was a lonely man. He had no friends and he only went out for official business."
- C. History Makers
  - 1. Socrates 470~399 BC
    - a) Socrates encouraged his students to examine their beliefs.
    - b) He asked them a series of leading questions to show that people hold many contradictory opinions.
    - c) This question-and-answer approach to teaching is known as the Socratic method.
    - d) Socrates devoted his life to gaining self-knowledge and once said, "There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance."
  - 2. Plato 427~347 BC
    - a) Born into a wealthy Athenian family, Plato had careers as a wrestler and a poet before he became a philosopher.
    - b) After Socrates, his teacher, died, Plato left Greece.
    - c) He later returned to Athens and founded a school called the Academy in 387 BC
    - d) The school lasted for ~900 years. It was Plato who once stated, "Philosophy begins in wonder."
  - 3. Aristotle 384~322 BC
    - a) Aristotle, the son of a physician, was one of the brightest students at Plato's Academy.
    - b) He came there as a young man and stayed for 20 years until Plato's death.
    - c) In 335 BC, Aristotle opened his own school in Athens called the Lyceum.
    - d) The school eventually rivaled the Academy. Aristotle once argued,



“He who studies how things originated...will achieve the clearest view of them.”