

The Culture of Archaic Greece in Sparta, Athens and Miletus

1000- 500 B.C.

Where are we in time?

800-400 BC The Rise of the Greek polis

c.750 BC Homeric epics transcribed

725-650 BC Hoplite tactics become standard

c.600 BC Militarization of Sparta

600-500 BC Emergence of the Milesian School (pre-Socratic philosophy)

594 BC Solon's reforms in Athens

546 Cyrus of Persia conquers Lydia and controls the Greek cities of Ionia.

510 BC Overthrow of Peisistratid tyrants in Athens

499-494 Ionian Revolt

490 Battle of Marathon and the beginning of the Persian Wars

What's happening elsewhere in the world?

Where are we in space?



The Dark Age of Greece (1150–800 B.C.E.)

- The Dark Age
 - Mycenaean decline
 - Dorian invasion
 - Depopulation
 - The Greeks and their gods
 - The idea of hubris

The Dark Age of Greece (1150–800 B.C.E.)

- Foreign contacts and the rise of the *polis*
 - Phoenician influence
 - alphabet
 - seafaring

The Dark Age of Greece (1150–800 B.C.E.)

- Foreign contacts and the rise of the *polis*
 - Rapid population growth
 - The polis (city-state)
 - The *asty*—the urban community
 - The *khora*—the land
 - *Synoikismos*—bringing together of dwellings



Map 3.1 The Attic Peninsula

Archaic Greece (800–480 B.C.E.)

- “Age of Experiment”—a new dynamism
- Colonization and Panhellenism
 - Expansion of the Greek world (*Magna Graecia*)—new contacts and trade
 - A new awareness of common culture and outlook—Hellenes

Archaic Greece (800–480 B.C.E.)

- Colonization and Panhellenism
 - Panhellenism
 - Oracle of Delphi
 - Games at Olympia (776 B.C.E.)
 - Dating events by “olympiads”



Map 3.2 Greek Colonization, c. 550 B.C.E

Archaic Greece (800–480 B.C.E.)

- Hoplite warfare
 - Common foot soldiers supporting aristocratic warriors
 - Carried spears of short swords and the large round shield (hopla)
 - The phalanx

Archaic Greece (800–480 B.C.E.)

- Hoplite warfare
 - Formation of a “hoplite class”
 - Every polis needed a hoplite force
 - Ranks filled by farmers who could afford armor
 - Wanted a share in the political decisions of the polis

Archaic Greece (800–480 B.C.E.)

- Aristocratic culture and the rise of tyranny
 - Pursued wealth and power as well as a distinctive culture
 - Officeholding and the symposium
 - Homosexuality
 - The aristocratic identity

Archaic Greece (800–480 B.C.E.)

- A new elite—problems
 - Violence between aristocratic groups
 - *Tyrannos*—someone who seized power and ruled outside traditional framework
 - The tyrant had to satisfy the hoplites
 - Important path from aristocracy to democracy

Archaic Greece (800–480 B.C.E.)

- Lyric poetry
 - A new departure
 - Hesiod (c. 700 B.C.E.)
 - *Theogony* and *Works and Days*
 - Archilochus of Paros (c. 680–640 B.C.E.)
 - Sappho (c. 620–559 B.C.E.)
 - The new expression of feelings

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Athens
 - Identity
 - Agricultural economy
 - Government
 - Landed aristocracy
 - Elected magistrates and the council of state
 - Nine archons held executive power (civil, military, judicial, and religious functions)
 - Areopagus Council—elected the archons

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Athens
 - Political Change
 - Debt slavery
 - Political factions
 - The failed coup of Kylon (632 B.C.E.)
 - Drakon (621 B.C.E.)—“setting the laws”
 - “draconian” punishments

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Athens

- Solon (c. 640–c. 559 B.C.E.)
 - Abolished debt slavery
 - Encouraged cash-crop farming and urban industries
 - Set up courts with citizen juries
 - Eligibility for political office based on property, not birth
 - The *boule* (steering committee)
 - The *ekklesia* (citizen assembly)

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Athens

- Peisistratos (c. 600–527 B.C.E.)
 - Established himself as tyrant (546 B.C.E.)
 - Public works projects
 - Strengthened the demos
- Cleisthenes (c. 570–c. 508 B.C.E.)
 - Championed the cause of the demos (the people)
 - Reformed voting practices
 - Reorganized the population into ten tribes
 - Introduced ostracism

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Sparta
 - The Peloponnesus
 - Five villages combined (*synoikismos*) to become Sparta
 - The conquest of Messenia
 - The helots (slaves)
 - The *Spartiate* (the “Equals”)—professional soldiers of the phalanx

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Sparta
 - A society organized for war
 - Early training of boys and girls
 - The *apella*—the citizen assembly of *Spartiate* males over thirty years old
 - The *gerousia*—council that proposed matters to the *apella*
 - The *krypteia*—secret police

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Sparta

- Helots and *Spartiate*

- Helots outnumbered *Spartiate* ten to one
 - The problem of revolts
 - *Spartiate* could not engage in trade or farm their own land (distractions)
 - Protectors of the “traditional constitutions” of Greece
 - Demographic flaws



Map 3.3 The Peloponnesus

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Miletus
 - Commercial, cultural, and military power of Ionia (Asia Minor)
 - Strong Hellenic identity shaped by Near Eastern influence
 - Ionia and Lydia—cross-cultural exchange
 - Ionians Hellenize interior of Asia Minor
 - Strong trading interests (Black Sea and Egypt)

The Archaic Polis in Action

- Miletus
 - Speculative thought—the “Milesian School”
 - Pre-Socratic thought
 - The cosmos, gods, and men
 - Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes
 - Theories of the cosmos and the problem of change
 - From religious belief to philosophical speculation