

Greek politics: the development of democracy and a different model in Sparta

This week i am discussing a unique Greek invention: Democracy. They were the first and few other countries have been able to achieve democracy (btw we have not, we are a republic). But most Greek city states followed Athens. There was one big exception: Sparta.

In addition we are going to look at a very well preserved ancient Greek archaeological site named Priene in modern Turkey that preserves the typical elements of an ancient Greek city state.

i am also including an outline that you can use in conjunction with my lecture which i will post tomorrow.
tom

Three Greek City States: Priene, Athens and Sparta Background Age of Colonization-Turner Thesis
New merchant class with no political power
Cheap wheat= economic depression small farmers

Priene-Ionian, c. 4-5,000 population, divided into 5 districts-
Political (council house), Cultural (theater), Commercial (Agora), and Religious (Temple of Athena +sanctuaries), and Cemetery (Acropolis)

Athens

1. Monarchy to 750 BCE
2. Oligarchy established c. 750

Age of Colonization ends c. 600

Stresses led to DRACO

SOLON elected "reconconciler" in 594

- a. Divides population by wealth
- b. Softens legal system, jury system
- c. Olive oil/wine
- d. Invites foreign artisans/craftsmen to immigrate
- e. Leaves

But problems persist and Athens acquires a

3. TYRANT Pisistratus 560-527
 - a. Banishes some aristocrats and divides up there land
 - b. Public works, Dionysian festival
4. DEMOCRACY Clisthenes and Pericles
 - a. Council of 500 by lottery
 - b. Popular assembly
 - c. Ostracism
5. Comments

SPARTA

1. Still a monarchy, but with 2 kings
2. Mythological Constitution of Lycurgus
3. Helots
4. Army life
5. Women