

Unit 2: Greece—Chapter 4 Section 1

Key terms: *peninsula, colony, polis, agora, acropolis, hoplite, phalanx*

- Greece is a rocky, mountainous peninsula surrounded by the Adriatic Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea. Greece also has several hundred islands around it.
- The difficult and divided terrain of Greece seriously affected its development. There is little farmland, so fishing and sea trade become important sources of food and wealth. There is little flat land so most cities were built into the mountains and hillsides. This effectively cut them off from each other and leads to independent city-states throughout Greece. The abundance of islands also plays into this idea that each city-state is its own country.
- Culturally, the people of Greece saw themselves as basically the same, but politically and economically they considered themselves different and the city-states fiercely guarded their independence.
- This total lack of unity will cause serious problems and a tremendous amount of bloodshed for the people of Greece.

- The earliest dominant force in the Greek world were the Minoans of the island of Crete. They were a non-Greek speaking people.
- The Minoans reached their peak around 2000 B.C. They were extremely advanced and boasted a massive, multi-story palace with working bathrooms and sinks in their capital, Knossos. The Minoans also had an early type of writing that we call Linear A.
- The Minoans, like the Phoenicians, were expert sailors and they dominated the sea trade by 2000 B.C. The Minoans traded with the Egyptians, Syrians, the mainland Greeks, the tribes in Turkey and the people of Sicily and Italy. Pottery, wine and jewelry were common trade items.
- The Minoan civilization mysteriously disappeared around 1450 B.C. and we haven't been able to figure out why. Some argue that natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis destroyed many of their coastal villages. Others argue that an invasion by the Mycenaeans from southern Greece ended the Minoan civilization.
- The origins of the Mycenaeans are also a bit of a mystery. We are unsure about where they came from, but unlike the Minoans, they were a Greek-speaking people. They had a writing system that we refer to as Linear B.
- We believe the Mycenaeans rose to power around 1900 to 1700 B.C. and by the 1400's B.C. were the dominant force in Greece.

- The Mycenaeans were a very warlike group and established small kingdoms throughout southern Greece in an area called the Peloponnese. They take their name from one of their principle cities, Mycenae, which was the city of King Agamemnon in the *Iliad*.
- The Mycenaeans became fabulously wealthy through conquest and trade and are even mentioned in letters written by Amenhotep IV!
- Mycenaean kings lived in mountain-top fortresses that also served as the seat of government, treasury and warehouses for supplies.
- The Mycenaeans learned astronomy, bronze-working, shipbuilding and writing from the Minoans before the collapse of the Minoans.
- The *Iliad* details the famous war between the Mycenaeans and the Trojans of Troy (a city in Turkey). Scholars are still trying to figure out how much of the story is true, but recent evidence points to many of the kings in the story as being actual historical people.
- By the 1100's the Mycenaeans were in decline. The reasons for this are not clear, but earthquakes and in-fighting are suspected.
- The decline of the Mycenaeans leads to the Greek Dark Age.
- The Greek Dark Age saw a major decline in technology, literacy, farming and government. Many people fled to the islands or Turkey.

- The length of the Dark Age is unclear and why it ended is also unclear. There is a hotly debated theory that a new Greek-speaking people, the Dorians, appear and lift Greece out of the Dark Age.
- The origin of the Dorians is also mysterious, but iron weapons and tools do appear at this time and a new writing system appears—the Greek alphabet.
- By the 700's things seem much better in Greece and the population begins to rapidly grow. The poor farms of Greece are unable to feed everyone so many Greeks begin to spread out across the Mediterranean to establish colonies.
- Colonies appear in Egypt, Turkey, Italy, France, Spain and Russia.
- Trade explodes during this time. Wine, pottery, coins, wood, metals, and slaves are common trade goods of the time.
- Kingship declined during the Dark Age and nearly recovers. New city-states form (polis). The polis usually had a walled city, surrounding farmland, an agora and a mountaintop fortress called an acropolis.
- The idea of citizenship also develops. Only free, native, land-owning men were considered citizens. These men served as soldiers called hoplites and fought in a phalanx. They were loyal only to their polis.

Unit 2: Greece—Chapter 4 Section 2

Key terms: *tyrant, oligarchy, democracy, helot, agoge, Homoioi, Perioikoi*

- The poleis that developed after the Dark Age were often very unstable. Aristocrats dominated the politics and the economy of the polis and this led to widespread resentment by the common people.
- During this time, many tyrants tried to wrest control from the aristocrats. Tyrants usually had a lot of popular support because they claimed to be the champion of the common people. Today the word tyrant has a very negative connotation, but that wasn't the case in ancient Greece.
- Many tyrants ended up being just as bad as the aristocrats and so 2 forms of government became popular—oligarchy and democracy. Sparta is a classic example of oligarchy and Athens is a classic example of a direct democracy.
- Sparta and Athens were bitter rivals and fought each other for domination of the Greek peninsula.

- Prior to the Dark Age, Sparta was much like other poleis and had impressive art and music and traded with others. This all changed after the Dark Age. Sparta made dramatic changes and became a fully militaristic polis lacking art, literature, money and trade.
- Sparta's oligarchy was quite unusual. There was a diarchy (2 joint kings) and a council of 28 men over the age of 60 (the Gerousia). These 30 men created the laws and sent them to an assembly of all men over the age of 30 for approval. The assembly also selected 5 men, called ephors, to 1-year terms to enforce the laws of Sparta, advise the kings and collect taxes. The kings controlled the army during war.
- Women had no official role in politics or war, but had more freedom than any other women in the Greek world. Women were sent to athletic training schools, could own property and were free to move around and go about their daily lives.
- Sparta's transformation into a military state began in the 700's B.C. when Sparta attacked and conquered its neighboring polis, Messenia. Messenia was completely overrun and made Sparta the largest polis in all of Greece.

- The Spartans completely enslaved the Messenians and referred to them as helots. The helots vastly outnumbered the Spartans and tried to rebel multiple times so Sparta devoted itself to war and military training as a way to ensure stability.
- In this new society there were 3 rigid levels: the helots at the bottom, the Perioikoi in the middle and the Homoioi at the top. The helot slaves did all of the farming for Sparta. The Perioikoi were considered partial citizens and functioned as carpenters, blacksmiths, farmers, etc. The Homoioi, or “Peers” were the Spartan warriors and full citizens. Homoioi were forbidden to hold any job. War was the full-time job of the Homoioi.
- The Homoioi were full-time, professional warriors and were served by the helots. Each Homoioi technically was supposed to have exactly the same as all other Homoioi and supported the polis by contributing food from their helot farms.
- Homoioi are legendary for their bravery and combat skill and were feared and admired throughout the ancient world. The Homoioi became so powerful and dangerous by means of the agoge.

- The agoge was the military school that all Spartan boys had to enter at the age of 7. Spartan boys lived at the school and were not permitted to see their families for the next 23 years!
- The boys in the agoge were treated worse than slaves. They learned only basic literacy and spent most of their time learning how to fight, march, live off the land and how to be tough. The boys were given one long shirt a year and were given one meal a day—the black broth. Black broth was a mix of pork, salt, vinegar and animal blood. Any other food had to be stolen, but the boys were severely punished if caught stealing.
- Punishment for stealing and other offenses was usually a public whipping. Boys were stripped of their shirt and forced to hold a bar suspended above their heads. A Homoioi would then whip the boy until he collapsed. The boy could not make a sound and falling quickly was considered a total disgrace.
- The boys spent 13 years in the agoge to refine their skills. At age 20, if the boy survived the agoge and the graduation ceremony, he was able to join the army. The young Homoioi lived in barracks until 30 and only then were allowed to marry and live at home.
- Military service lasted until the age of 60. If you made it to retirement you could join the Gerousia.

- Spartan society was very isolated and rigid. They looked down on outside influences and foreigners. Spartans were not allowed to leave Sparta unless on military campaign in order to prevent outside influences from corrupting the Homoioi.
- Athens was in many ways the total opposite of Sparta. Athens dominated the seas with their powerful navy, they had a school system similar to ours and they had a democracy.
- Athens had a monarchy and then an oligarchy, but a rebellion by the farmers around 600 B.C. ended this.
- In 594 B.C., a noble named Solon reformed the government. He erased the farmer's debt so they wouldn't be forced into slavery and allowed all citizens to join the assembly and courts where laws were made.
- Solon's death resulted in 30 years of civil war in Athens. A tyrant named Peisistratus took over in 560 B.C. and restored order. He divided the aristocrats' lands up for the poor, started a welfare system and gave public jobs to the poor.
- After Peisistratus died his sons tried to take over, but were rejected by the Athenians.

- In 508 B.C., a man named Cleisthenes took control. He increased the power of the assembly and let all citizens choose generals and judges, participate in court trials and vote on laws.
- Cleisthenes also developed a new 500-man council that made laws, dealt with other poleis and kingdoms and collected taxes. Positions on the council were done by lottery so rich and poor had an equal chance to participate. This truly made Athens into a direct democracy.
- Athenian schooling was much like ours. Only boys could attend; girls were trained at home to be housewives. Unlike in Sparta, Athenian women had few rights or freedoms.
- In school, boys studied literature, grammar, poetry, music, dancing, sports, and math. Boys graduated at 18 and then were eligible for citizenship.
- Athenians were allowed to have any job they wished and served in the army or navy during times of war. It was a citizen militia as opposed to the professional army of Sparta.

Unit 2: Greece—Chapter 4 Section 3

Key terms: *satrap*, *satrapies*, *Zoroastrianism*

- The Persians were a semi-nomadic people from present-day Iran. Around 559 B.C. a king named Cyrus united the Persian tribes and formed the Persian Empire. He is known to history as Cyrus the Great. The Persians practiced a monotheistic religion called Zoroastrianism, which has many similarities to Judaism.
- Cyrus led the Persians against the Chaldeans and conquered Mesopotamia. Cyrus freed the Jews and then went on to conquer Canaan. He allowed the Jews to practice their religion freely. Under Cyrus' son, Cambyses, the Persian Empire grew to include Egypt and Asia Minor (modern Turkey).
- In 521 B.C. King Darius I took the throne of Persia. His empire stretched from the borders of India to the borders of Greece! He divided his empire into 20 provinces called satrapies. The satrapies were ruled by a satrap (governor). The satraps collected taxes, recruited soldiers and had total power over their province. However, they had to answer to Darius I.

- The Persian Army was a professional army like Sparta's army. The men were full-time soldiers and were highly trained. The army was also massive. Ancient writers claimed that it was upwards of 2 million men, but modern scholars estimate it at about 250,000 to 600,000 men. Even the smaller number is huge when compared to other ancient armies (usually around 10,000 to 30,000).
- In addition to the regular army, Darius I also created the world's first "special forces" unit. Darius' royal bodyguards numbered 10,000 and were called the Immortals by the Greeks. They called them that because they believed if one died, another man was ready to replace him immediately.
- In 499 B.C., Greeks living on the east coast of Asia Minor, in a place called Ionia, tried to rebel against the Persians. The Ionian Greeks asked Athens for help and Athens provided assistance. Despite the help the rebellion failed and Darius I vowed to destroy Athens for daring to help the rebels. This begins the Persian Wars.
- 9 years later, in 490 B.C., Darius I sent an army of 20,000 to destroy Athens. Athens learned of the army's approach and immediately sent for help from Sparta.

- The Athenians sent a runner, Philippides, to Sparta. He made the 150 mile run in 2 days! The Spartans told him that they could not come immediately due to a religious festival, but would come once it was over. Philippides ran back to Athens with the bad news and Athens decided to face the Persians alone.
- The Persians landed on a beach called Marathon, which was about 26 miles from Athens. The Athenians marched to a hill overlooking Marathon and waited. 9,600 Athenians and 400 men from the neighboring town of Plataea were commanded by a general named Miltiades.
- Miltiades' army looked in horror at the size of the Persian army and wondered how they would win against an army twice their size.
- Miltiades knew that his army would be outflanked and crushed by the Persian cavalry, so he did something very radical; he removed men from the back of his phalanx to make his battle line longer. This move prevented him from being outflanked, but his center was dangerously thin and might be broken by the Persian infantry.
- When the Athenians refused to march down the hill, the Persians decided to load up half their army and sail for Athens to burn it. The other half waited at Marathon to battle the Athenians and Plataeans.

- Once the Persian cavalry was onboard the ships, Miltiades began to march his army towards the Persians. The Persians began to shoot the Greeks with arrows. When the Greeks were about a mile away the phalanx broke into a full sprint and charged the Persians.
- The Persians were pushed back on the flanks, but the center thought it was winning and pushed the phalanx back in the center. This was the trap Miltiades was hoping for. The phalanx pushed in from both sides and surrounded the Persians in the middle. The Persians were massacred and the survivors ran for their ships!
- When victory was secure, Miltiades sent Philippides back to Athens to tell them of the great victory and to be prepared for the rest of the Persian army. Philippides supposedly ran the 26 miles to Athens after fighting for 3 hours. He made it to the city and said, "Victory" and then died of exhaustion!
- Miltiades rushed his army back to Athens and arrived just before the Persian ships. When the Persians saw the Greeks waiting at the beach they knew they lost the other fight and turned around and sailed for Persia. The Spartans arrived a couple of days later and had to admit that Athens had fought well against the Persians.

- Darius I was furious when he heard the results of Marathon and began planning a massive invasion of Greece. He died 4 years later and his son, Xerxes, continued his invasion plans.
- In 480 B.C., Xerxes led an army of at least 250,000 Persians into Greece.
- Many poleis in Greece decide to avoid war with Persia. Some actually join Persia and some unite to fight Persia. The anti-Persian poleis were led by Sparta and Athens. The Athenian general Themistocles, who had fought at Marathon, commanded the Greek navies and control of the armies was given to the Spartan king Leonidas I.
- Leonidas knew that the Persians could be stopped if their giant army was forced to fight in a tight space. He picked a place called Thermopylae as his choke point. Thermopylae had large mountains to the west and the sea to the east. This made the path to Athens very narrow and easily defensible by a phalanx.
- The Spartans refused to allow Leonidas to take the whole army. Instead he chose 300 volunteers as his personal bodyguards and marched towards Thermopylae. About 7,000 Greeks from various cities joined him to defend Thermopylae. Themistocles sailed the Greek navies to the area to destroy the Persian supply ships.

- Themistocles met the massive Persian navy near Thermopylae and managed to inflict heavy damage on hundreds of ships. The Persians were forced to sail around a large island in order to reach Athens. They lost even more ships in a storm as they passed the island.
- Meanwhile, at Thermopylae, Leonidas formed his phalanx against the Persians. The Greek phalanx proved to be unstoppable and the Persians lost thousands of soldiers in every charge against it (even the Immortals proved helpless against the phalanx). After 2 days of heavy fighting the Greeks had lost a couple of hundred men and the Persians had lost over 10,000!
- Leonidas thought that the Greeks might win the Battle of Thermopylae, but they were then betrayed by a local Greek named Ephialtes. Ephialtes showed the Immortals a secret path around the mountains that would allow the Persians to attack from the front and back. Leonidas had posted 1,000 soldiers there to guard it, but the men were easily beaten in the dark by the Immortals.
- Leonidas ordered the Greek army to quietly retreat back to Athens before sunrise. The Spartans and 700 Thespians remained to battle the Persians to the death in order to allow the rest to escape.

- On the 3rd day the Persians attacked the Spartans and Thespians from both directions. Leonidas was killed, but the Spartans continued to butcher the Persians with their bare hands.
- Xerxes finally ordered his archers to finish off the Spartans and Thespians and all were killed.
- Xerxes was victorious, but his army had been seriously delayed and frightened by the Greek resistance.
- Xerxes marched on Athens, but found the city empty (the people had escaped the nearby island of Salamis). Xerxes burned Athens to the ground anyway.
- The damaged Persian navy sailed into the Straits of Salamis between Athens and Salamis Island. Themistocles planned to trap the bigger Persian ships in the narrow strip of water. The smaller Greek ships quickly surrounded the Persian ships and sunk almost all of them in the Battle of Salamis!
- Without his navy, Xerxes knew his army was in serious trouble, so he ran back to Persia. Xerxes left his general, Mardonius, with the remainder of the Persian army to try to conquer Greece in the spring of 479 B.C.

- After winter passed, in 479 B.C., Mardonius marched on the town of Plataea with his army.
- Sparta sent 5,000 Spartans under General Pausanias and they met up with over 30,000 Athenians and allied Greeks at Plataea.
- Pausanias charged the larger Persian army and then faked a retreat. When the Persians began chasing the Greeks, Pausanias ordered the phalanx to quick turn around and charge at the Persians.
- The Persians were totally surprised by this and the massacre began. Few Persians lived long enough to run away and Mardonius was killed. The great victory at the Battle of Plataea ended the Persian Wars.
- Persia would continue to cause mischief with the Greeks, but would never try to invade Greece again.

Unit 2: Greece—Chapter 4 Section 4

Key terms: *direct democracy, representative democracy, philosopher*

- Many poleis still viewed Persia as a threat after the end of the Persian Wars. Athens was very concerned about the Persians and also had a desire to create a naval empire because their navy was now the most powerful in the world.
- Athens created the Delian League. It was supposed to be an alliance of poleis against Persia. Its first goal was to protect members from attacks by Persia. Its second goal was to free the Greeks in Ionia from Persian rule.
- Athens tended to push the other poleis around and force them to do what Athens wanted. The Athenians acted like they were superior and the Delian League effectively became the Athenian Empire.
- The Athenians saw themselves as superior to all other poleis. They pushed their radical form of democracy known as direct democracy.
- In a direct democracy all citizens vote on every law, treaty and decision made by the government. This is very different from representative democracy that is found in the modern world.

- Athens' assembly elected 10 generals every year. These generals served 1-year terms and acted sort of like presidents.
- The most powerful of these generals was Pericles. He was elected 30 straight times and dominated Athenian politics until his death!
- Pericles believed that Athens was truly superior and subjugated the Delian League to Athenian authority.
- Pericles guided Athens towards becoming one of the biggest cities in the world. Athens also became extremely rich and was the center of trade in the Greek world. Athens navy patrolled the seas and controlled all naval trade. Slavery increased at this time and so did the arts and sciences.
- Pericles' reign over Athens is often called the Golden Age of Athens. Philosophers like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle taught in Athens during this Golden Age and the most famous Greek temple, the Parthenon, was built during Pericles' time.
- Sparta became increasingly suspicious of Athens during this time and formed its own league, known as the Peloponnesian League. Sparta dominated it like Athens dominated the Delian League.
- In 431 B.C., the Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens began. This war would decide who dominated all of Greece!

- Sparta was confident that its army could crush Athens' army so it marched on Athens and besieged it.
- Pericles knew that war with Sparta was likely so he ordered massive walls to be built before the war began. The "Long Walls" of Athens completely surrounded the city and ran for miles down to Athens port. The Long Walls allowed the Athenians to ship food and supplies into the city safely and Sparta, which lacked a navy, could do nothing about it.
- The Athenians laughed at the Spartans from behind the Long Walls and Sparta could only camp around the city and wait.
- In the 2nd year of the siege a terrible plague started in Athens. About 1/3 of the population died, including the great Pericles. Athens continued their resistance and the two sides fought battles on and off for the next 25 years!
- Sparta was desperate to win after 25 years so they made a deal with Persia! Persia gave Sparta money to build ships in exchange for Athenian lands in Asia Minor.
- In 405 B.C. the Spartan navy crushed the Athenians and sailed into Athens' port. Athens surrendered and was forced to tear down the Long Walls.

- Sparta attempted to gain power over all of Greece over the next 30 years.
- Eventually, Athens and Thebes led a rebellion against Sparta. Sparta was crushed at the Battle of Leuctra in 371 B.C. by Thebes.
- The shocking loss destroyed Sparta's power and they lost control of the helots. Sparta faded away and permanently became a minor polis and Thebes rose as the most powerful.
- Thebes and Athens bickered over who was to be most powerful. While this was happening, King Philip II of Macedonia was plotting an invasion of Greece.
- Philip II wanted to unite Greece under his rule and then invade Persia with a united Greek army.
- In 338 B.C. Philip II and his son Alexander crush Thebes and Athens at the Battle of Chaeronea and conquer Greece.