

Ancient Greece

Unit Two





Early Civilizations (Pre-Classical)

A. **Minoans** (ca. 2500 – 1450 B.C.E.)

1. Location – **Crete** (mostly) and other islands in the Mediterranean
2. Most Famous for:
 - a. **Seafaring/Trading** – They traded with the peoples of Mesopotamia, Indus Valley, and Egypt
 - b. Cities – such as **Knossos**. With no city walls – peaceful?

Maybe not....

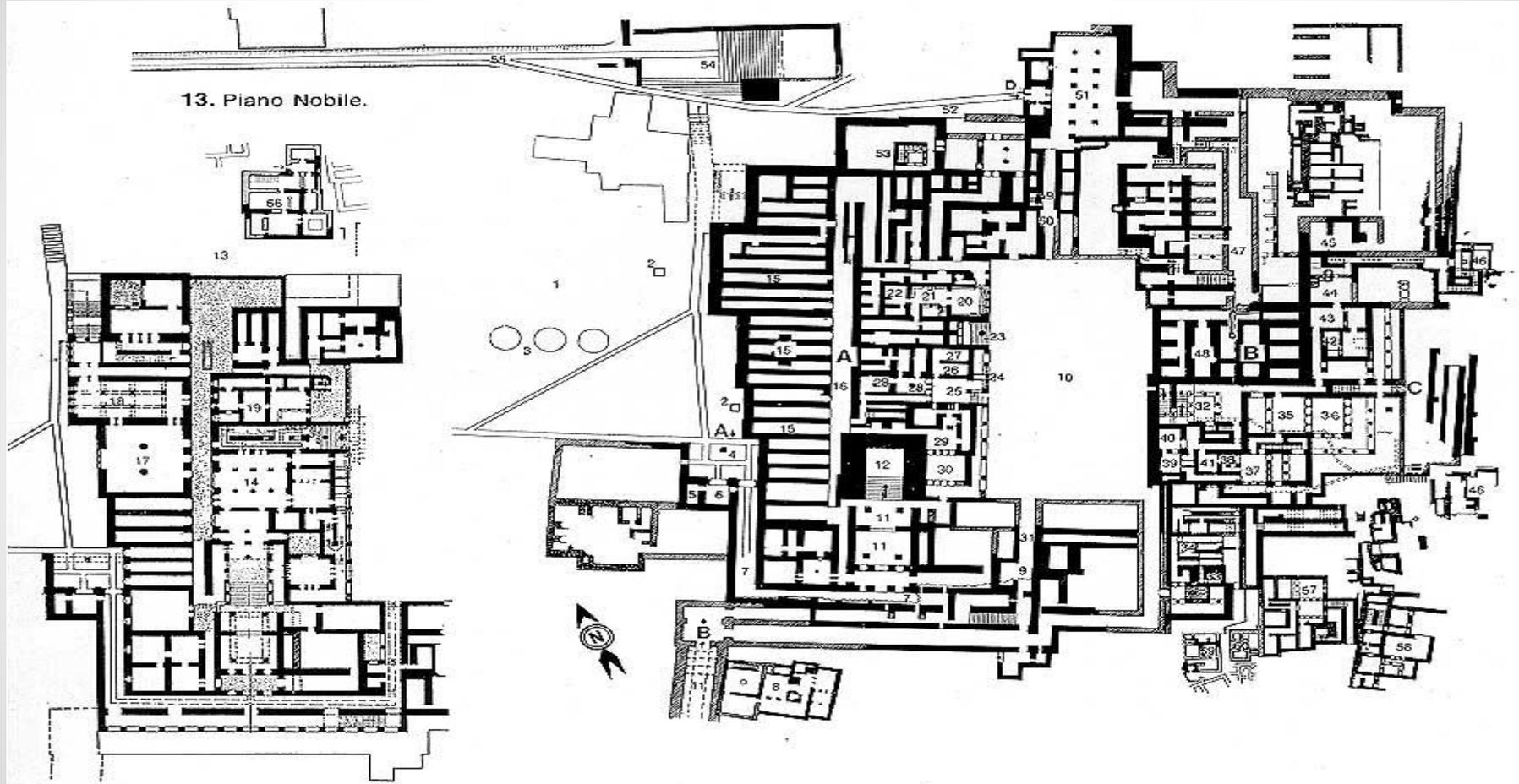




 *Greece in the Bronze Age. Three distinctive civilizations—Cycladic, Minoan, and Mycenaean—developed around the Aegean Sea in the third and second millennia B.C.E.*



13. Piano Nobile.



Minoans

3. Multi-level, **labyrinthine palaces** with storage rooms
 - Minoans associated with the story of Minotaur (monstrous half-man, half-bull creature)
4. **Artwork:** advanced paintings and sculptures (many containing bulls)
5. **Written language:** the Minoans appear to have had a written language known as Linear A. Unfortunately, only a very few words have been deciphered at this point.









Mycenaeans (ca. 2000 to 1100 BCE)

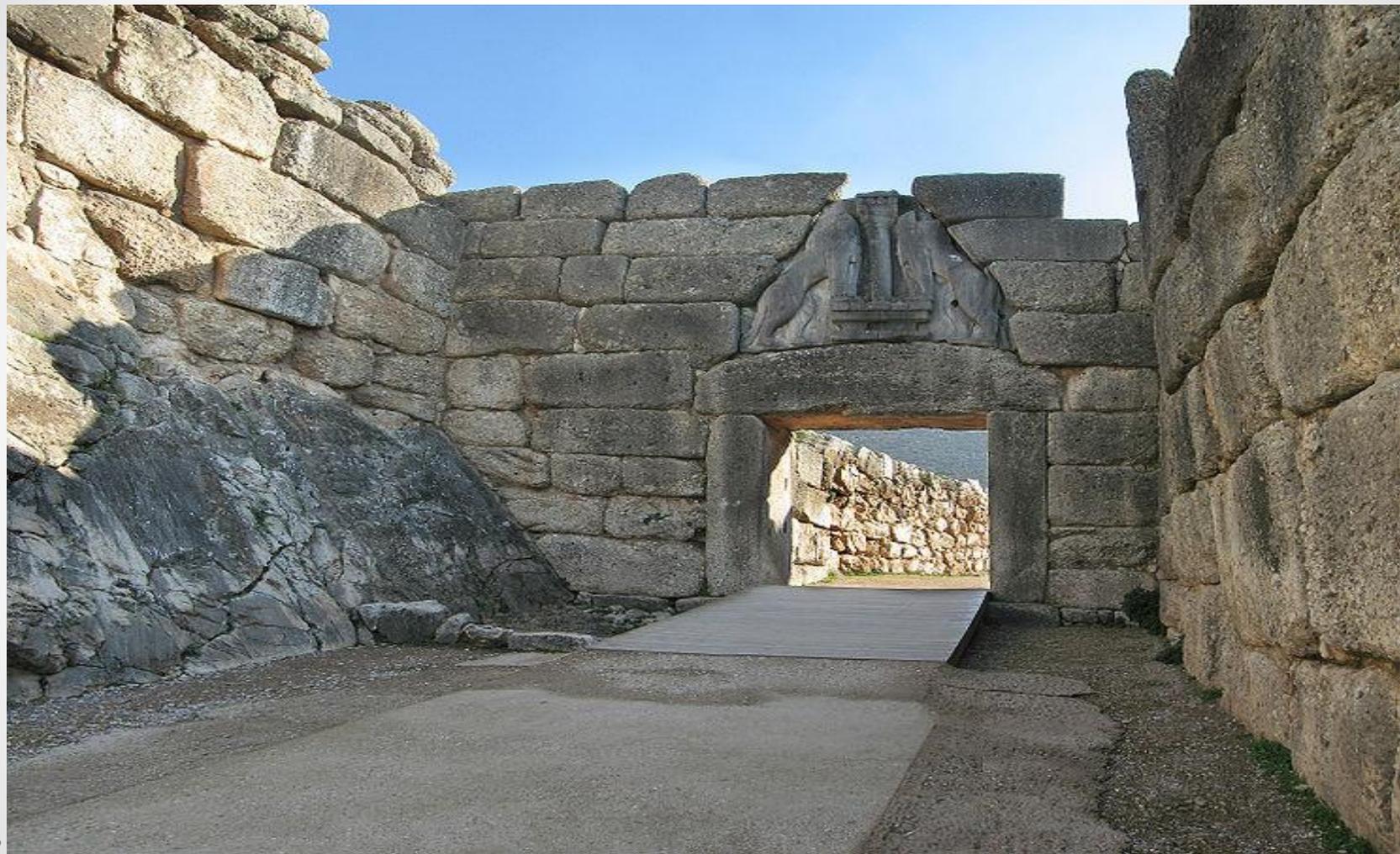
1. Location – Mainland Greece

A. Most famous for:

- i. Cities – such as Mycenae
- ii. **Warlike**

B. huge city walls evidence that the Trojan war was partially true and involved these people

*** Mycenaean Greece is often the **historical setting for the myths and legends** popularized during the classical Greek period.***



MYCENAE

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE
PREHISTORIC EDIFICES





Dark Age (ca. 1100 to 750 BCE)

A. “Dorian Invasion”

1. Ancestors of classical Greeks move in to mainland Greece (possibly? Might not have occurred in the way older historians think)
2. Term is more of a marker for the **discontinuity of previous cultures** than an indication of an actual “invasion”

B. Overall decline in high culture – trade, crafts, wealth, and writing virtually (or in some cases, totally) disappear

1. Result of invading culture groups?
2. Climate change? Natural disasters?



Archaic Greek Civilization

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(800 BCE to 480 BCE)



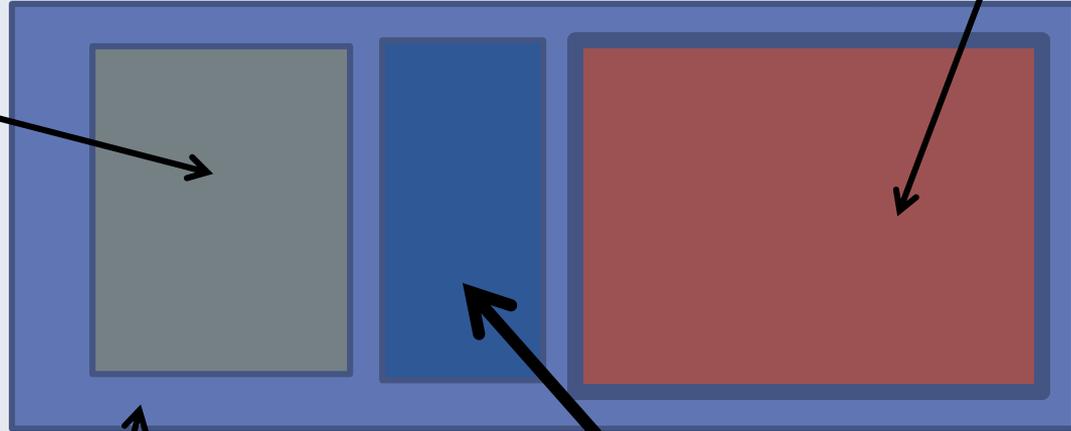
Coming Out of the Dark

- During the Archaic period, the overall **population** of mainland Greece and the surround islands **rose considerably**.
- With this population growth came a resurgence of the Greek ***polis***, or **city-state**, and the founding of many small **colonies**.

Outskirts of the *polis* with
commoners' housing and fields.

Agora (marketplace),
ringed by government
buildings.

Housing for
the **elites.**



Downtown area.

Acropolis: high point with
defenses and temples.

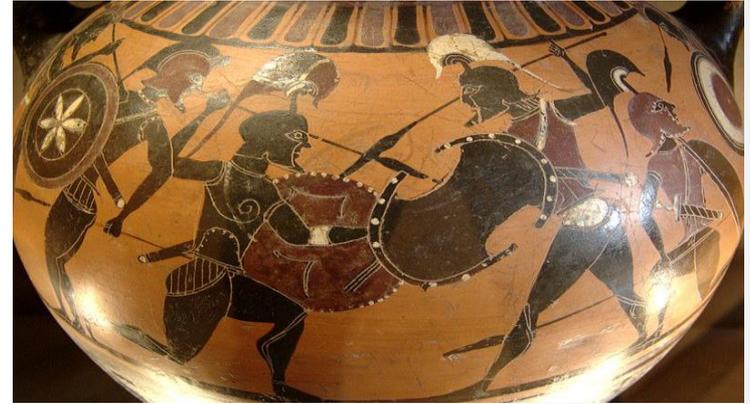
Greece in the Archaic Age

political structure in 750-490 BCE



Art and Culture

- Art and architecture began to accelerate during the Archaic period, although the **statues and figures created were not as realistic or natural** as those that would be created during the Classical period.
- Many wall paintings and decorations on ceramics have an Egyptian quality to them– very flat appearances, with the feet turned sideways.



Classical Greece

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(510 BCE to 323 BCE)



What is the classical period?

- Period from **1000 BCE-500 CE**
- Marked by **large regional civilizations** in China, India, and the Mediterranean
- Marked by **lasting achievements**
- Achievements **inspired awe** at the time and later
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Characteristics of Classical Civilizations

- Built on river valley achievements
- **Larger** in terms of geographic, economic, cultural and political reach
- Used **iron tools and weapons**
- No great advances in transportation
- **Patriarchal culture** prevailed
- Direct links to today's civilizations





Roots of the West

- Classical Greek civilization **heavily influenced Roman culture and thought**– and thus, much of modern **Western civilization**.
- Much of the history of classical Greece is told from the **perspective of Athens**– largely because the *polis* of Athens left behind a large literary tradition.



Ruins of the Parthenon
in Athens, Greece.

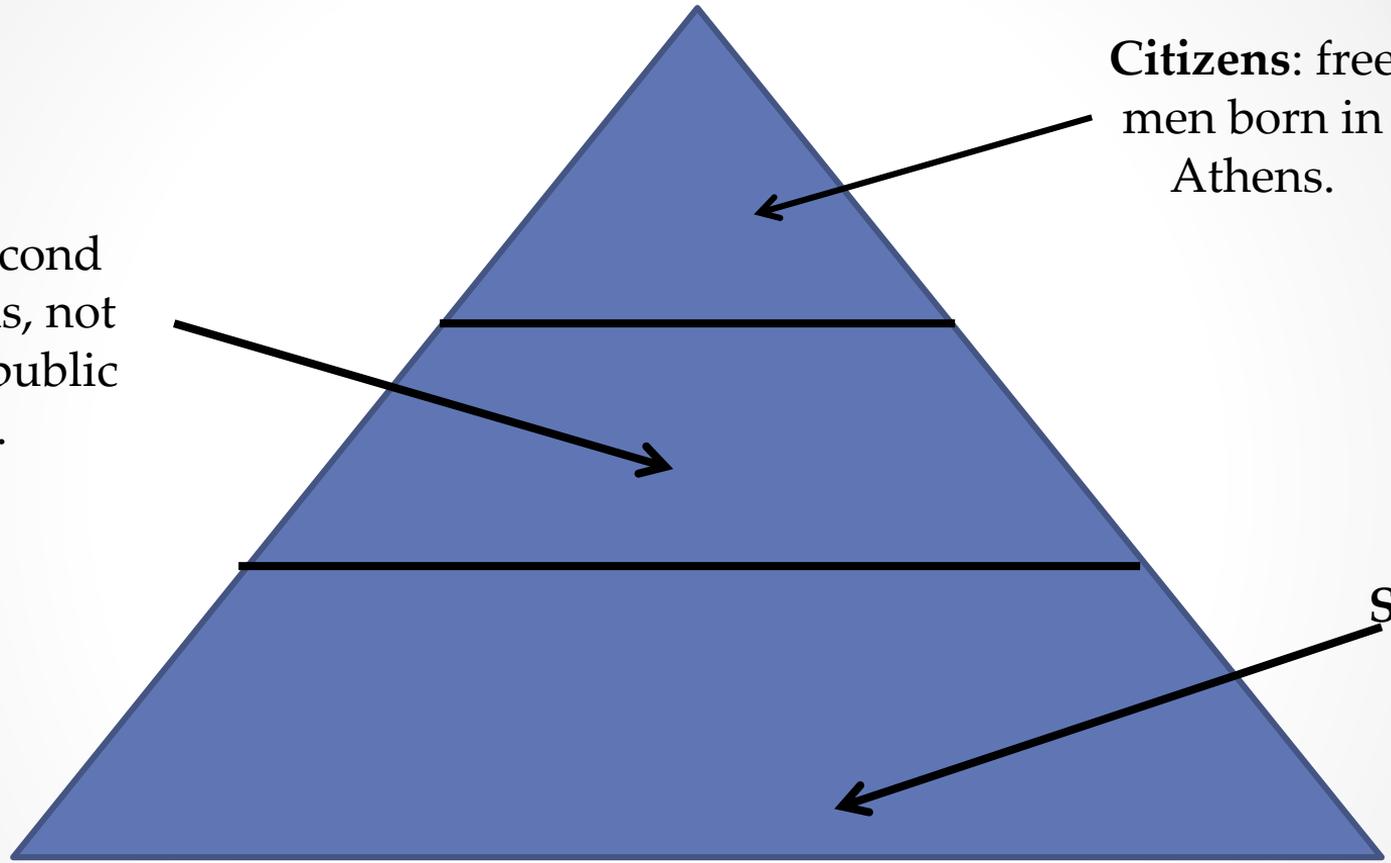
Athens: Tyrants and Democracy

- Athens was ruled by kings and aristocrats from 700 BCE until 620 BCE.
- From 620 BCE until 500 BCE, Athens was ruled by four great tyrants:
 1. **Draco** (harsh legal system)
 2. **Solon** (end of debt slavery, public assemblies)
 3. **Peisistratus** (encouraged economic growth)
 4. **Cleisthenes** (began democratic system)

Democracy in Athens

- **Democracy: rule by the people.** (*Demos* = people, *Kratos* = power.)
- Athenians practiced what is considered to be the **earliest form of democracy** from about 500 BCE until 323 BCE.
- Athenian citizens elected:
 - **The Assembly**, which **passed laws**, **appointed generals**, and served as the **Supreme Court** of the land.
 - **Council of 500**, which ran the day-to-day business of governing the polis.
 - **Court Juries**, which heard trials.

Women: second class citizens, not allowed in public spaces.



Citizens: free men born in Athens.

Slaves.

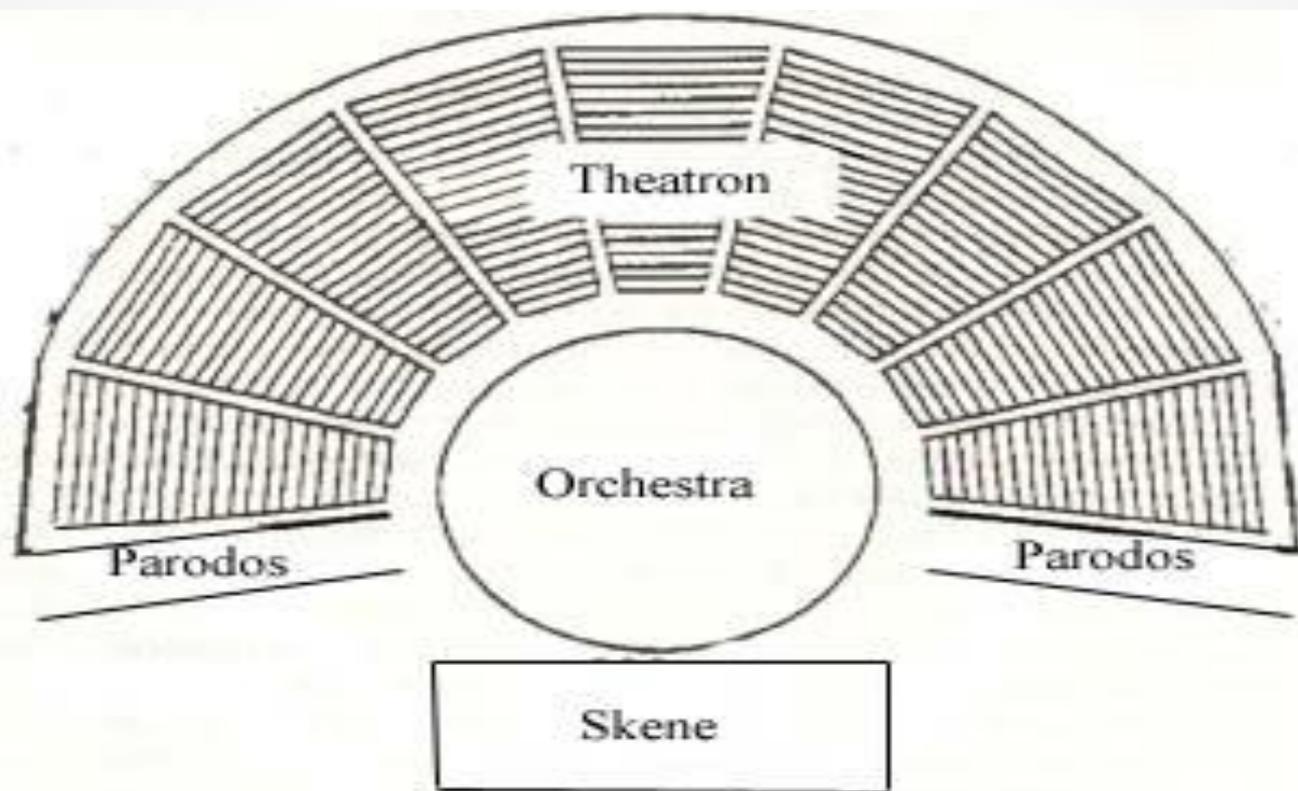
Golden Age

- The “**Golden Age**” of Greece generally refers to the cultural flowering of Athens between **461 and 429 BCE**
- During this period:
 1. **Pericles**, a great general and politician, led efforts to rebuild Athens after the Persian Wars
 2. Art and intellectual developments were widespread.



Art

- Construction of many of the great **Greek monuments and statues**
- Playwrights (such a **Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes**) publish some of the great Greek comedies and tragedies
 1. ***Oedipus***
 2. ***Antigone***
 3. ***Medea***



Parts of a Greek Theater

Great Minds



Think in Very Strange Ways



Intellect

- **Philosophy**: the **study of fundamental problems**, such as those connected with **existence, knowledge, and reason**.
- Philosophers wrote profusely during this period:
 1. **Socrates**
 2. **The Sophists**
 3. **Plato**

Socrates

- While Socrates is one of the formative figures of Western thought, he did not– to our knowledge– write any of his philosophical treatises down.
- Instead, most of our knowledge of Socrates' philosophy comes through the writings of his student, Plato.
- Socrates was particularly concerned with the concept of ethics, moral behavior, and irony.





End of Classical Greece

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Pride goeth before a fall.

Conflicts

A. Persian Wars (ca. 499 to 479)

1. The **Persian Empire (Cyrus the Great)** **conquers Greek city-states** in Ionia (modern-day Turkey) in 546 BCE
2. In 499 BCE, the Ionian city-states revolt, and the **Greeks send aid** (especially Athens)
3. The revolt is unsuccessful, and **Persia attempts to invade mainland Greece.**



Results of Persian War

- Greece is victorious, and Athens becomes a virtual empire, forming the **Delian League** to combat any future invaders.
 1. **Sparta** is not included in this alliance, and becomes **Athens' main rival**.
 2. Delian League is successful in freeing Ionia from the Persians.

The Peloponnesian War

- Dates: **431 to 404 BCE**
- Origins: Athens abused its powers in the **Delian League**, and **Sparta forms a rival alliance with Persia**
- Other factors: Between 430 and 429 BCE, a **plague** wipes out nearly one third of Athens' population

Results of the Conflict

- By 404 BCE, **Sparta and its allies defeat Athens**
- Without a strong Athens to exert control over the region, there is **more fighting between *poleis*** (city-states)
- The **overall strength of independent city-states is lessened**, leading to:
- **Takeover and unification of Greece by the Macedonians**, setting the stage for **Alexander the Great**.

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Athenian Strategy:
 Defend on Land
 Offensive on Sea
 Continue Foreign Trade

Spartan Strategy:
 Offensive on Land

Athenian Empire and Allies
 Spartan Confederates

PELOPONNESIAN WAR
 Alliances at the Start and
 Contrasting Strategies,
 431 B.C.

SCALE OF MILES
 0 25 50 75 100

Alexander's Empire

-  Alexander's Empire, 323 B.C.
-  Route of Alexander, 334 B.C.-323 B.C.
-  Major battle

