

The Glory That Was Greece – Outline

I. The early Greeks

- a. Hellenes – Indo-European nomads – Dorian, Aeolian, and Ionian tribes
- b. Circa 1400-1000 BCE – migration from Black Sea and Danube regions to modern-day Greece and Turkey
- c. Conquered Cretans and other natives
- d. Circa 1000 BCE – controlled Greece, some of Asia Minor, and Aegean islands

II. The age of Homer

- a. Circa 1000-750 BCE
- b. Greece's "Dark Ages" – little information known
- c. *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
- d. Troy discovered by Heinrich Schliemann
- e. People – farmers, traders, and warriors
- f. Crops and livestock – cattle, grapes, olives, sheep, wheat

III. Geography of Greece

- a. Mountains
 - i. Hindered communication and unification
 - ii. Caused growth of independent city-states
- b. Seas and seaports
 - i. Peninsula with irregular coastline
 - ii. Seaports encouraged development of trade
- c. Poor farmland
 - i. Few crops could be grown
 - ii. Forced to trade
 - iii. Became leading traders of Aegean and eastern Mediterranean

IV. Greece's colonies

- a. Circa 800-600 BCE
- b. Colonized areas around the Mediterranean
 - i. Italy's west coast (Naples)
 - ii. Sicily (Syracuse)
 - iii. Southern France (Marseilles)
 - iv. Egypt
 - v. Byzantium (Constantinople/Istanbul)
- c. Spread Greek culture, language, religion

V. Forces uniting the Greeks

- a. Ancestry
 - i. Believed in a common ancestor – Hellen
- b. Language

- i. Spoke different Greek dialects but could understand one another
 - ii. Used Phoenician alphabet and added vowels
- c. Literature
 - i. Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
 - ii. Mythological tales
- d. Religion
 - i. Greek pantheon of gods and goddesses living on Mount Olympus
 - ii. Zeus, Athena, Hades, etc.
- e. Olympic games
 - i. Every four years
 - 1. This four-year period was called the *Olympiad*
 - ii. Began in 776 BCE
 - iii. Physical games – boxing, broad jumps, chariot racing, dashes, discus throwing, distance running, javelin throwing
 - iv. Intellectual games – art, drama, music, poetry

VI. Forces disuniting the Greeks

- a. First loyalty was to city-state
 - i. Often fought one another
 - ii. This disunity eventually allowed the Macedonians to conquer Greece
- b. Geography
 - i. Mountains divided city-states and hindered communication
- c. Different types of government
 - i. Athens – democracy
 - ii. Sparta – authoritarian and militaristic nature
 - iii. Also aristocracies, oligarchies, and tyrannies

VII. Greek alphabet

- a. Egyptian hieroglyphics ∟
 - i. Egyptian hieratic (script or cursive) ∟
 - 1. Phoenician ∟
 - a. Greek ∟
 - i. Latin (used to write modern English)

VIII. Sparta

- a. Spartans conquered Peloponnesians
 - i. Peloponnesians became slaves, or helots
 - 1. Helots outnumbered Spartans 20 to 1
 - 2. Spartans feared that helots would revolt
 - 3. Spartans became heavily militaristic in response

IX. Life of a Spartan

- a. Birth
 - i. Newborns brought to ephors (elders) for examination
 - ii. Sickly babies left to die of exposure
 - iii. Healthy babies
 - 1. Boys lived with their parents until age 7
 - 2. Girls stayed with their parents until marriage, and learned weaving, cooking, and cleaning
- b. Age 7

- i. Boys sent to military school for strict physical training
- ii. Weapons and endurance training
- iii. Frequent beatings
- iv. Taught basic reading and to be laconic (use brief speech)
- c. Age 20
 - i. Young men became soldiers
 - ii. Allowed to get married
 - iii. But lived in the barracks until age 30
- d. Age 30
 - i. These soldiers became citizens
 - ii. Could vote and could live in their own homes
 - iii. Remained in the military until age 60

X. Review questions

- a. The early Greeks came from where?
- b. What archaeologist discovered the remains of Troy?
- c. Describe the geography of mainland Greece.
- d. What forces united the Greeks?
- e. Explain the evolution of the Greek alphabet.
- f. Compare the life of a Spartan male with the life of an American male today.

XI. Athens and Athenian democracy

- a. Democracy
 - i. *Demos* (“people”) + *kratein* (“to rule”)
- b. Democracy developed through various reforms over 200 years (circa 620s BCE-420 BCE)
 - i. Draco
 - ii. Solon
 - iii. Clisthenes
 - iv. Pericles

XII. Draco

- a. Athenian noble
- b. 621 BCE – credited with putting down first written laws of Athens
 - i. Severe (modern English term *draconian* meaning “severe” or “harsh”)
 - ii. Written “in blood, not ink”
 - iii. Written laws meant that judges could not show favoritism or make up laws

XIII. Solon

- a. 594 BCE – rewrote Draco’s laws
- b. Helped the poor
 - i. All citizens could participate in the legislature
 - ii. Ended debt enslavement
 - iii. Canceled land mortgages
 - iv. Limited amount of land a person could own

XIV. Clisthenes

- a. 508 BCE
- b. Enlarged Athenian assembly and increased its powers
- c. Created Council of 500 to represent the different classes
 - i. Created and administered laws after they were approved by Assembly

- d. Officials were elected
- e. Executive power
 - i. Ten generals called *strategi* (singular *strategus*)
 - ii. Elected for one year
- f. Citizenship granted to some freedmen (former slaves) and to some immigrants
- g. Ostracism
 - i. Names written on ostrakon (piece of broken potsherd) once a year
 - ii. Most votes = ten years of exile

XV. Pericles

- a. "Golden Age of Pericles" – 461-429 BCE
- b. Repeatedly elected as a *strategus*
- c. All citizens could hold public office
- d. People were paid for government service
- e. "Golden Age of Pericles" also saw developments in art and architecture

XVI. Athenian democracy – its flaws

- a. Athens' adult population: circa 300,000
 - i. 150,000 foreigners and slaves (not citizens)
 - ii. 100,000 women and others
 - iii. 50,000 male citizens with voting rights
- b. Direct democracy – the citizen had to be there to vote (typically 5,000-6,000 voted at a time)
- c. Women had few rights and opportunities
- d. Slavery played a major role in the economy
- e. Orators often used forceful and coercive language, rather than logic, to sway voters

XVII. Persian Wars – 500-479 BCE

- a. Greeks lived in Asia Minor since at least 1000 BCE
- b. Persian empire expanded in the 5th century BCE to include Asia Minor
- c. 500 BCE – Greeks in Miletus led a revolt
- d. Athens and other city-states came to the aid of Miletus
- e. Persians won and King Darius swore revenge against Athens for interfering

XVIII. First Persian War (490 BCE)

- a. King Darius sent fleet to attack Athens
 - i. Set anchor 26 miles northeast of Marathon
- b. Battle of Marathon
 - i. Spartans could not help because of a religious festival
 - ii. Athenians were outnumbered but still defeated the Persians

XIX. Second Persian War (480 BCE)

- a. Xerxes (son of Darius) led an army of 500,000 while Persian fleet sent along Greek coast
 - i. Xerxes attacked by land from the north
 - ii. 300 Spartans led by Leonidas
 - 1. Attempted to block Pass of Thermopylae
 - 2. Traitor betrayed them and showed Persians another route
 - 3. All 300 Spartans killed after inflicting heavy casualties
 - iii. Athens destroyed
 - 1. But Athenians had spent 10 years building up their navy
 - 2. Athenians defeated Persian fleet in the Strait of Salamis

- b. 479 BCE – Spartans led defeat of Persians at Plataea
- c. Persian fleet destroyed at Mycale

XX. Significance of the Persian Wars

- a. Persian empire declined
- b. Greek civilization and culture flourished
- c. Wealth from increased trade
- d. Started the Greek onslaught against the Persian empire
 - i. Completed by Alexander the Great of Macedonia in 331 BCE

XXI. Athens leads Greece

- a. Great leadership
 - i. Aristides and the Delian League (a.k.a. Confederacy of Delos) to protect against possible future Persian invasions
 - 1. Alliance became the basis for the Athenian empire
 - 2. Members paid protection money to Athens
 - ii. Cimon – expelled Persians from Black Sea shore
 - iii. Pericles and his “Golden Age”
- b. Increased trade brought wealth

XXII. Athenian-Spartan rivalry

- a. Spartans created Peloponnesian League to rival Delian League
- b. Sparta
 - i. Peloponnesian League dominated land
 - ii. Oligarchic rule
- c. Athens
 - i. Delian League dominated sea
 - ii. Democratic rule
- d. Corinth
 - i. Joined Peloponnesian League
 - ii. Threatened Athenian sea supremacy
- e. 461 BCE – war between Athens and Sparta
 - i. 445 BCE – signed a truce

XXIII. Peloponnesian Wars

- a. 431 BCE – war began again
- b. Circa 430 BCE – plague struck Athens
 - i. 1/3 of population died, including Pericles
- c. Athens attacked Syracuse (ally of Sparta), located in southern Italy, at sea
 - i. Athens lost
- d. Battle of Aegospotami (404 BCE)
 - i. Spartans allied with Persians and defeated Athenians
 - ii. Spartans conquered Athens and destroyed its defensive walls

XXIV. Sparta leads Greece

- a. Sparta dominant
 - i. 404-371 BCE
 - ii. But Sparta’s support of oligarchic rule upset the lower classes in other Greek city-states
- b. Battle of Leuctra (371 BCE)
 - i. Thebes was first to revolt

- ii. General Epaminondas led Thebans to defeat Spartans
- c. Battle of Mantinea (362 BCE)
 - i. Thebes defeated by Sparta and Athens
- d. Battle of Chaeronea (338 BCE)
 - i. Philip II of Macedon defeated Athenians and Thebans
- e. League of Corinth (337 BCE)
 - i. Philip II of Macedon had Greek city-states pledge to stop warring with one another

XXV. Review questions

- a. What ancient Greek city-state first developed democracy?
- b. How did Draco, Solon, Clisthenes, and Pericles advance democracy?
- c. What features of Athenian society were undemocratic?
- d. Describe the Greek wars with the Persians.
- e. What were the causes and outcomes of the Peloponnesian Wars?
- f. Who got the Greek city-states to pledge to stop warring against one another with the League of Corinth?

XXVI. Hellenic culture

- a. *Hellenic* refers to Greek culture among those who considered themselves to be Greek during the centuries before Alexander the Great
- b. Much of what is considered typically “Greek” and which greatly influenced the course of Western civilization was created and developed during this time

XXVII. Greek architecture and art

- a. Architecture of the Acropolis
 - i. Parthenon designed by Ictinus
 - 1. Gold and ivory statue of Athena designed by Phidias
 - ii. Optical illusions and engineering used to avoid building appearing curved from a distance
- b. Sculpture
 - i. Lifelike and proportionate
 - ii. Attention to detail
 - iii. Emphasis on the beauty of the human form

XXVIII. Leaders in Greek science

- a. Thales (circa 624-546 BCE)
 - i. Called the “father of natural science”
 - ii. Believed the basic substance in the world is water, which changes its form (ice, liquid, steam) but not its composition
- b. Pythagoras (circa 580-490 BCE)
 - i. Called the “father of numbers”
 - ii. Mathematician who believed everything could be numbered
 - iii. Pythagorean theorem: “The square of the hypotenuse of a right angle is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides”
- c. Democritus (circa 460-370 BCE)
 - i. Everything made of atoms so small they cannot be divided
- d. Hippocrates (circa 460-370 BCE)
 - i. Called the “father of medicine”
 - ii. Believed that diseases have natural rather than supernatural causes
 - iii. Hippocratic Oath – still taken by medical personnel today

XXIX. Greek drama

- a. Purpose
 - i. Educative – taught history and morality
- b. Presentation
 - i. Open-air amphitheaters
 - ii. Little scenery
 - iii. Originally sung by a chorus, but later chorus members developed into actors
- c. Themes
 - i. Gods, divine laws, and fate dominate human destiny

XXX. Greek dramatists

- a. Aeschylus (525-456 BCE)
 - i. Called the “father of Greek drama”
 - ii. *Prometheus Bound*
 - iii. *Agamemnon*
- b. Sophocles (496-406 BCE)
 - i. *Oedipus Rex*
 - ii. *Antigone*
- c. Euripides (480-406 BCE)
 - i. *Medea*
 - ii. *The Bacchae*
- d. Aristophanes (448-380 BCE)
 - i. *The Frogs*
 - ii. *The Clouds*

XXXI. Greek philosophy – “love of knowledge” – search for answers to life’s big questions

- a. Early Sophists (5th century BCE)
 - i. “Men of wisdom”
 - ii. Measured everything by its usefulness
 - iii. Criticized gods, government, and conventional morality
 - iv. There is no absolute truth
- b. Socrates (469-399 BCE)
 - i. There is absolute truth
 - ii. “Know thyself”
 - iii. Socratic dialogue
 - iv. Convicted of corrupting the youth – forced to drink hemlock
- c. Plato (427-347 BCE)
 - i. *Dialogues* a written record of Socrates’ dialogues
 - ii. *The Republic* – ideal state administered by philosophers
 - iii. Founded the Academy which lasted 800 years
- d. Aristotle (384-322 BCE)
 - i. Macedonian student of Plato
 - ii. Tutor to Alexander the Great
 - iii. Opened the Lyceum in Athens
 - iv. Created the basis for scientific inquiry

XXXII. The Greeks and history

- a. History of historical thought
 - i. Knowledge of the past had consisted of myths and legends

- ii. First true historians attempted to base their writings on facts
- b. Herodotus (484-425 BCE)
 - i. Called the “father of history”
 - ii. *The Inquiries or The Histories*
 - iii. Traveled to learn and write about the Persian Wars
 - iv. Much information about foreign customs, etc.
 - v. Gave the gods a role in historical events
- c. Thucydides (471-400 BCE)
 - i. Called the “first scientific historian”
 - ii. *History of the Peloponnesian Wars*
 - iii. Discussed cause and effect
 - iv. Gave the people involved the main role in historical events

XXXIII. Greek literature

- a. Hesiod (late 8th century BCE)
 - i. *Theogony* – poem about Greek gods
 - ii. *Work and Days* – poem about the life of a farmer
- b. Sappho (circa 620-570 BCE)
 - i. Lyric poetry (sung accompanied by a lyre)
 - ii. *Hymn to Aphrodite*
- c. Pindar (522-443 BCE)
 - i. *Paeans*
 - ii. Greeks considered him their greatest lyric poet

XXXIV. Greek oratory

- a. Art of oratory (public speaking) introduced by the Sophists
- b. Demosthenes (384-322 BCE)
 - i. Warned Greeks about Philip of Macedon’s plans
 - ii. English word *philippic* means “tirade against someone”

XXXV. Greek education

- a. “A perfect mind in a perfect body”
- b. Education largely informal
- c. Formal education
 - i. Not for girls (they learned domestic arts at home)
 - ii. Boys sent to private schools at age seven
 - iii. Slave – *pedagogue* – watched over him and taught him how to behave
 - iv. Grammar, reading, writing, math, music, oratory
 - v. Age 12 – began gymnastics
- d. Only for upper classes
- e. Development of citizens who could participate in government and public affairs

XXXVI. Review questions

- a. What does the term *Hellenic* mean?
- b. Describe Greek architecture and art.
- c. What did Pythagoras and Hippocrates contribute to the sciences?
- d. What questions and criticisms were raised by ancient Greek philosophers?
- e. In what ways were Herodotus and Thucydides true historians?
- f. Compare education in ancient Greece to education in the United States today.