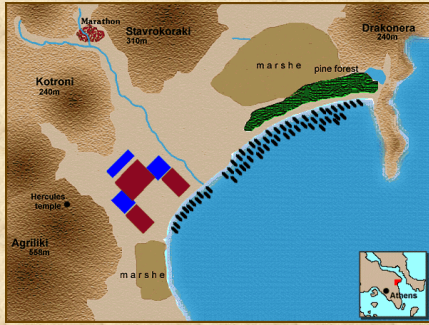


Lecture 11: *Ionian Revolt to Marathon*



HIST 332 Spring 2012

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Life for Greek *poleis* under Cyrus

- Cyrus sent messages to the Ionians asking them to revolt against Lydian rule
  - Ionians refused
- After conquest:
  - Ionian cities offered to be Persian subjects under the same terms
    - Cyrus refused, citing the Ionians' unwillingness to help
    - Median general Harpagus sent to conquer Ionia
    - Installed tyrants to rule for Persia

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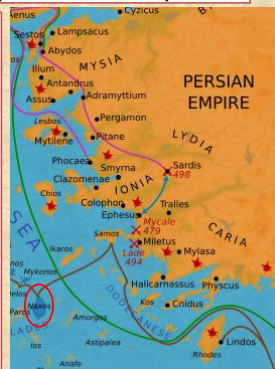
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Ionian Revolt (499-494 BCE)

- 499 Aristagoras, tyrant of Miletos wants to attack Naxos
- He can't pay for it
    - so persuades satrap to invade
    - The invasion fails
  - Aristagoras needs to repay Persians
  - leads rebellion against Persian tyrants
  - He goes to Greece to ask for help
    - Sparta refuses
    - Athens sends a fleet




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## Cleomenes' reply to Aristagoras

- Aristagoras goes to Sparta to solicit help
  - tells King Cleomenes that the “Great King” lived three months from the sea (i.e. easy task)

“Get out of Sparta before sundown, Milesian stranger, for you have no speech eloquent enough to induce the Lacedemonians to march for three months inland from the sea.”

-Herodotus, *Histories* 5.50

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## Ionian Rebellion Against Persia

Ionian cities rebel

498 Greeks from Ionia attempt to take Satrap capital of Sardis

- fire breaks out
  - Temple of Ahura-Mazda is burned

• Battle of Ephesus

- Greeks routed

497-5 Persian Counter-Attack

- Cyprus taken
- Hellespont pacified

494 Sack of Miletus

Satrap installs democracies in place of tyrannies

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## Darius not pleased with the Greeks

- Motives obscure
  - punishment of Athenian aid to Ionians
  - was going to conquer it anyway
- fleet and army prepared to sail to Attica and Eretria
- Approaches former Athenian tyrant Hippias




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Theater as public sentiment for war

- 493/2 Phrynichus produces a tragedy  
**"Fall of Miletus"**
- people became so upset that the whole theatre fell to weeping
  - they fined Phrynichus a thousand drachmas for bringing to mind a calamity that affected them so personally
  - forbade the performance of that play forever

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Herodotus, *Historia* 6.21.2

The Athenians made clear their deep grief for the taking of Miletus in many ways, but especially in this: when Phrynichus wrote a play entitled *The Fall of Miletus* and produced it, the whole theatre fell to weeping; they fined Phrynichus a thousand drachmas for reminding them of their own misfortunes, and forbade the performance of that play forever.

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## Persian Wars

### Three Phases:

#### Phase I: 490s

- 492 Persian fleet destroyed at Athos
- 490 Battle of Marathon

#### Phase II 480 BCE

- August Battle of Thermopylae/Artemisium
- Sept Persians occupy Athens
  - Athens burned
  - Battle of Salamis (naval)
  - Greeks Win

#### Phase III 479 BCE

- 479 Battle of Plataea

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**First Persian Invasion (492)**

Mardonios led the Persian Army across the Hellespont into Thrace and Macedonia

Athens and Eretria are assumed to have been targets

Persian fleet is destroyed off the Chalcidice near Mt. Athos

**Second Persian Invasion (490)**

Darius sends a fleet under Datis bring along **Hippias**, Athenian exile and son of last Athenian tyrant

- 1<sup>st</sup> Naxos
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Eretria on Euboea sacked
- 3<sup>rd</sup> landing at Marathon

Pheidippides an Athenian herald, was sent to Sparta to request help They said "No."

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## Persian forces at Marathon

### Among ancient sources:

- poet **Simonides**: 200,000
- Cornelius Nepos (Roman):
  - 200,000 infantry
  - 10,000 cavalry
- only 100,000 fought in the battle; rest on fleet rounding Cape Sounion
- Plutarch and Pausanias both give 300,000

### Modern historians

- ranging for the infantry, from 20,000–100,000
  - consensus of perhaps **25,000**

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## Battle of Marathon (490)

### Athenian and Plataian

- 10,000 Athenians
- 1,000 Plataians
- Athenians had a better position on the plain
  - Miltiades commander
- thins out line to meet whole Persian line
- Miltiades then attacks

### Persian

- 25,000 troops
- 600 triremes
- Datis kept his men in Marathon without engaging for several days
- Sends the fleet against an undefended Attica

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## Persian triremes at Marathon (computer simulation)




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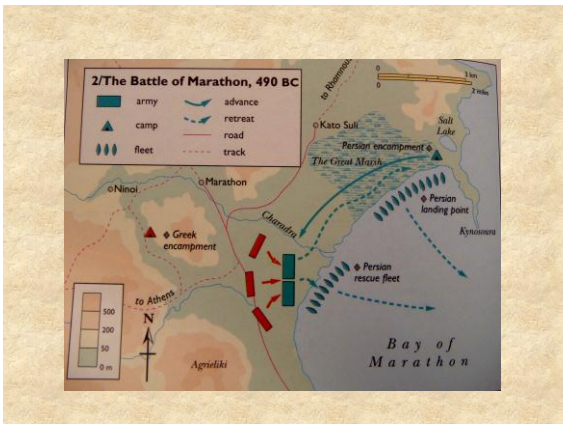
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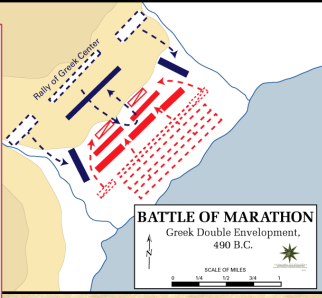
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- Athenians charge the Persian lines
  - b/c missile attack
  - wings push flanks towards center
- Persians push through weak center
- Athenians retreat reform and charge Persian center
- Persian center finally breaks; heads for ships



The map illustrates the Battle of Marathon in 490 B.C. It shows the Persian army (red arrows) attacking the Athenian army (blue arrows) from the center. The Athenians used a double envelopment strategy, pushing their wings towards the Persian center. A scale bar indicates distances in miles (0, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, 1).

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/1stphaseofbattlemarathon.gif>

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b3/2ndphaseofbattlemarathon.gif>

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### Battle of Marathon

- Persians thrown into confusion
  - 7000 Persians killed
  - 192 Athenians
- Pheidippides ran back to Athens (26.2 miles) to tell of victory
  - drops dead
- Athenians returned home quickly and chased off Persian fleet
- Datis returned to Asia

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### After Marathon

- Athens gain tremendous prestige from victory
  - she fought almost alone.
- The myth of Persian invincibility was broken
- Miltiades, the hero of Marathon, led an expedition that failed the next year (489), trying to drive the Persians out of Thrace
  - He died of wounds in disgrace for having lost
    - typical of Athens—very fickle in regard to their leaders

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The Persian Storm Gathers



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