The background of the slide is a photograph of a calm sea under a pale sky. The sea is a deep blue, and the sky is a light, hazy blue. The horizon line is visible in the middle of the frame.

Near East Empires and the Reemergence of Civilization in Greece

○ Near East Empires c. 1000 BC-c. 500 BC

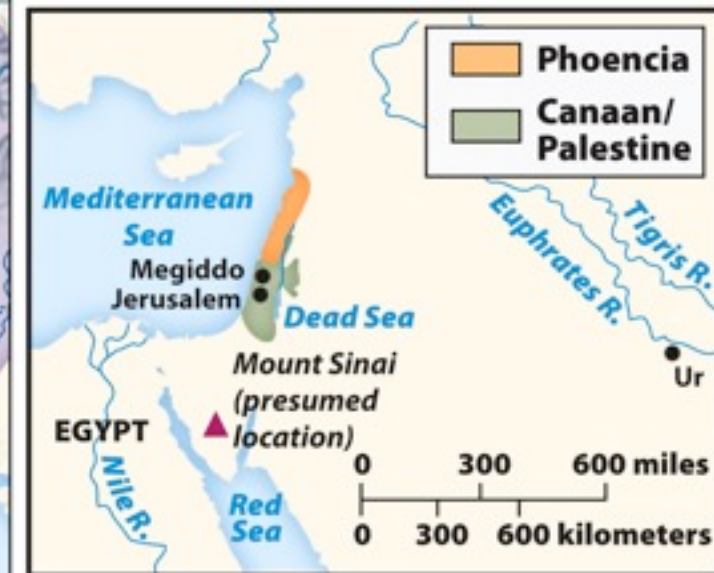
- ◆ Neo-Assyrian Empire
- ◆ Neo-Babylonian Empire
- ◆ Persian Empire
- ◆ The Israelites
 - authoritative scriptures and monotheistic beliefs → created a new path for Western civilization



MAP 2.1 Expansion of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, c. 900–650 B.C.E.
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MAP 2.2 Expansion of the Persian Empire, c. 550–490 B.C.E.
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SPOT MAP Phoenicia and Canaan/Palestine
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○ Greece

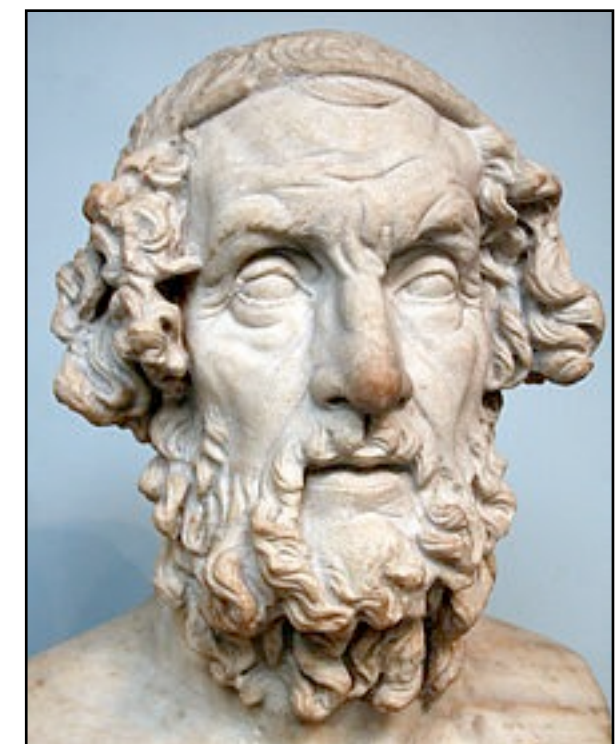
◆ The Dark Age (c. 1000-750 BC)

- seaborne trade → promoted cultural interaction
- revival of writing (c. 800 BC)
 - Greeks adopted the Phoenician alphabet and adapted it to express their language and record their literature
- iron metallurgy
- food production and population → increased
- new social elite
- **aretê** (competitive individual excellence) → strong social value
- **Olympic Games** (776 BC)
 - founded as a religious festival that took place every four years to honor Zeus and showcase the ethic of competition
 - honored individual competitive excellence but also social cooperation

- **Homer** (c. 750 BC)
 - Greece's first and most famous author
 - composed:
 - * **The Iliad** → described the Trojan war and the hero Achilles
 - * **The Odyssey** → related the ten-year journey home of the hero Odysseus after the Trojan war
 - sources/ inspirations for Homer
 - ** Indo-European myths and public poetry
 - ** palace culture of Minoan and Mycenaean eras
 - ** world → Homer created a hybrid of contemporary and historical practices
 - ** oral tradition
- **Hesiod** (c. 750 BC)
 - composed → **Theogony** and **Works and Days**
- myths → taught lessons
- ideal of fair treatment



MAP 2.3 Dark Age Greece, 1000-750 B.C.E.
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♦ The Archaic Age (c. 750-500 BC)

- polis (city-state) → “independent community of citizens inhabiting a city and the countryside around it” (Hunt 51)
 - isolated communities
 - hostile relations
 - religion
 - * many deities
 - * each city-state honored a particular god or goddess as its special protector
 - * religious reciprocity
 - * cults
 - * oracles
 - shared citizenship (free adult males)
 - * citizenship → involved free people agreeing to form and sustain political community, and share privileges and duties under the rule of law
 - shared governance (varied)
 - women → citizens but could not participate in politics
 - slaves → alienated from society
 - considered property
 - had no rights



MAP 2.4 Archaic Greece, 750-500 B.C.E.
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- **Aristotle's six forms of government:**

- ♦ **monarchy - rule of one man for good of all**
- ♦ **tyranny - rule of one man for personal gain**
- ♦ **aristocracy - rule of state by the best in society**
- ♦ **oligarchy - rule of state by wealthiest (usually to increase their wealth)**
- ♦ **democracy - rule by many for good of all**
- ♦ **mob rule - self-interested rule by many**

○ Sparta (700-500 BC)

- oligarchy:
 1. hereditary kings (served as generals and the state's religious heads)
 2. council of twenty-eight elders (over sixty years old)
 3. five annually elected ephors (overseers)
- strict obedience
- life → highly structured
- no written law
- **helots** → slaves owned by the Spartan city-state
→ worked the fields
- constant training → obedient soldier
- homosexuality (the “lover” and the “beloved”)
- women → relative liberty



SPOT MAP Sparta and Corinth, 750–500 B.C.E.
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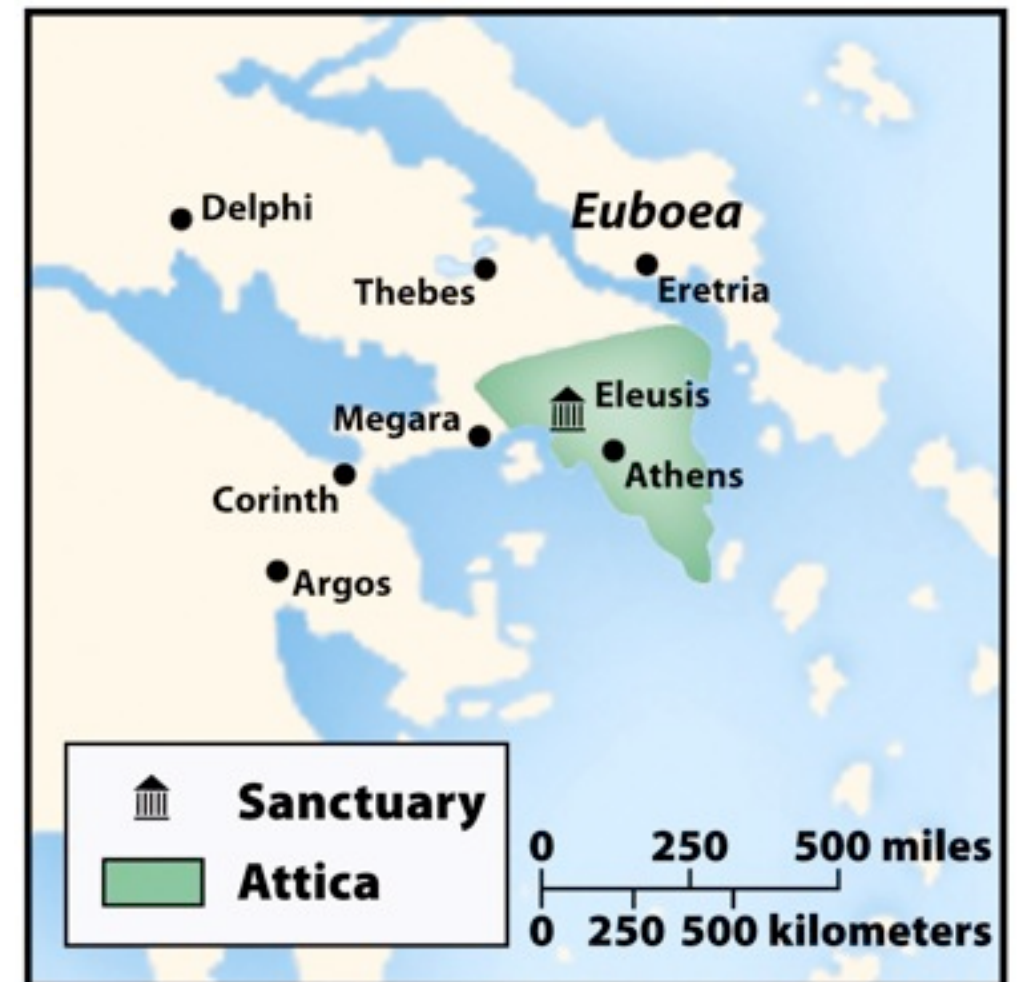
○ Corinth (657-585 BC)

- tyranny
- popular support
- existing laws and political institutions → preserved
- economic interests of poorer citizens → promoted



○ Athens (632-500 BC)

- democracy
- all freeborn male citizens → helped decide the community's affairs
→ elected **archons** (high officials)
- * **archons** → ran the judicial system, which was dominated by Athens's wealthy elites who could afford to serve
- economic crisis
- Draco (621 BC)
 - harsh regime → failed to improve conditions



SPOT MAP Athens and Central Greece, 750-500 B.C.E.
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- **Solon** (594 BC)
 - economic reforms
 - * increased the general prosperity
 - political reforms
 - * abolished the monopoly of aristocracy of birth
 - * divided the citizens into four income groups
 - * established a government by the wealthy citizens
 - * created the Council of Four Hundred
 - * made the laws apply equally to all free Athenian men
 - * extended power to all citizens
- opposition to Solon
- Peisistratus (546 BC)
 - tyranny
- **Cleisthenes** (508 BC)
 - “father of Athenian democracy”
 - expanded Solon’s democratic reforms
 - * offered more political participation to the masses through new political organizations
 - * spread practical democracy rooted in traditions of small community life
 - * emphasized persuasion over force

○ Art and Literature

- vivid scenes on ceramics
- three-dimensional figures in sculpture
- short, rhythmic lyric poetry → expressed personal emotions
 - * Sappho (c. 630 BC) → lyric poet from Lesbos
 - famous for her love poems
 - * other poets → mocked militarism, offered laments, or ridiculed enemies

○ Philosophy and Science

- philosophical studies → began in the 6/7 centuries BC in Ionia
- worked to explain the human world and its relationship to the gods
- described an ordered cosmos
- urged thought and study to understand the natural world
- **rationalism** → people must justify their claims by logic and reason, not myth