

Chronology

480-358 BCE Classical Greece			
480	Athens burned to the ground by Persians		
479	Greeks victorious at the battle of Plataea		
478-404	Delian League		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ca. 460 becomes heavy-handed 		
431-404 Peloponnesian War			
Star Terms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trireme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acropolis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socrates
Geog Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delian League 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peloponnesus

A. Parthenon (Athens), 447-438 BCE

geometric harmony, civic architecture, home of Pallas Athena, patroness of Athens

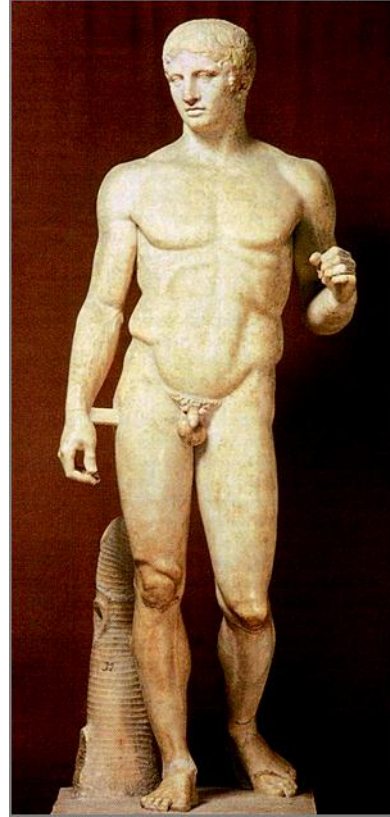


The Parthenon stands as one of the greatest monuments in the Classical world. Phidias, a leading Athenian artist of his generation and a friend of Pericles, supervised the sculptural decorations. Completed in 432 BCE as a temple to Athena, the patron goddess of Athens, the Parthenon celebrates Athena in her aspect as a virgin goddess. Parthenos, Greek for 'virgin.' Much like the Mesopotamian ziggurat, the Greek temple was a communal symbol of reverence for the gods, but, whereas the ziggurat enforced the separation of priesthood and populace, the Greek temple united religious and secular domains. Its damaged state reflects centuries of neglect and misuse. In the 5th

century CE the Parthenon became a Christian church, and in the 15th century the Turks conquered Athens and converted the temple into a mosque. They stored gunpowder in the building! When it was shelled by artillery in 1687, most of the interior and many sculptures were destroyed. This building is significant because it represents the grand aspirations of Pericles and his ambition to make Athens the center of the Greek world. When the Delian League, originally a voluntary confederation of Greek city-states bound together as a common defense organization (think NATO) became a military tool of its largest and most powerful member Athens (think America) the treasury was moved from Delos, an important island dedicated to the god Apollo, to Athens, the Athenian Empire had begun.

B. *Doryphoros (Spear Bearer)*, Polykleitos, Roman copy from a bronze original of c. 450-440 BCE, marble

Polykleitos of Argos was esteemed by his contemporaries, and his work is still thought of as the embodiment of Classical style. Most of his sculpture was cast in bronze and is known today only through later Roman copies in marble. The figure once held a spear in his left hand and stands like the Kritios Boy, although with a slight increase in contrapposto and in the inclination of the head. This statue gives physical form to the quest for the ideal, which can also be seen also in the philosophy of Socrates (ca. 470-399 BCE) and his disciple Plato (ca. 429-347 BCE). Both argued that all objects in the physical world were reflections of ideal forms that could be discovered through reason. Athens used such images to create the ideal form of a citizen.



C. Theater at Epidauros ca. 350 BCE



The magnificent theater designed and constructed by Polykleitos the Younger is the best preserved Greek theater in existence. It seats amount 15,000 people and is acoustically perfect. Theaters such as this one, especially in Athens, were the venue for the yearly tragedies and comedies sponsored by the state and written by playwrights in competition with one another. These were sacred plays as part of a sacred festival and always had a civic message.