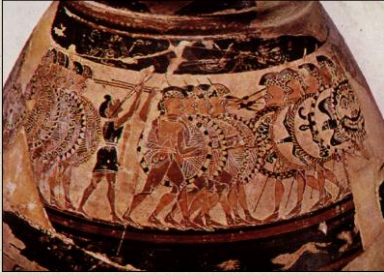


Lecture 9  
The Formation of the polis



HIST 332

Spring 2012

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

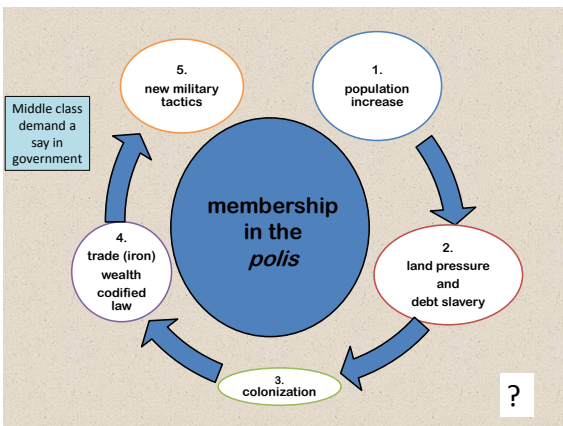
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Greek Colonization

- By 900 Greece began to colonize Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts
  - Aegean Sea
  - Asia Minor
  - Black Sea
  - Libya
  - S. Italy and Sicily
  - S. France
- Trade became crucial to fund population export

---

---

---

---

---

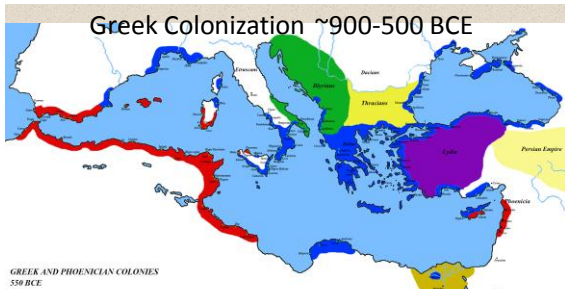
---

---

---

---

---



GREEK AND PHOENICIAN COLONIES 550 BCE

1. Emporion (Spain)	11. Rhegium (Reggio Calabria, Italy)	21. Olbia (Ukraine)
2. Massalia (Marseilles, France)	12. Catania (Catania, Sicily)	22. Heraclea (Crimea)
3. Olbia (France)	13. Syracuse (Syracusa, Sicily)	23. Tanais (Taganrog, Russia)
4. Nicosa (Nice, France)	14. Gela (Sicily)	24. Phanagoria (Taman', Russia)
5. Cumae (Italy)	15. Epidaurus (Dürres, Albania)	25. Dioscurias (Sukhumi, Abkhazia)
6. Neapolis (Naples, France)	16. Apollonia (Albania)	26. Phasis (Potlumi, Georgia)
7. Posidonia (Italy)	17. Byzantium (Istanbul, Turkey)	27. Trapezus (Trabzon, Turkey)
8. Tarentum (Taranto, Italy)	18. Mesembria (Nishebur, Bulgaria)	28. Sinope (Sinop, Turkey)
9. Himera (Sicily)	19. Odessus (Varna, Bulgaria)	29. Naucratis (Egypt)
10. Zancle/Messena (Messina, S)	20. Istros (Romania)	30. Cyrene (Libya)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Socio-political impact of Colonization

- Colonization influenced the development and political thinking of both colonists and “Mother City”
  - Civic planning
  - Stone Architecture
  - Alphabet/literacy
  - sophisticated social organization
- increased wealth
- promoted egalitarianism and isolationism

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Decline of the Hero

- colonies spread wealth back to “Mother City”
- greater numbers of men could afford helmet, armor, grieves and shield
- increased armored infantry probably the major factor in the decline of the individual prowess
- movement towards social organization
- new breed of warriors lacked desire for individual glory
- The community took precedence over individual fame

---



---



---



---



---



---



---

### Archaic Age Greece (750-480 BCE)

- sharp increase in population and material goods that occurred with mid-point at ~ 750 BCE
- Population increase leads to colonization
- Revival in art and literature
- A timocratic system formalized the “hoplite revolution”
- End of Archaic period shows trend of rejecting tyrants, and developing new form of government: the city-state, (*polis*)

---



---



---



---



---



---



---

### Archaic “crisis”

Polis development and colonization caused:

- factional quarrels between aristocratic families
- tension between aristocrats and the people
  - communal defense
  - increased wealth of non-elites
  - debt slavery
- Sparta and Athens would solve this crisis in different ways:

---



---



---



---



---



---



---

## Formation of the Polis

### “city-state”: polis (sing) poleis (pl.)

- political unification
  - regional unification
  - not always voluntary
    - Sparta forcibly “absorbed” Amyclae
- synoecism (syn = together) and (oikos = house)

### Centered on:

1. *basileus* stepping down or reducing authority
2. leadership roles for the “elite”
3. Importance of a “Council of Elders”
  - Constitution: set of laws that based outlined citizenship
  - By 700 many independent poleis

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Polis Development = Hoplite

- By 600 the city-state had become the basic form of social organization
- increased size and complexity of the population made it possible to enlist classes other than nobility to conduct war
- increased wealth and political responsibility encouraged the “hoplite” ethos

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Sparta (Lacedaimonia)




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## The Ideal Spartan Hoplite

- “Equals” serving in the army forged strong social bonds with others in their platoon
- Institutionalized homosexual relationships
  - lack of binary division of sex partners
- bravery and community important themes
- Hoplite *phalanx* became allegory to tight-knit social community
  - Risked death in battle for your *polis* and partner
  - Emphasis on retaining arms and armor (poetry)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Agoge: military education

At birth council decided to keep or reject infant  
 – bathed in wine  
 7<sup>th</sup> birthday enrolled in the *agoge* under the authority of a “boy-herder”

- Lived in communal barracks in a squad
- shared responsibilities of mess and drill

Three stages

- *paides* (ages 7-17)
  - age 12, would enter into an institutionalized sexual relationship with a young adult male Spartan
- *paidiskoi* (ages 18-19) reserve members of army
- *hebotas* (ages 20-29) fully accepted into *syssitia*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Athens (Attica)




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Poem 18 by Solon (590 BCE)

*I have given the masses as much privilege as is sufficient, neither taking away from their honor nor adding to it. And as for those who had power and were envied for their wealth, I saw to it that they too should suffer no indignity. I stood with a mighty shield cast round both sides and did not allow either to have an unjust victory.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Rise of the Hoplite The "Hoplite Revolution"

- Term hoplite from *hoplon* or the large, round shield
- demonstrates community in soldiery
- technological development came in a piecemeal fashion
- Tombs dating to 725 BCE demonstrate frontal fighting in dense formation



Battle frieze from the Berlin Aryballos

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Phalanx: The communal fighting style

- dense formation
- several ranks deep
- panoply (hoplite armor)
- involved shoving
  - *ōthismos*
- Corinthian helmet traded limited vision for maximum protection
- required protecting half you and half your neighbor

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Chigi Vase (640 BCE)

- found in an Etruscan tomb at Monte Aguzzo, near Cesena
- four registers of mythical scenes
- earliest vase painting of hoplites in battle
- shows hoplite reform finalized by mid to late 7<sup>th</sup> C.



---

---

---

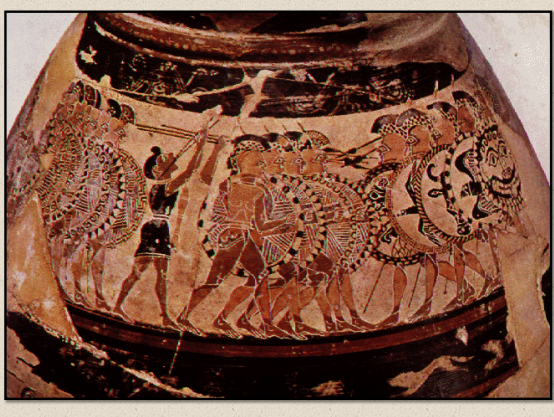
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Macmillan Aryballos, c. 650 BCE  
British Museum

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Aspis (the generic term for the shield)

- was carried by Greek Hoplites of various periods.
- Often incorrectly referred to as a 'hoplon'
  - Deep-dished wooden shield approximately 16cm in depth and of varying diameter between 80cm to 100cm
  - finished *Aspis* weighed about 14lbs




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Change in shield design

- large "tower shield" supplanted by new shield
- "Argive" shield grip:
  - single central strap replaced by double grip
- new shield only protected left side of body
- If warriors stood shoulder to shoulder right side of body could be protected




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Hoplite w/ panoply  
Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis, Brussels

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Cuirass - *Linothorax*

The *Linothorax* (lino (linen) + thorax (chest)) was the Greek armor best-known for use by Hoplites and the infantry of Alexander the Great.

- armor likely made from layer upon layer of linen, glued or quilted together to create strong yet lightweight protection very like modern composite armor.
- It was constructed from up to 24 layers of linen with maybe a leather core.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Hoplite armor from Argos (c.750)




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Greaves - *knemides*

- The *knemides* were made of malleable bronze and were clipped around the shin.
- lined with leather, sheep skin or sea sponge for comfort especially around the ankle.
- designed to protect the Hoplite's knees and lower legs where his shield did not




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Corinthian Helmet (685)



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Kranoi ('Corinthian' Type)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Debate of which came first:  
military or political change

- Military change:
  - Aristotle: “When, however, states began to increase in size, and infantry forces acquired a greater amount of strength, more persons were admitted to the enjoyment of political rights.”

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Political change

By 600 the city-state had become the basic form of social organization

- increased size and complexity of the population made it possible to enlist classes other than nobility to conduct war
- increased wealth and political responsibility encouraged the “hoplite” ethos
- *polis*, *phalanx*, were “political,” all born out of the same socio-economic and political development; “territoriality,” military service, and political enfranchisement interrelated processes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---