14. Delian League and the trireme

Aftermath of the Persian Wars

The old system of mutually exclusive, independent *poleis* no longer worked

- was freedom of Greece as a whole compatible with freedoms of disparate city-states?

A single *polis* was needed to lead:

- **Sparta** (logical choice) was protective and insular
  - could not be away from farms too long
- **Athens** had resources and was located logically to continue the defense

Chronology of Athenian Imperialism

478 Delian League forms

- trouble with Allies of League
- trouble with Sparta's League

461 Age of Pericles begins

- "Long Walls" construction begins (461-445)

460-46 The "First" Peloponnesian War

- Thucydides born (460)
- Delos treasury moved to Athens (454)
- Parthenon construction begins (447-432)

446-32 Thirty Year Peace

Delian League (478 BCE)

- offensive/defensive alliance of Greek city-states
  - Sparta did not join
  - Athens controlled the decision process
- deliberations and treasury at Delos
  - Aristides "the Just"
- Some *poleis* could contribute ships, not money
  - Chios
  - Lesbos
- all take a binding oath

Delian League

From Voluntary League to Empire

460s Delian League has 200 members

- led by Cimon

Over time fiscal burdens onerous

- some island poleis ask to leave Delian League
  - Athens refuses to allow them
- Rebellions forcibly put down

468 Naxos

- enslaved, forced to tear down its walls, lose its fleet and its vote in the League

465 Thasos

- After two years Thasos surrendered to the Athenian leader Cimon
- fortification walls were torn down

Origins of war with Sparta

Earthquake

464 BCE helot revolt in Sparta

- Spartans summoned forces from all of their allies to help suppress the revolt
  - including Athens
- Athens sent out a sizable contingent (4,000 Hoplites)
  - on arrival, Sparta dismisses Athenian force permitting the other allies to remain

According to Thucydides, the Spartans feared the Athenians would switch sides and support the helots

- The offended Athenians repudiated their alliance with Sparta
  - Athenians settled dispossessed helots at a strategic city of on the Corinthian Gulf

Delian & Peloponnesian League ca. 460

Athens Takes Advantage

460 war between Megara and Corinth

- both members of Peloponnesian League

Change in Athenian foreign policy

- Athens neglects alliance with the Spartans and instead ally with her enemies:
  - Megara defects to Delian League
  - Argos also joins Athens

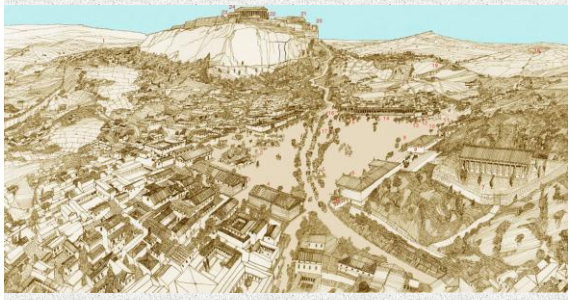
454 Athens moves Delian treasury to Athens

- facade of equity between members broken

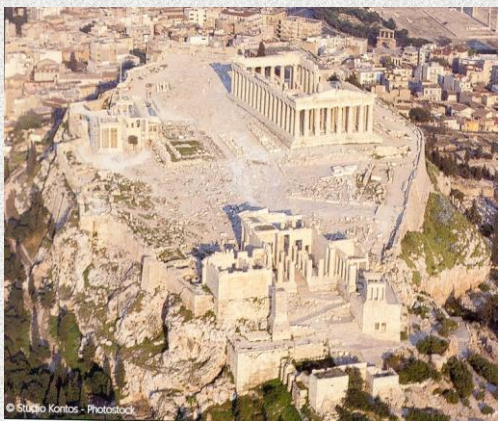
Athens becomes an Island

- "Age of Pericles"
  - safe within the "Long Walls"
  - Funeral Oration (431/0)

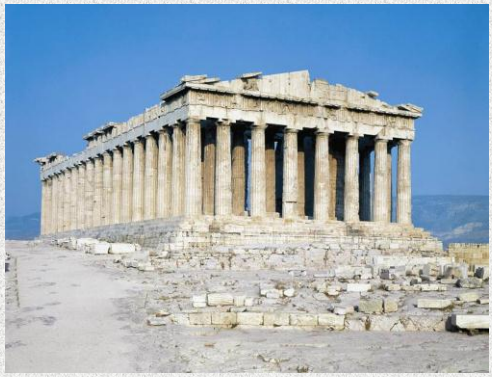
Athens Rebuilt

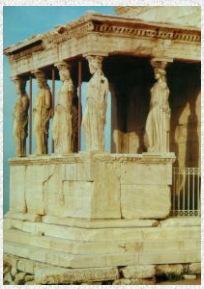


ACROPOLIS



Statue of Athena Promachos
Propylaea
Chalcotheke
Bravronion
Athena Nike Temple
Erechtheion - Cecropion - Pandroseion
Old Temple of Athena Destroyed by the Persians





Parthenon: Apogee of Culture

- started in 448
- completed in 432 BCE

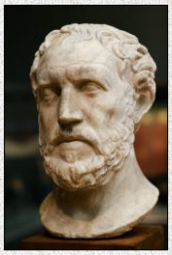
- Parthenon considered the "highpoint" of Greek Art
- attests to political self presentation
- spoils of Delian League
- demonstrates mastery over barbarians
  - those without Greek culture

Thucydides (460-395 BCE)

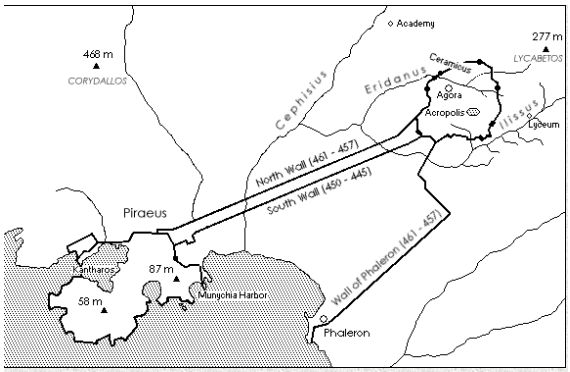
History of the Peloponnesian War
- down to 411 BCE

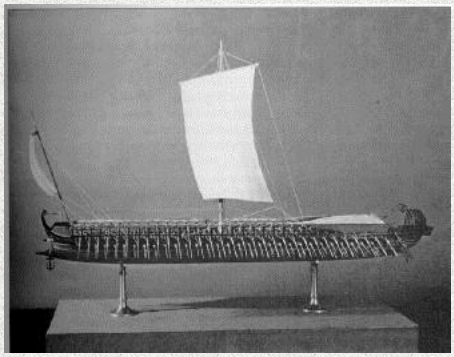
Considered the "first historian"

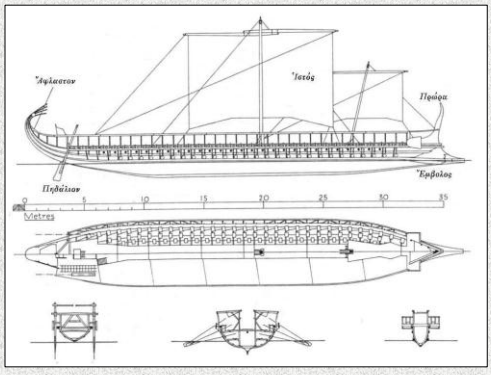
- objective methods
  - archaeology
  - inscriptions
- preserves speeches
  - could not have been present
  - "If I didn't write down what they said, I wrote down what they meant"



Marble, Roman copy of Greek original
Metro Museum, New York







Olympias, a reconstruction of an ancient Athenian trireme
sea trials in 1987, 1990, 1992 and 1994
The bronze bow ram weighed 200 kg.
The ship was built from Oregon pine and Virginia oak

Trireme as a weapon

Three banks of oars
- same length
  - lower through ports in hull
  - upper through gunwale
  - middle through "rowing apparatus" *parexeresia*
- 9 knots sprint; 4 knots cruising
- execute 180° turn in less than a minute and no wider than 2.5 ship-lengths
- Athenian contingent of triremes a Salamis:
- 34,000 oarsmen
  - mostly *Thetes* (become powerful political force in Athens)
  - *paid a dracma a day*

The Trireme

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWlgxhUH3JQ
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4Dd5v_NHCs&playnext=1&list=PLFE7DA3B248C5D17D