



The Greek Golden Age

○ The Persian Wars (499 BC-479 BC)

◆ wars between a coalition of Greek states and Persia

1. Athenian mission for a Persian alliance (507 BC)

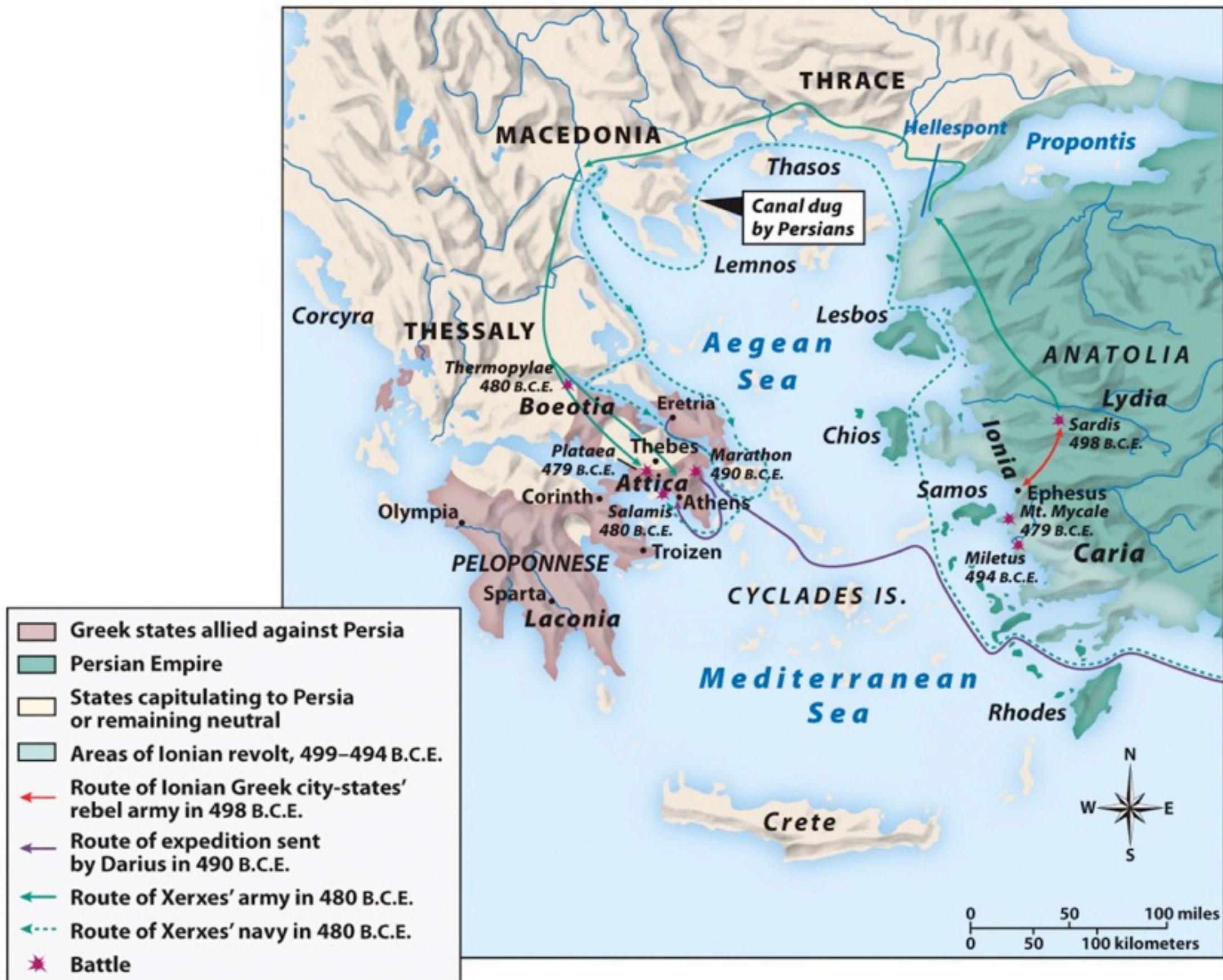
◆ diplomatic misunderstanding

2. **Ionian Revolt** (499 BC-494 BC)

◆ Persian victory

Ionia





MAP 3.1 The Persian Wars, 499–479 B.C.E.
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○ The Persian Wars, cont. (499 BC-479 BC)

3. Battle of Marathon (490 BC)

◆ Greek victory

**** Pheidippides → ran from Marathon to Athens (22-26 miles), announced the victory, died on the spot from exhaustion**

- one of history's most famous military engagements
- victory → gave the Greek city states confidence in their ability to defend themselves and belief in their continued existence
- considered a defining moment in the development of European culture

○ The Persian Wars, cont. (499 BC-479 BC)

□ Athens

- **Themistocles** (c. 514-449 BC)
 - increased the naval power of Athens
 - * **tririmes** (ancient warships having three tiers of oars on each side)
- **Hellenic League** (481 BC)
 - association of 31 Greek city-states against Persia
 - Sparta → high command on both land and sea

□ Persia

- **Xerxes I** (r. 486-465 BC)
 - assembled an army in order to invade Greece

4. The Great Invasion (480 BC-479 BC)

a) **Battle of Thermopylae** (480 BC)

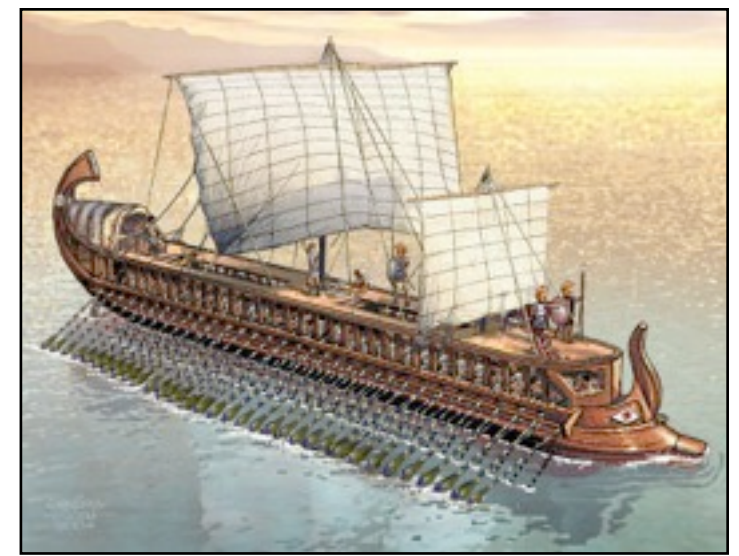
- Persian victory

b) **Battle of Salamis** (480 BC)

- naval battle
- Greek victory

c) **Battle of Plataea** (479 BC)

- final land battle
- Greek victory



○ The Persian Wars, cont. (499 BC-479 BC)

- the victory over Persia was the greatest of all victories won by the Greeks
 - ♦ demonstrated courage inspired by a devotion to the ideal of the political freedom of the city-state
 - ♦ coalition of Greek city-states protected their homeland and their independence

○ Delian League (477 BC-404 BC)

- confederation of Greek city-states under the leadership of Athens
 - purpose: continue fighting Persia
 - goals: 1. prepare for future invasion
2. seek revenge against Persia
3. organize means of dividing spoils of war
 - common treasury at the sacred island of Delos
 - members contributed men, ships, and money
 - * levels of payments were based on the size and prosperity of the polis
 - * dues (tribute?) were compulsory and permanent
 - basis for the Athenian Empire
- * Sparta was not a member



○ The Athenian Empire

- ◆ Athenian-dominated Delian League → enjoyed success
- ◆ Athens → grew stronger from its share of the spoils captured from Persian outposts and the dues paid by its members
- ◆ assembly (all the adult male (18) citizens of the polis of Athens) → decided how to spend the city-state's income
- ◆ rich and poor → had a self-interest in keeping the the fleet active and the allies paying for it
 - * rich → could enhance their social status
 - * poor → depended on the income they earned on League expeditions
- ◆ allies → had no choice but to accept Athenian wishes on League policy
- ◆ Athens → began to expand within the Greek mainland (mostly by a treaty)
- ◆ alliance → was transformed into empire
 - * transformation (from the Athenian point of view) → was justified
 - ** kept the allies in line
 - ** alliance remained strong

○ Pericles (c.495-429 BC)

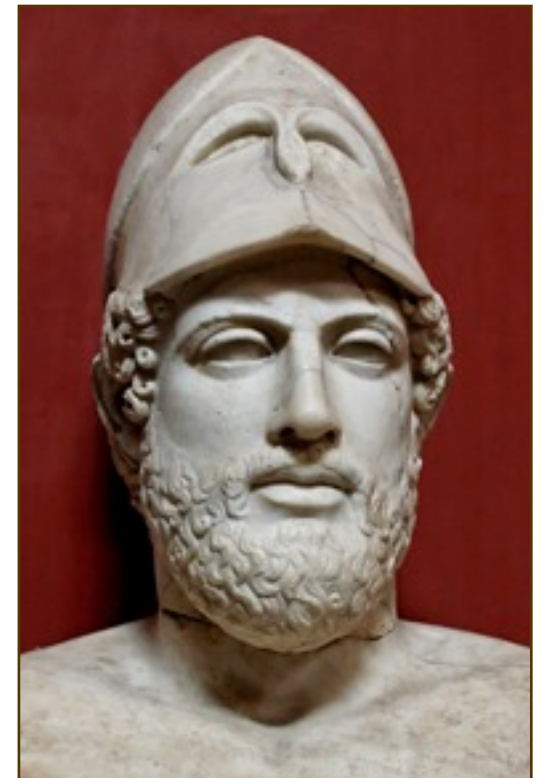
“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others”.

- prominent and influential statesman, orator, and general of Athens
- arranged a final peace with Persia (449 BC)
- engineered a peace treaty with Sparta (Thirty Years' Peace, 445 BC) designed to freeze the current balance of power in Greece
- transferred the treasury of the Delian League to Athens
- deepened and extended the reforms of Cleisthenes
- introduced pay for service** in the public offices filled by lottery
- made Athenian citizenship a more exclusive category (citizenship would be conferred only on children whose mother and father both were Athenians), 451 BC
- was a patron of learning and the arts (masterminded the construction of the Parthenon)
- made Athens the most powerful city in Greece

* Thucydides → described him as “the first citizen of Athens”

** pay for service

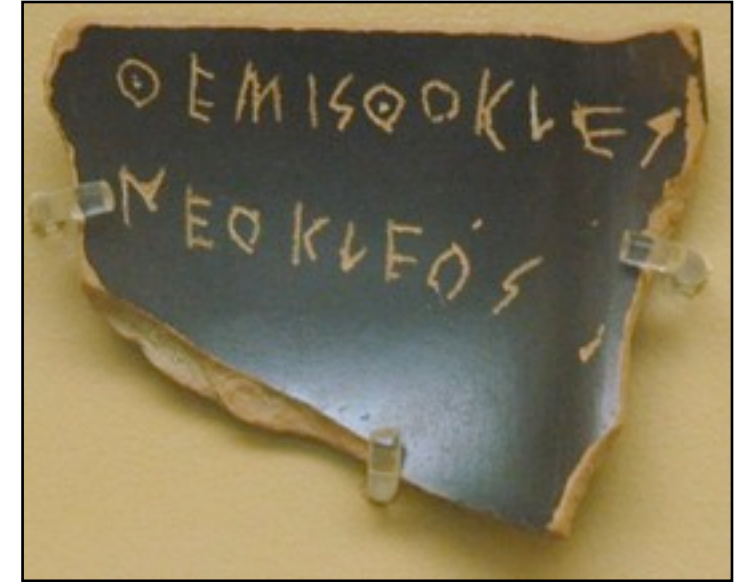
- the poor could afford to take time off their normal work to become involved in politics



○ Athenian government

1. public assembly (Ecclesia)
 - * opened to all adult men citizens
2. Council of Five Hundred (Boulē)
 - * chosen annually by lottery
 - * received pay
 - * responsible for day-to-day administration
 - * prepared agenda for the public assembly
3. Council of the Areopagus
 - * former archons
 - * lifetime membership
4. executive board of ten “generals” (officials)
 - * elected annually
 - * oversaw military and financial affairs
 - * could be reelected an unlimited number of times
 - * no pay
5. nine archons (chief magistrates)
 - * chosen annually by lottery
 - * shared the religious and military functions
6. court system
 - * jurors were selected by lottery from male citizens over 30 years old
 - * received pay
 - * voted by secret ballot

◆ **ostracism** → temporary banishment (10 years) by popular vote of a citizen considered dangerous to the state



○ radical democracy (460s and 450s BC)

- “extended direct political power and participation in the court system to all adult male citizens” (Hunt, 81)
- radical democracy → conveyed on those included in the citizenry
- advantages:
 - men: the freedom to participate in politics and juries, to influence decisions that directly affected their lives, to have equal protection under the law, and to own land and houses in Athenian territory
 - women: could control property and have their financial interests protected in law suits, were entitled to the protection of the law regardless of their wealth, but: were excluded from politics, had to have a male legal guardian, were not legally entitled to make large financial transactions on their own

○ Athens (5th century BC)

- streets → generally dirty and noisy places
 - unpaved (most) and littered along them (human and animal waste)
- drainage system → much of waste would have been washed away into the River Eridamios at fairly regular intervals
- public areas → kept clean
- elite slaves → policed the streets
- magistrates → checked that building regulations were properly followed
- “street culture” → everyone of any rank could walk about freely
 - * Plato → remarked that in a democracy even dogs and donkeys were accustomed “to keep walking straight ahead freely and unabashedly”
- population → over 140,000 (only 40,000 of these were full (male) citizens)
- Athenian society → composed of four main social classes - slaves, metics (non-citizen free persons), women, and citizens
- houses → fairly simple (not lavishly decorated)
- **agora** → marketplace
- **Acropolis** → rocky flat-topped hill above the city
 - * **Parthenon**
- **Long Walls** → walls built from the city to Piraeus and Phaleron

Quiz 1

Monday, January 27

lecture 3 (except slides 10 and 12)