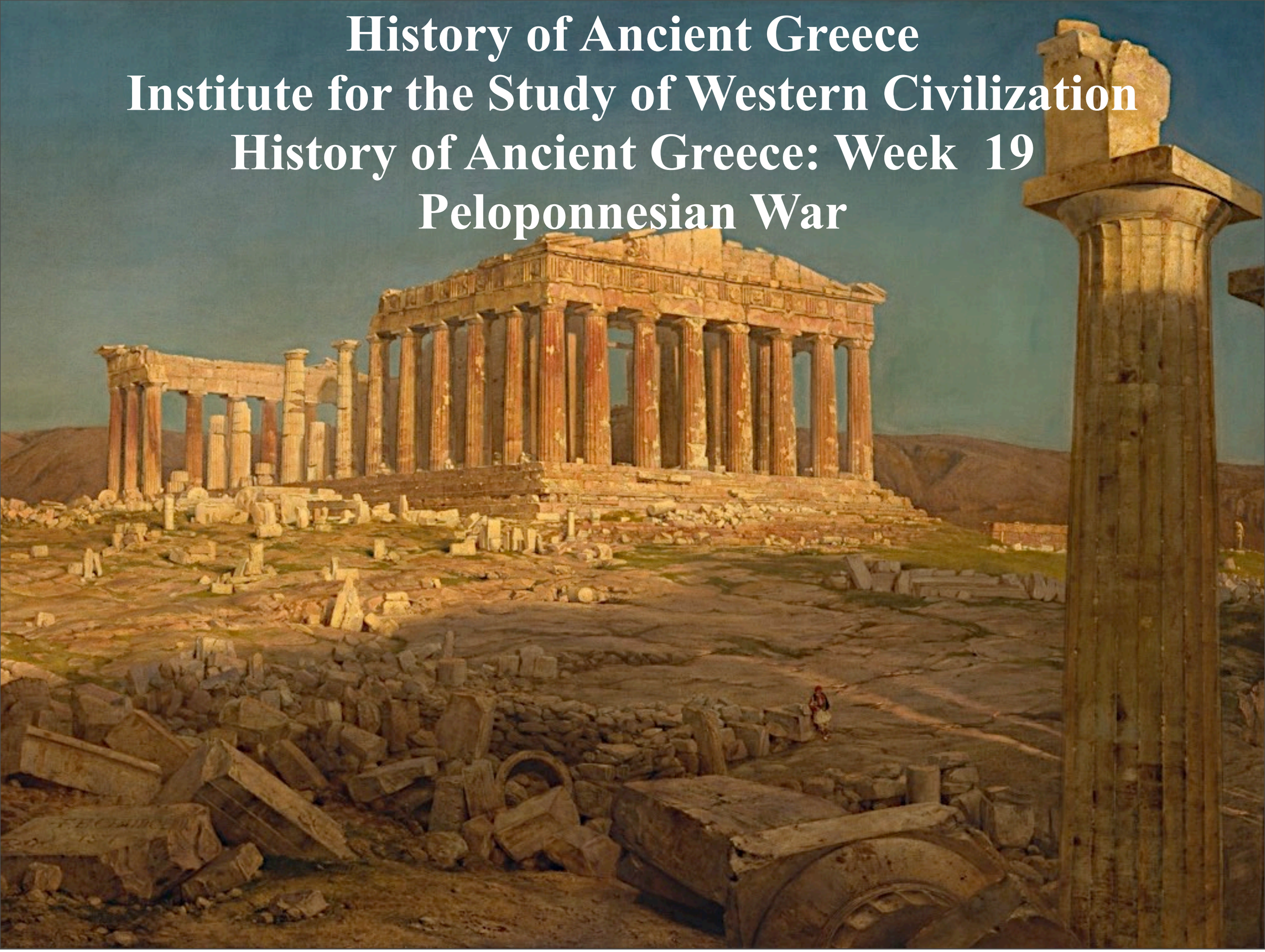
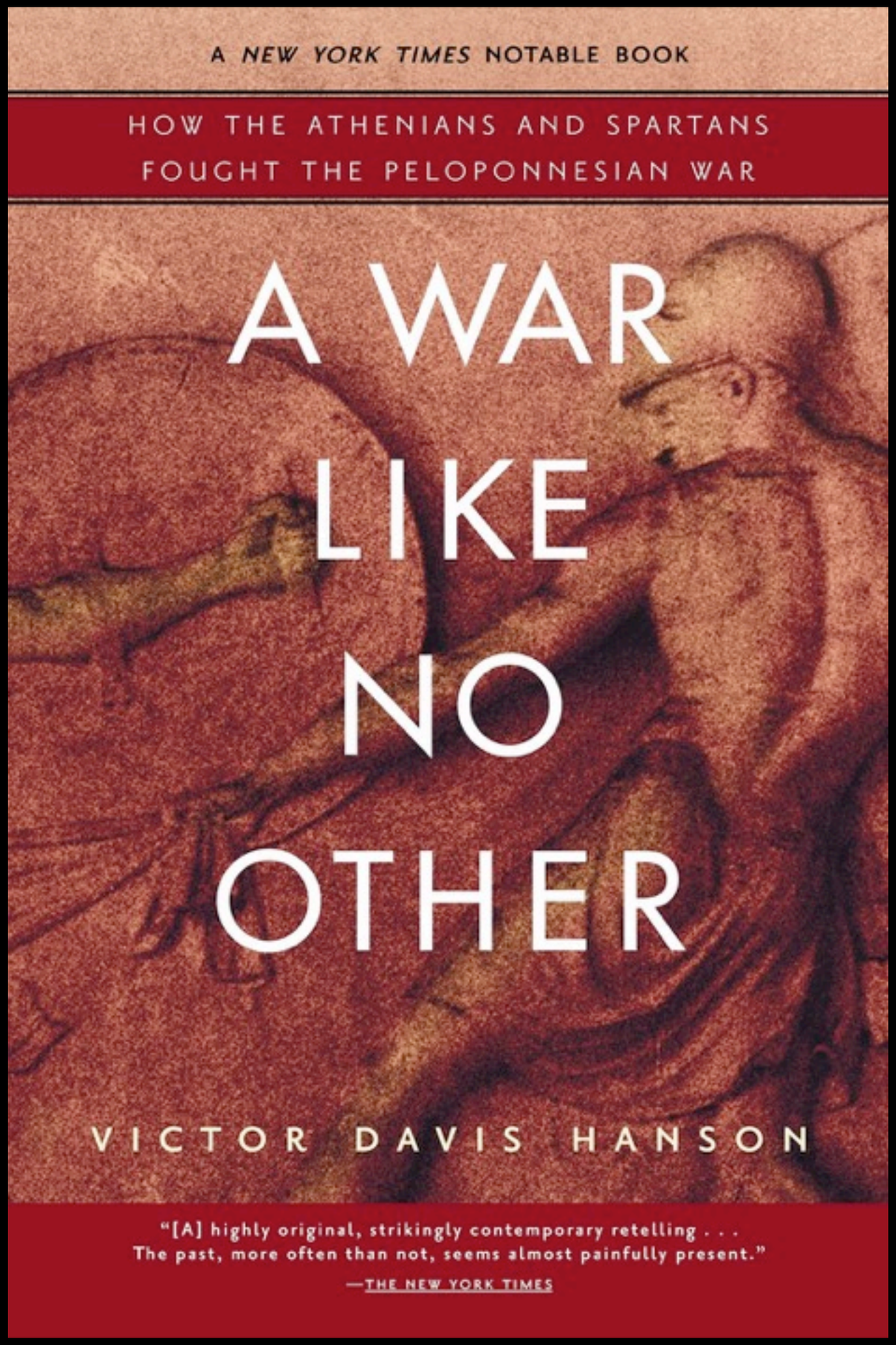
# History of Ancient Greece
# Institute for the Study of Western Civilization
# History of Ancient Greece: Week 19
# Peloponnesian War



# The Peloponnesian War

"In April 404 B.C. the Spartan admiral Lysander finally led his vast armada of ships, crammed with some 30,000 jubilant seamen, into the hated port of Athens at the Piraeus to finish the Peloponnesian War. After the destruction of its imperial fleet at the battle of Aegospotami ("Goat Rivers") in the waters off Asia Minor the prior September, the once splendid city of Athens was now utterly defenseless. Worse still was to come. It was soon surrounded, broke, jammed with refugees, starving, and near revolution. Such an end would have seemed utterly inconceivable just three decades earlier when a defiant Pericles promised his democracy victory. But then neither had 80,000 Athenians fallen to plague nor 500 ships been sunk at Sicily and on the Aegean."
Hanson, Victor Davis. *A War Like No Other* .




# How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War

SundayMarch 8, 2020

# Lycurgus.org
# Ancient Greek History Timeline

Trojan War
1200 B.C.

Mycenaean culture ended
1200-1150 B.C.

First Olympic Games
776 B.C.

Homer 770-700 BC

Ionian Revolt
500 B.C.

Persian Empire Created
540 B.C.

Persian Wars
480 B.C.
Thermopylae

Herodotus
450 B.C.

Thebes defeats Sparta at Leuctra
371 B.C.

Death of Socrates
399 B.C.

Age of Pericles
443 - 429 BC

Peloponnesian War
431 - 404 BC

430 BC Plague in Athens
411 BC Revolts in Athens
404 BC Athens Surrenders to Sparta.

Alcibiades 450-404 BC

Thucydides
410 B.C.

Phillip of Macedon
338 B.C.

Alexander The Great
336-323 B.C.

Corinth destroyed by the Romans
146 B.C.

First Roman Victories
200-196 B.C.

Athens sacked By Sulla
86 B.C.

Macedonia becomes a Roman providence
148 B.C.

Julius Caesar
60 B.C.

GREECE THE FIFTH CENTURY BC

525 BIRTH OF AESCHYLUS

490 First Persian invasion of Greece; Battle of **Marathon  Marathon.**

480 Second Persian invasion of Greece; battles of **Thermopylae** and **Salamis**

460 democratic reform of the Athenian Areopagus ,

458 **Aeschylus'**s tragic trilogy the Oresteia first performed, at Athens

451 **Pericles** proposes a law restricting access to Athenian citizenship

450 Constitutional Reform: Democracy, random juries, all citizens serve

432 Completion of the new **Parthenon**

431 Outbreak of **Peloponnesian War;**

431 first performance of Euripides' tragedy Medea

430 Pericles' funeral oration

429 Plague begins at Athens

425 Athenians score success against the Spartans at the battle of Sphacteria

413 Athenian campaign in Sicily ends in disaster

411 Oligarchic coup at Athens

What is the intellectual reality of 5thC Athens

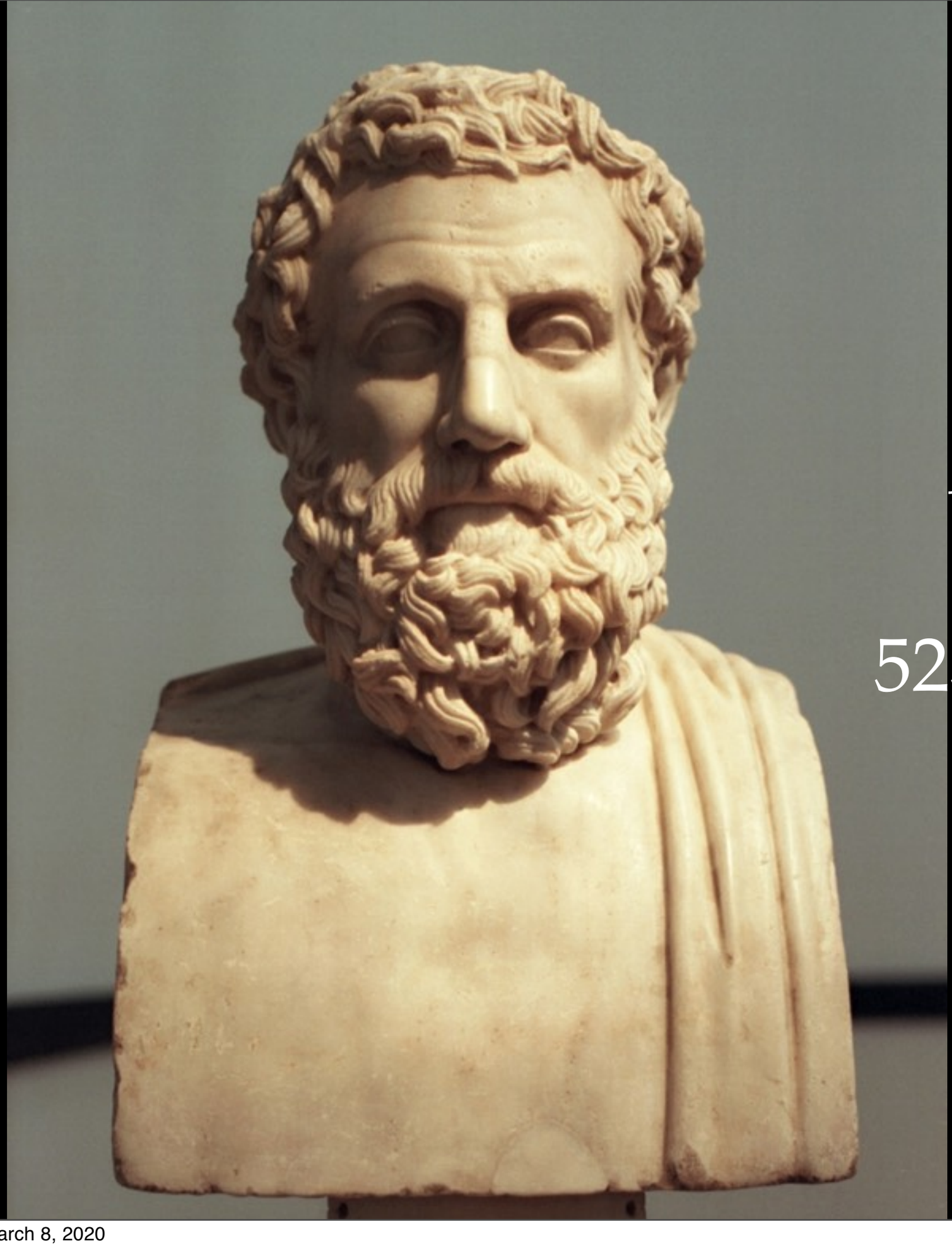
450BC Time of rigorous rational critique of traditional religion

Specific attack: on prophecy and its implication that gods know future.

This attack is in pursuit of the human freedom that was at center of 5thC Athens Credo. (Pericles)

Athens moving away from the old piety of Aeschylus toward scepticism of Thucydides and Euripedes

Protagoras: "the individual man is the measure of all things, of the existence of what exists and the nonexistence of what does not..."



# AESCHYLUS

525 BC to 455 BC

# THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

490 B.C.

SCALE OF MILES
0 100 200 300 400

KEY
Limits of the Persian Empire
Route of Xenophan and the 10.000

SCYTHIANS
Danube River
Don River
Borysthenes River
THRACE
MACEDON
THESSALY
BLACK SEA
CASPIAN SEA
ARAL SEA
Jaxartes River
GEORGIA
DASCYLIUM
AEGEAN SEA
IONIA
Sardes
CAPPADOCIA
Trapezus
Halys River
ARMENIA
Corinth
Athens
Sparta
CARIA
CRETE
RHODES
CILICIA
CYPRUS
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
PHOENICIA
SYRIA
ASSYRIA
Euphrates River
Tigris River
MEDIA
PARTHIA
Cunaxa
Susa
BABYLONIA
Persepolis
PERSIA
SCYTHIANS
Oxus River
SOGDIANA
Sarnius River
CHORASMIA
BACTRIA
GANDHARA
ARACHOSIA
DRANGIANA
Hydaspes River
Hydraotes River
Hyphasis River
Indus River
INDIA
EGYPT
LIBYA
RED SEA
ARABIA
PERSIAN GULF
ETHIOPA
Nile
ARABIAN SEA

# Aeschylus & *The Oresteia*

The Oresteia is our rite of passage
from savagery to civilization.

Age of Sophocles

496 - 406

Sophocles born 6 years before Marathon.

# Athens, Sophocles, Antigone, 445 BC
# Sophoclean Tragedy

"The central idea of a Sophoclean tragedy is that through suffering a man learns to be modest before the gods . . .When [the characters] are finally forced to see the truth, we know that the gods have prevailed and that men must accept their insignificance [their limited powers]." C. M. Bowra

# What is Sophocles' philosophy of life?

Does he believe in a order to the universe?
(think of both Oedipus and Antigone) Yes.

a)has an intellectual faith that there is a <u>LOGOS</u> to the universe as did all his friends and all of his Periclean Athens. All of 5thC Athens lived by this faith in an Order to Nature and Universe.

b)the individual needs balance/ a kind of wisdom
need know who you are
need know where you are in universe
need wisdom/balance/proportion
(all go together=Athena=Parthenon)

Is the Peloponnesian War balance?

c)believes in the essential <u>DIGNITY OF MAN</u>
See closing speech. Oedipus at Colonus.
Oedipus contending is heroic=seeks truth no matter what

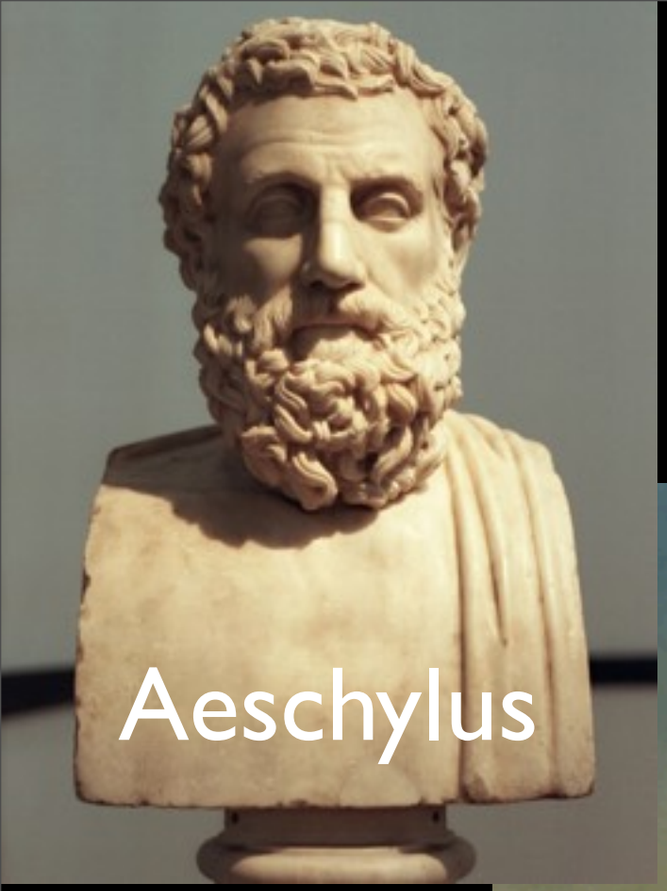
and <u>THE WONDER OF MAN</u>
See Chorus, pp. 76-77, the wonder of man(in Antigone)
(compare this conception of man in Genesis and Lao Tzu)

What is the nature of Sophoclean tragedy?
that man so great, man so powerful, man so brilliant still fails.
thus tragedy is his tragic contending against his own imperfect self.
Not against gods and gods powers.
thus Sophocles' TRAGEDY
reflects perfectly the high ideals of Periclean Athens at mid-century

Man contending with self and own limitations.

Tragedy of life for Sophocles is that man is imperfect
not that he is evil. (compare to Genesis)

Is the Peloponnesian War man out of balance?

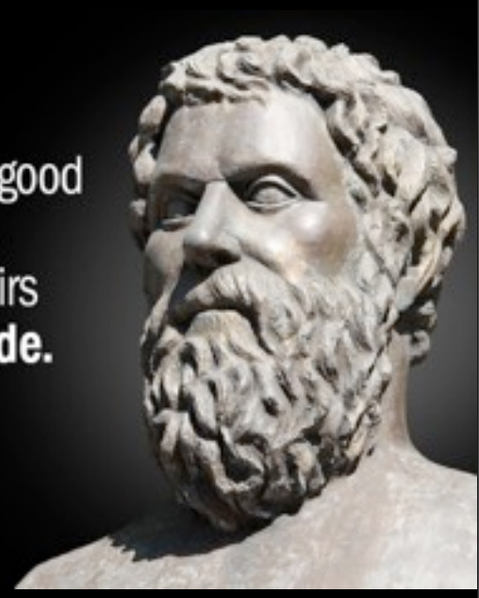


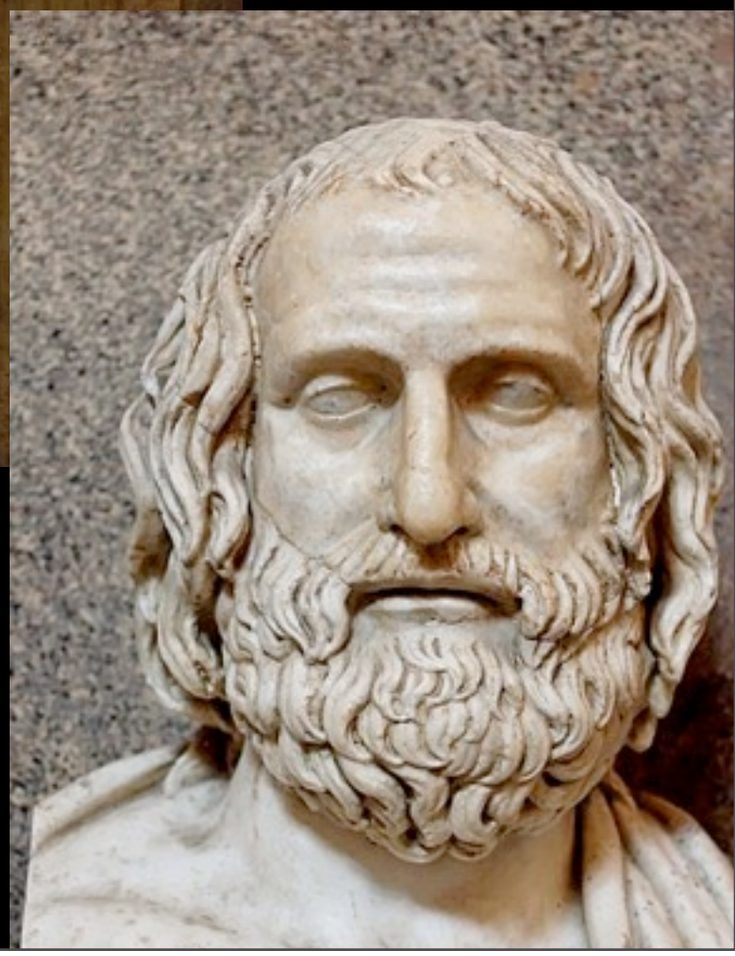
Aeschylus

**All men make mistakes,** but a good man yields when he knows his course is wrong, and repairs the evil. **The only crime is pride.**

– *Sophocles*

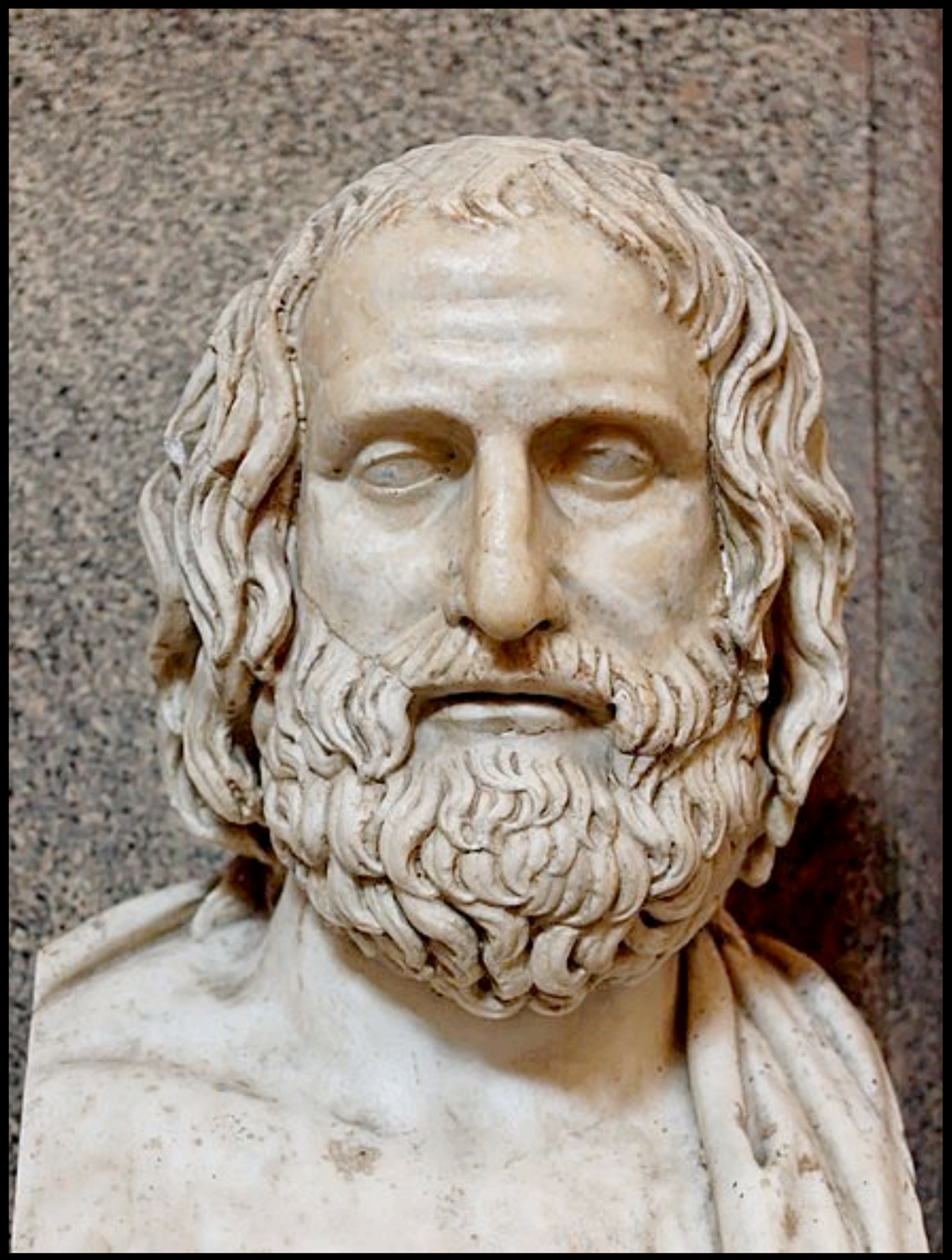
AZ QUOTES





Euripedes

# Euripedes



Born Salamis 480
died Macedon 406 BC

wrote 92 plays
18 survive
*Medea,* 431 BC
*Hippolytus,* 428 BC
*Electra,* c. 420 BC
*The Trojan Women,* c. 415 BC
*Bacchae,* 405 BC

Ancient biographers report that in the final years of his life Euripides accepted an invitation to leave Athens and take up residence at the court of Macedon;

# Five great plays dealing with the horror of war.

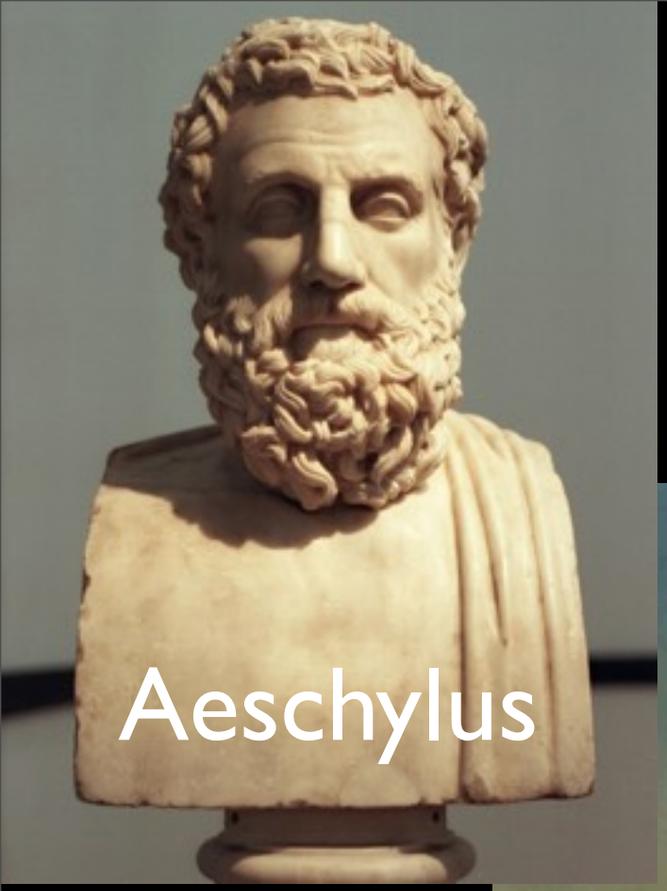
**Andromache** (ca. 427 B.C.) This tragedy out of Athens shows the life of Andromache as a slave after the Trojan War. The drama focuses on the conflict between Andromache and Hermione, master's new wife.

**Hecuba** (425) is a tragedy by Euripides written c. 424 BC. It takes place after the Trojan War, but before the Greeks have departed Troy (roughly the same time as *The Trojan Women*, another play by Euripides). The central figure is Hecuba, wife of King Priam, formerly Queen of the now-fallen city. It depicts Hecuba's grief over the death of her daughter Polyxena, and the revenge she takes for the murder of her youngest son Polydorus.

**The Trojan Women *(415)*** is a tragedy by the Greek playwright Euripides. Produced in 415 BC during the Peloponnesian War, it is often considered a commentary on the capture of the Aegean island of Melos and the subsequent slaughter and subjugation of its populace by the Athenians earlier that year

I**phigenia at Aulis** (405) The play revolves around Agamemnon, the leader of the Greek coalition before and during the Trojan War, and his decision to sacrifice his daughter, Iphigenia, to appease the goddess Artemis and allow his troops to set sail to preserve their honour in battle against Troy

## Euripedes is preaching against the war.



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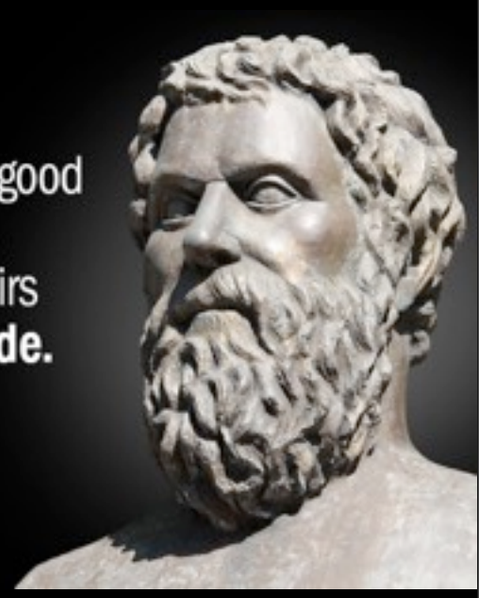

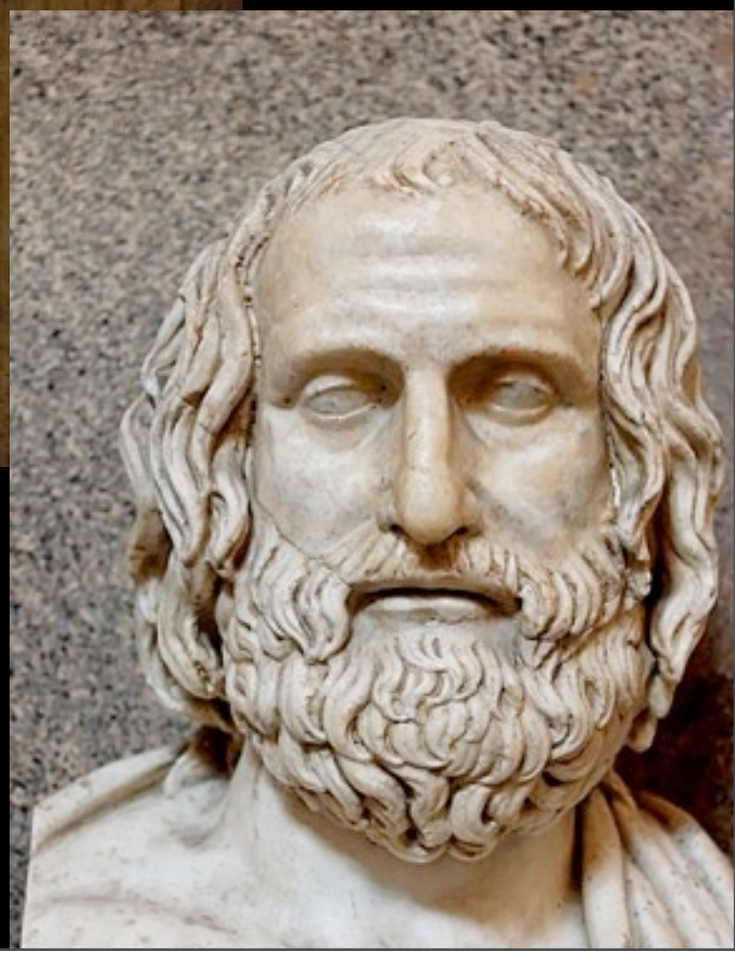

Euripedes

# The Peloponnesian War

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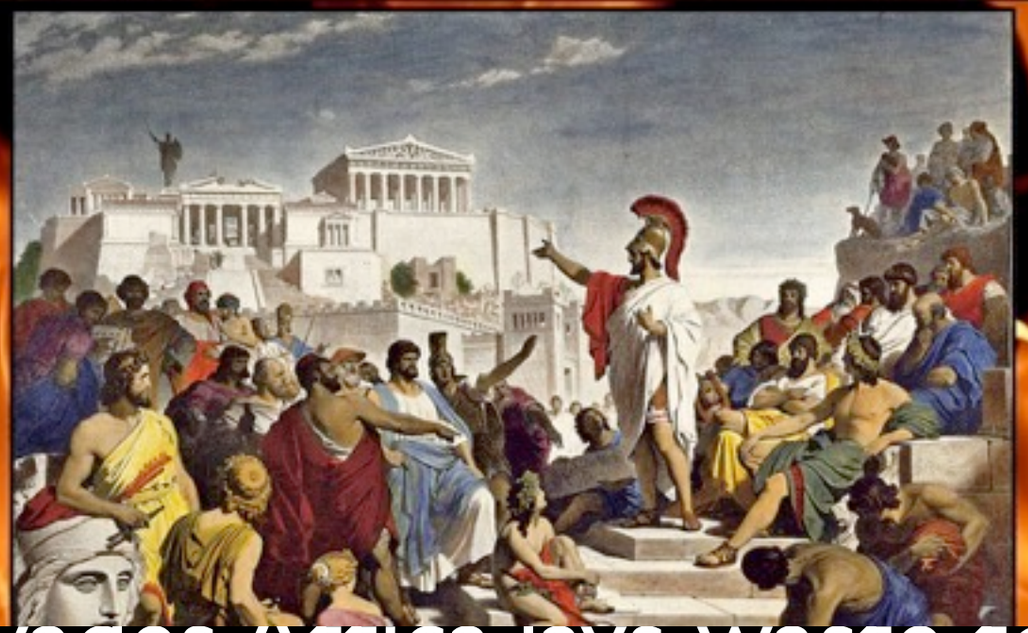

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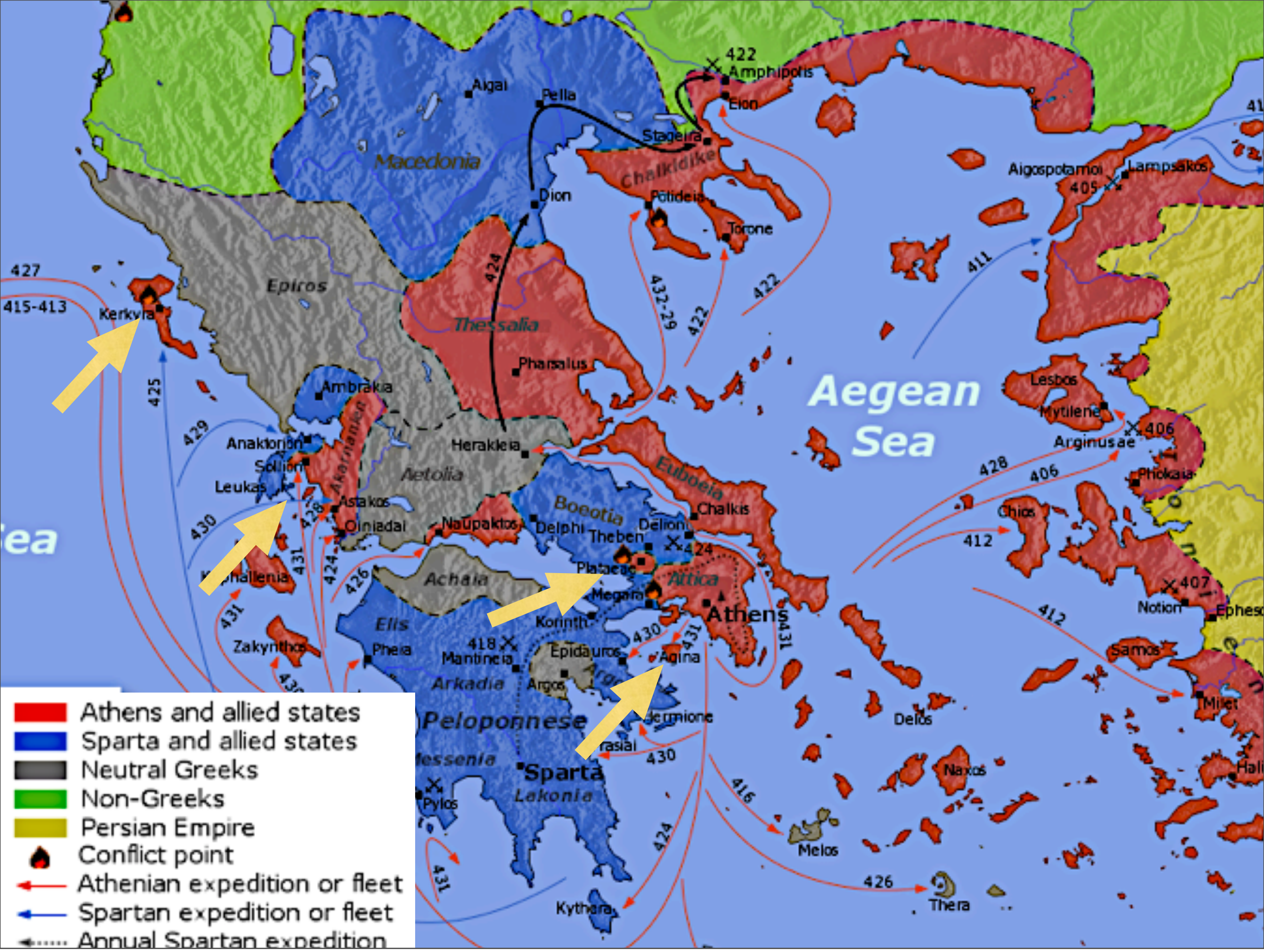



SundayMarch 8, 2020

# Causes of the Peloponnesian War, 432 BC

THE ATHENIAN EMPIRE THAT HAD BEEN DEVELOPED AFTER THE PERSIAN WARS

Other OPTIONS FOR ATHENS C. 450 BC
A federation of allied free states with free trade.

What did they choose: a tyrannical Aegean Empire enforced with power.

It is probable that Pericles, dreamed of completing Athens' control of Greek trade by dominating not only Megara but Corinth, which was to Greece what Istanbul is to the eastern Mediterranean today— a door and a key to half a continent's trade.

But the basic cause of the war was **the growth of the Athenian Empire**, and the development of Athenian control over the commercial and political life of the Aegean.

Even after the war begins in 432 BC there are many opportunities for Athens to be merciful and generous to other Aegean states. Instead, Athens always chooses naked power.

# Athens Excuse

Athens allowed free trade in time of peace,
but only by imperial sufferance;
No vessel might sail that sea without her consent.
Athenian agents decided the destination of every vessel that left the grain ports of the north; Methone, starving with drought, had to ask Athens' leave to import a little corn.

Athens defended this domination as a vital necessity; she was dependent upon imported food, and was determined to guard the routes by which that food came.

This was ridiculous and lacking any imagination.

The best guarantee was good relations with all the food producing states, and good prices.
That was all they needed: a good deal for sellers.
But Athens didn't want that and didn't offer it.
They used force instead.  RESULT: other states  came to hate Athens.

**Thucydides:**
the democratic leaders at Athens recognized that, while making liberty the idol of their policy among Athenians, the Confederacy of free cities had become an **empire of force.**

"You should remember," says Thucydides' Cleon to the Assembly, "that your empire is a despotism exercised over unwilling subjects who are always conspiring against you; they do not obey in return for any kindness which you do them to your own injury, but only in so far as you are their master; they have no love for you, but they are held down by force."

**The inherent contradiction between the worship of liberty and the despotism of empire**

co-operated with the individualism of the Greek states to end the Golden Age.

# Anti Athens Resistance

The resistance to Athenian policy came from nearly every state in Greece.

Boeotia fought off at Coronea (447) the attempt of Athens to include it in the Empire.
They try to expand empire.

Some subject cities, and others that feared to become subject, appealed to Sparta to check the Athenian power.

# War Begins

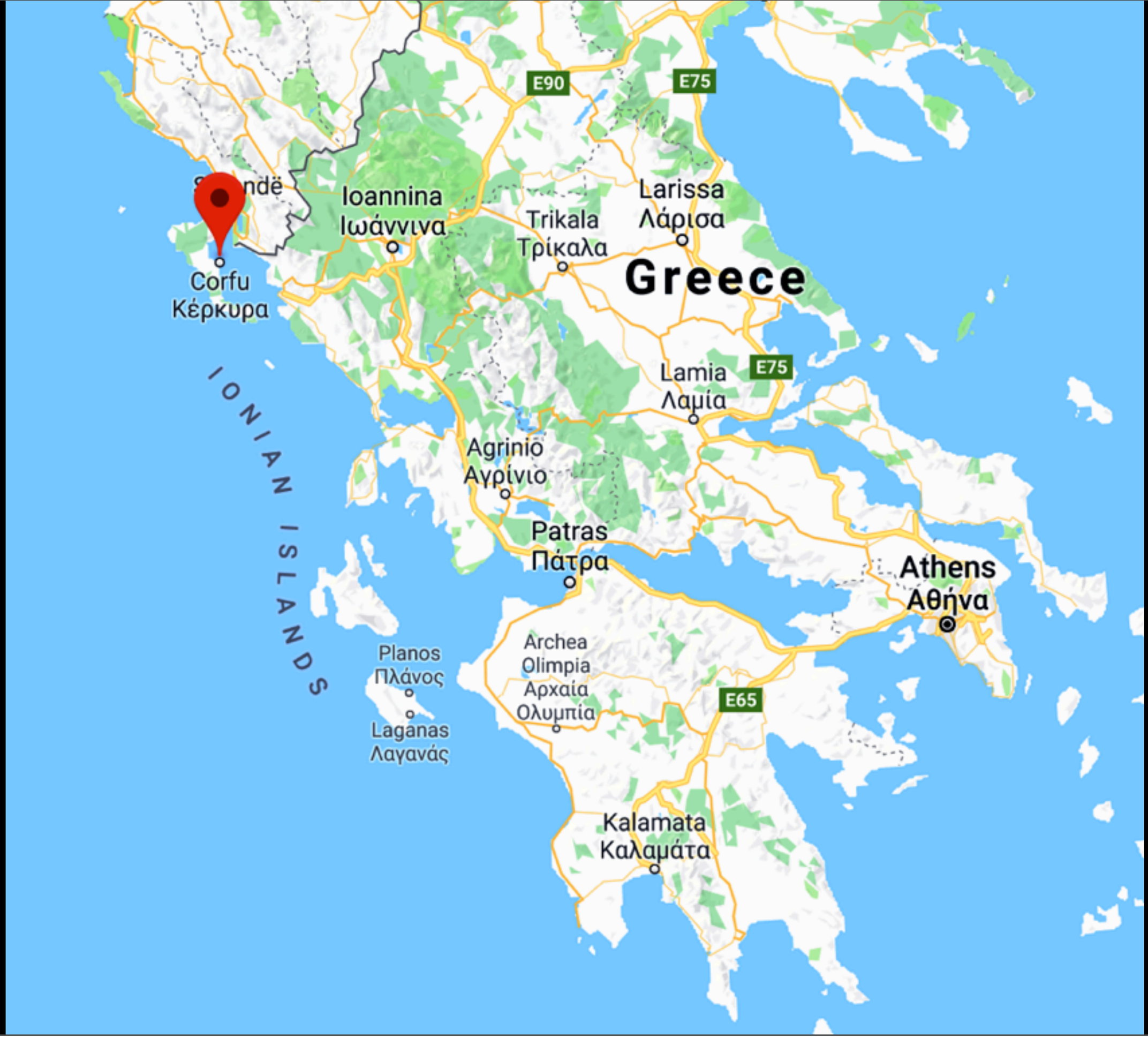
The coming of war awaited some provocative incident.

**In 435 Corcyra (Corfu), a Corinthian colony, declared itself independent** of Corinth; and presently she joined the Athenian Confederacy for protection.

Corinth sent a fleet to reduce the island;

Athens, appealed to by the victorious democrats of Corcyra, sent a fleet to help them.

An indecisive battle took place, in which the navies of Corcyra and Athens fought against those of Megara and Corinth.


E90
E75
Ioannina
Ιωάννινα
Trikala
Τρίκαλα
Larissa
Λάρισα
Greece
Corfu
Κέρκυρα
IONIAN ISLANDS
Lamia
Λαμία
E75
Agrinio
Αγρίνιο
Patras
Πάτρα
Athens
Αθήνα
Archea
Olimpia
Αρχαία
Ολυμπία
Planos
Πλάνος
Laganas
Λαγανάς
E65
Kalamata
Καλαμάτα

CORFU

Athens and allied states
Sparta and allied states
Neutral Greeks
Non-Greeks
Persian Empire
Conflict point
Athenian expedition or fleet
Spartan expedition or fleet
Annual Spartan expedition

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Nearly all Greece ranged itself
on one or the other side.

**Every state in the Peloponnesus except Argos supported Sparta;**

so did Corinth, Megara, Boeotia, Locris, and Phocis.

Athens, at the outset, had the half-hearted help of the Ionian and Euxine cities and the Aegean isles.

Nearly all Greece ranged itself on one or the other side.
Like World War I , the first phase of the struggle was a contest between sea power and land power.

The Athenian fleet laid waste the coastal towns of the Peloponnesus, while the Spartan army **invaded Attica, seized the crops, and ruined the soil**.

TERRIBLE ALMOST PERMANENT DAMAGE DONE TO ATTICA.  OLIVE TREES BURNED. VINEYARDS BURNED.

**Pericles called the population of Attica within the walls of Athens**, refused to let his troops go out to battle, and advised the excited Athenians to bide their time and wait for their navy to win the war.

CORFU

Athens and allied states
Sparta and allied states
Neutral Greeks
Non-Greeks
Persian Empire
Conflict point
Athenian expedition or fleet
Spartan expedition or fleet
Annual Spartan expedition

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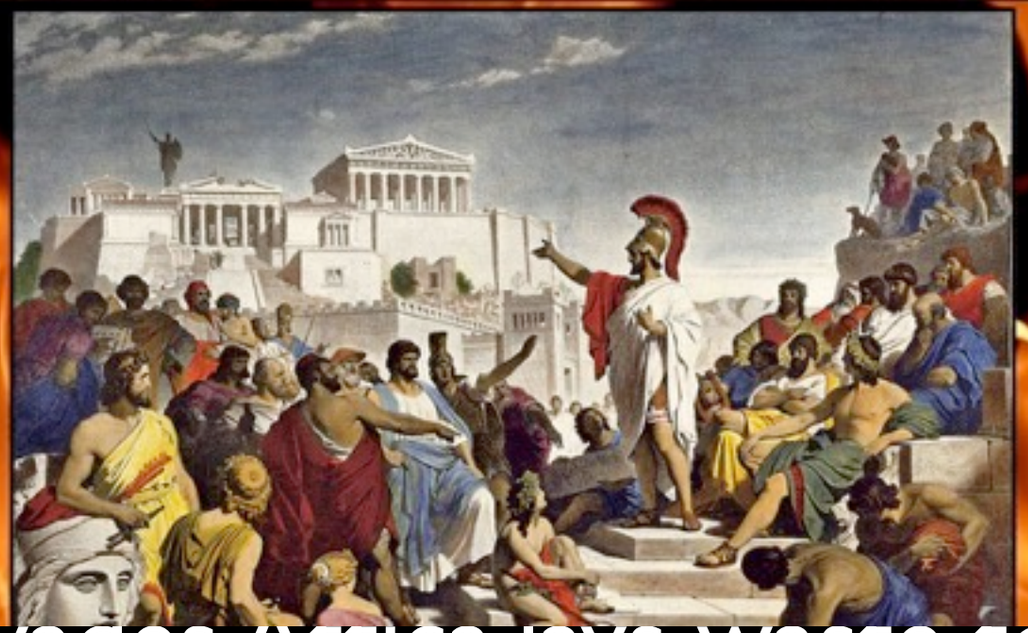
THRACE
MACEDONIA
AEOLIA
Thessaly
AEGEAN SEA
Thermopylae
Boetia
Ionia
Attica
Athens
Piraeus
Corinth
PELOPONNESUS
Sparta
Athenian Strategy:
Defend on Land
Offensive on Sea
Continue Foriegn Trade
Spartan Strategy:
Offensive on Land
PELOPONNESIAN WAR
Alliances at the Start and
Contrasting Strategies,
431 B.C.
Athenian Empire and Allies
Spartan Confederacy
N

# The Peloponnesian War



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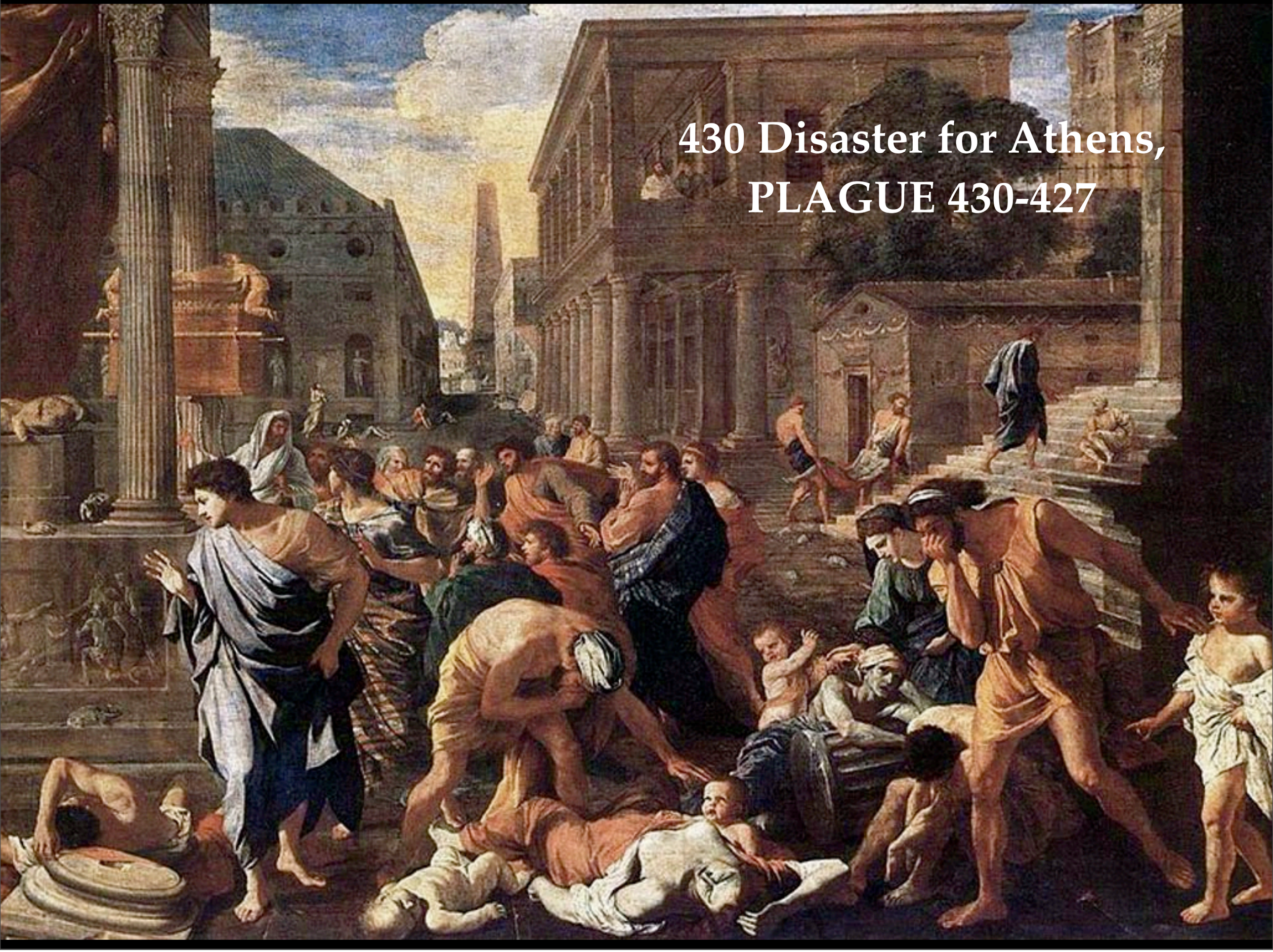
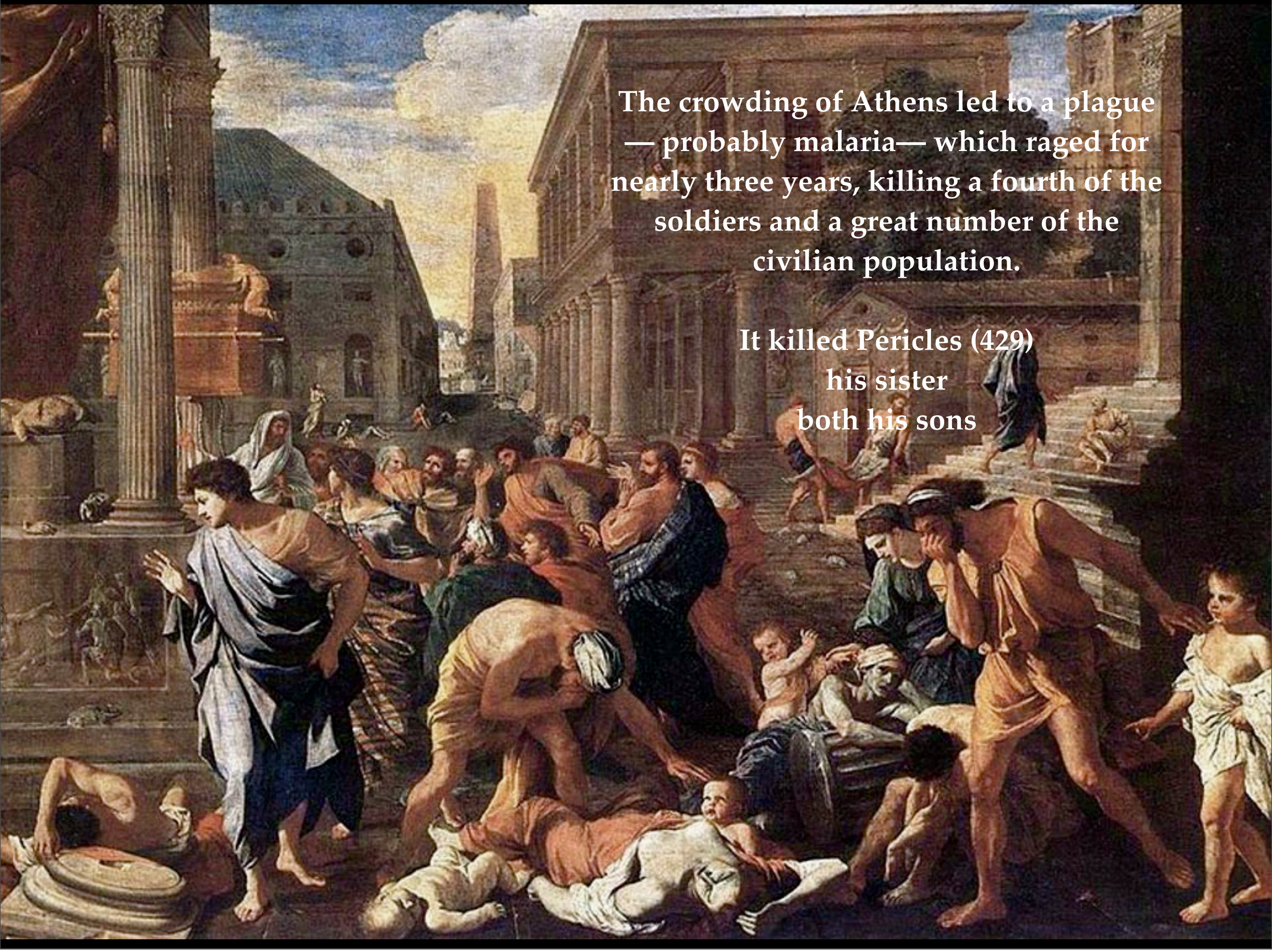
# 430 Disaster for Athens, PLAGUE 430-427




The crowding of Athens led to a plague
— probably malaria— which raged for
nearly three years, killing a fourth of the
soldiers and a great number of the
civilian population.
It killed Pericles (429)
his sister
both his sons

# Democracy turns on its own leader: Pericles

Cleon and others indicted him on the charge of misusing public funds; since he had apparently employed state money to bribe the Spartan kings to peace, he was unable to give a satisfactory accounting; he was convicted, deposed from office, and fined the enormous sum of fifty talents ($ 300,000).

About the same time (429) his sister and his two legitimate sons died of the plague. The Athenians, finding no leader to replace him, recalled him to power (429); and, to show their esteem for him, and their sympathy in his bereavement, they overrode a law that he himself had passed, and bestowed citizenship upon the son that Aspasia had borne to him

Aristophanes was deeply and strongly critical of Pericles in "Acharnians." This was only to be expected in view of his personal opinions. For his evident hatred of war was created by the unhappiness, destruction, and slaughter that **Pericles' imperialism** and vainglory made inevitable.

Behind its cultural achievements lay a presumption of Athens's right to control the Greek world, and that led inevitably to a struggle with Sparta that could only end in her destruction, or that of Athens. As Pericles himself said, Greece was not big enough for both. The Peloponnesian War, which was to settle, once and for all, which was to be the paramount Greek power, began in 431 B.C., and Pericles' famous oration was delivered the following year. That marked the acme of his influence. Thereafter it was downhill.

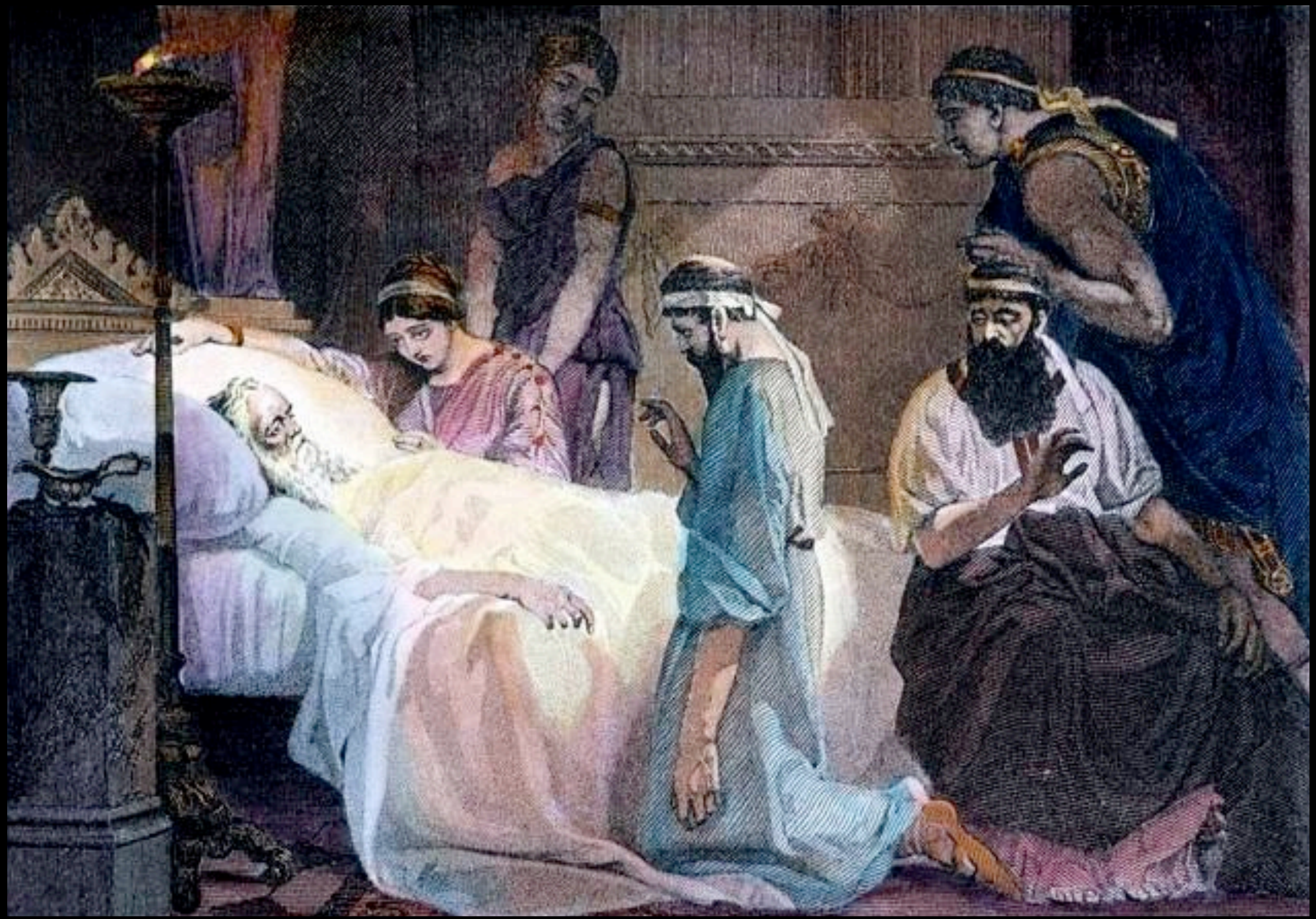
# PLAGUE

In 430 B.C., almost certainly as a direct result of the war, Athens was afflicted by the worst plague in her history. Thousands died. Pericles' own family was devastated. The plague broke the morale of Athens.

**It was seen as the punishment of the gods for their neglect by the Periclean power. It is true that their humanism came close to atheism in the minds of many.**

His favorite philosopher, **Anaxagoras,** was seen as impious for his cosmology and cosmogony. **Phidias,** his cultural commissar, was blamed for his depiction of human figures in the frieze of the Parthenon. **Protagoras**'s dictum that "Man is the measure of all things" was held to be a plain declaration of disbelief in divinity. **Thucydides,** the historian of the regime, was already known for denying the gods any role in the march of great events. At the end of the plague year, the revulsion of popular feeling drove Pericles from office.

# Death of Pericles 429 BC



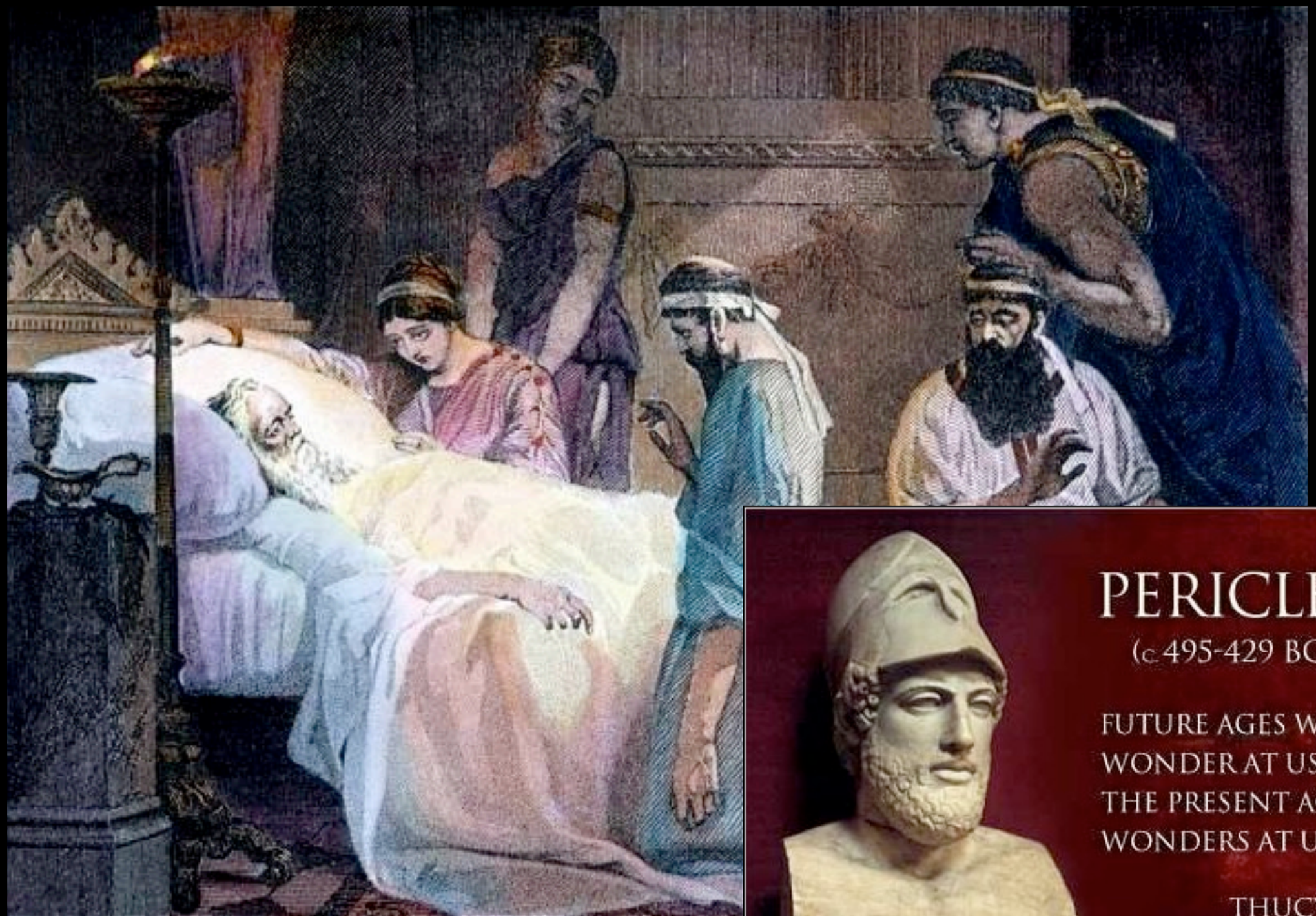
# THE END OF PERICLES, 429 BC

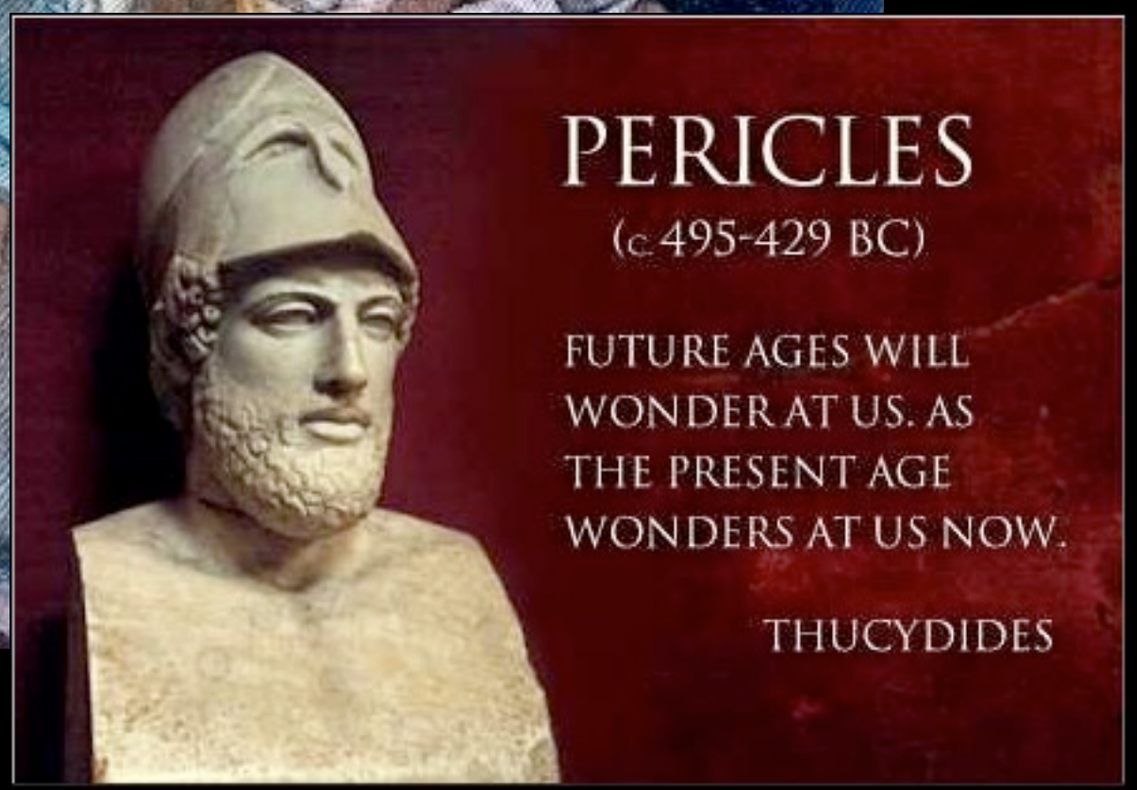
He died of it six months after being reelected, and men said it was a punishment. There was a witch hunt of his entourage.

**Phidias** had been prosecuted for stealing public gold when making his giant statue of Athena. He was acquitted but was then arraigned for impiety and put in prison, where he died or escaped to exile. **Protagoras** and **Anaxagoras** were likewise hounded, and enemies even indicted Pericles' mistress **Aspasia** (about whom more will be said), though she won acquittal.

**By 428 B.C., the brilliant group of humanists who had run and adorned Athens in the name of man had been broken up and dispersed.**

# Death of Pericles 429 BC





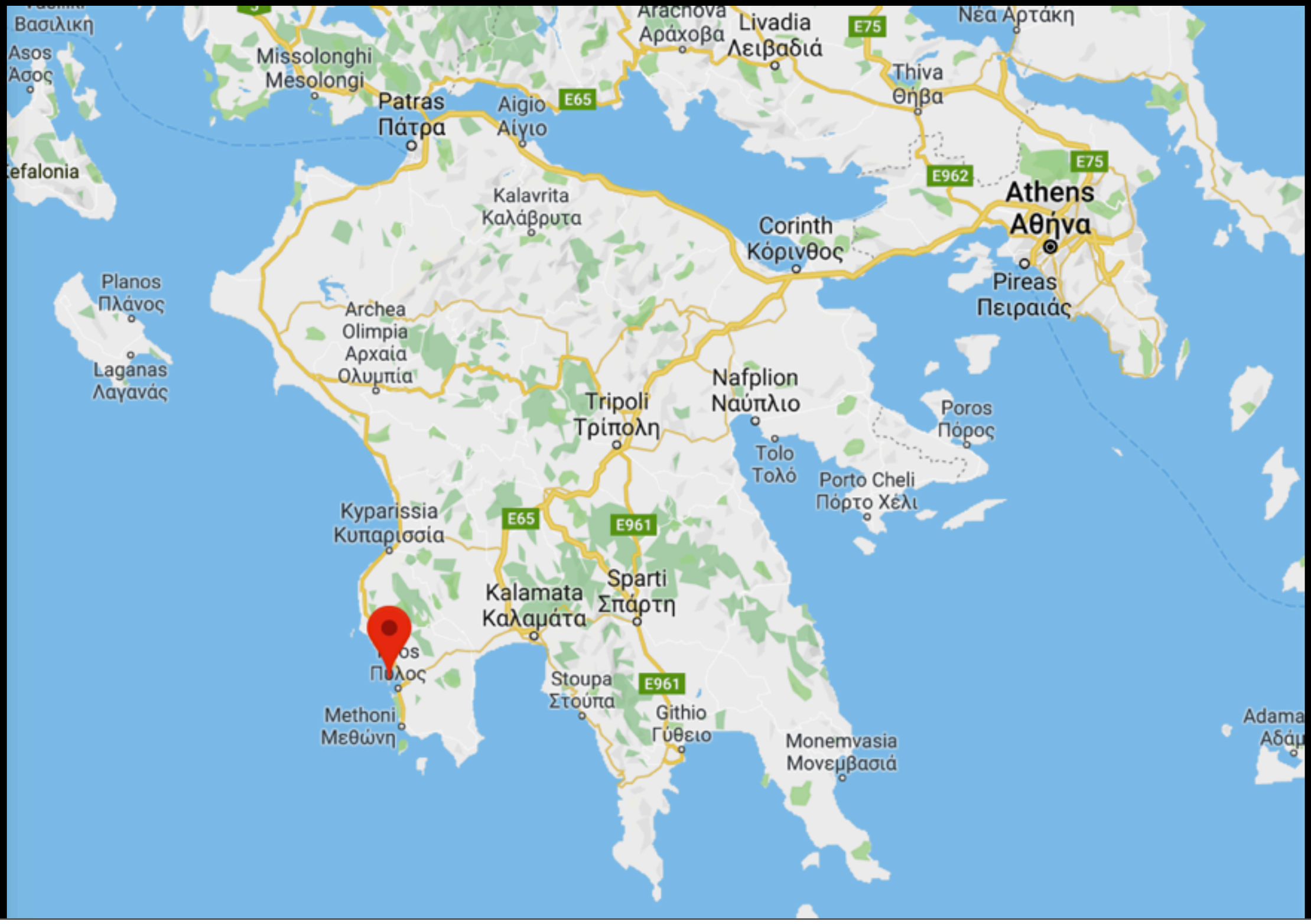
With Pericles gone, leadership passes to lesser men

**Thucydides suggests:**
Athens might have come through to victory if it had pursued to the end the Fabian policy laid down by Pericles. (hunker down inside the walls fight on the sea)

But his successors: too impatient to carry out a program that required self-control.

The new masters of the democratic party were merchants like Cleon the dealer in leather, Eucrates the rope seller, Hyperbolus the lampmaker; and these men demanded an active war on land as well as sea.

# Athenian Victory in 425 BC Batttle of Sphacteria
# Athenian Arrogance; More Extremes
# Wisdom of Pericles Gone



Cleon's ability was proved in 425 when the Athenian fleet besieged a Spartan army on the island of Sphacteria, near Pylos. No admiral seemed capable of taking the stronghold; but when the Assembly gave Cleon charge of the siege (half hoping that he would be killed in action), he surprised all by carrying through the attack with a skill and courage that forced the Lacedaemonians to an unprecedented surrender. Sparta, humbled, offered peace and alliance in return for the captured men, but Cleon's oratory persuaded the Assembly to **reject the offer and continue the war.** His hold on the populace was strengthened by a proposal, easily carried, that the

**Athenians should henceforth pay no taxes to the support of the war, but should finance it by raising the tribute exacted of the subject cities in the Empire** (424).

In these cities, as in Athens, the policy of Cleon was to get as much money out of the rich as he could find.

# Cleon's Taxation Plan

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In these cities, as in Athens, the policy of Cleon was to get as much money out of the rich as he could find.

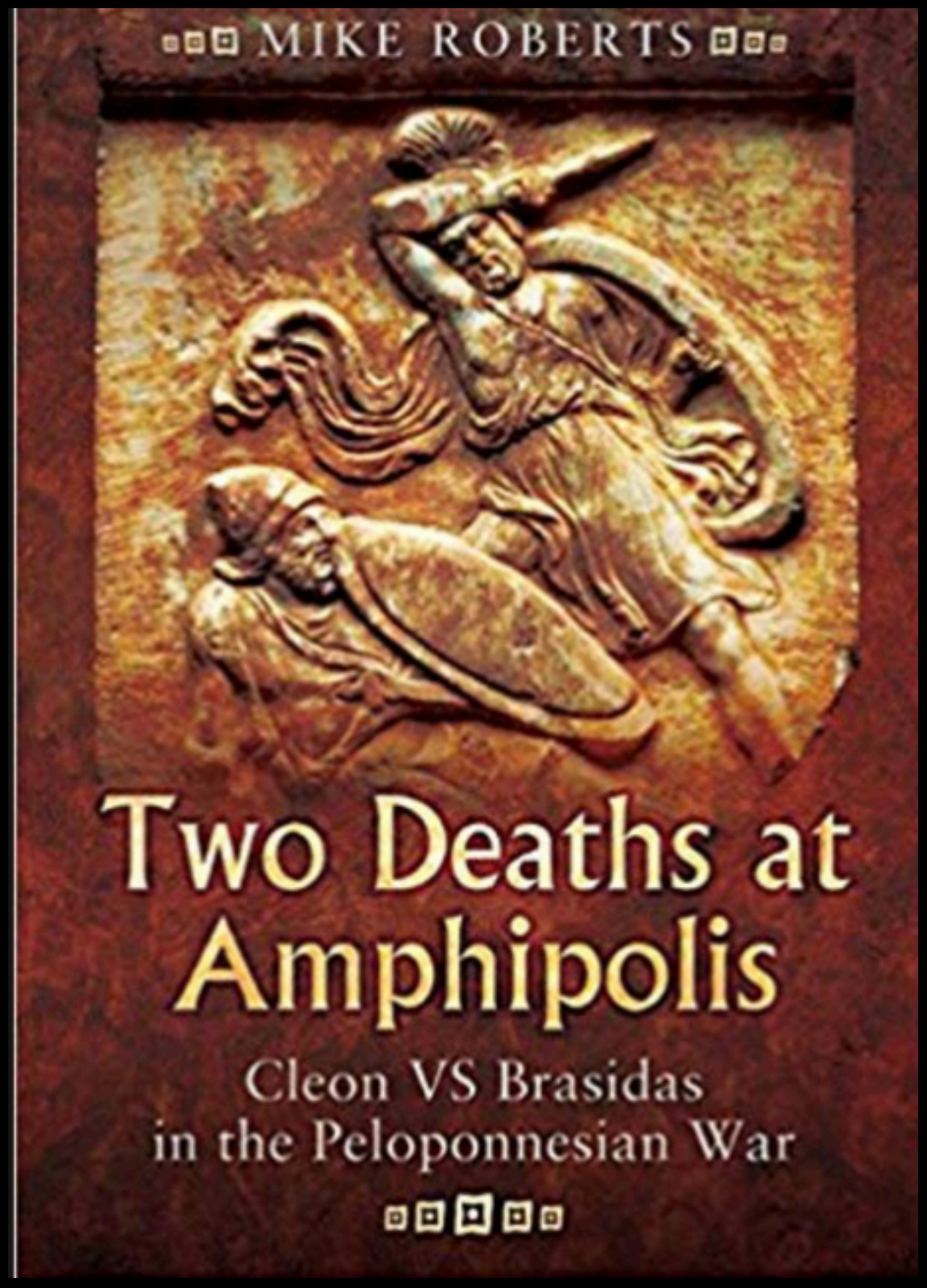
# Athenian Extremism, Demagoguery, Democracy

When the upper classes of **Mytilene** rebelled, overthrew the democracy, and declared Lesbos free of allegiance to Athens ,

**Cleon moved that all adult males in the disaffected city be put to death.**

The Assembly— perhaps a mere quorum— agreed, and sent a ship with orders to that effect to Paches, the Athenian general who had put down the revolt.

they later rescinded it but it was a sign of the times.




Death of Cleon,
Peace of Nicias, 421 BC

# The Peloponnesian War

446 Sparta invades Attica,lays waste to farms etc
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# Death of Cleon,
# Peace of Nicias, 421 BC

Archidamian War period ended with the Peace of Nicias.

The peace of Nicias was a treaty that was established to end conflict, the treaty was undermined by renewed fighting in peloponnesus.

421 Peace of Nicias

Three factors turned this peace into a brief truce of six years:

1. the diplomatic corruption of the peace into “war by other means”;

2. the rise of Alcibiades as the leader of a faction that favored renewed hostilities;

3. and the attempt of Athens to conquer the Dorian colonies in Sicily. (415 Sicilian Expedition)

# 416 Arrogant Athens and her outrage at the island of Melos

Arrogant Athens and her outrage at the island of Melos 416
Athens demands total submission

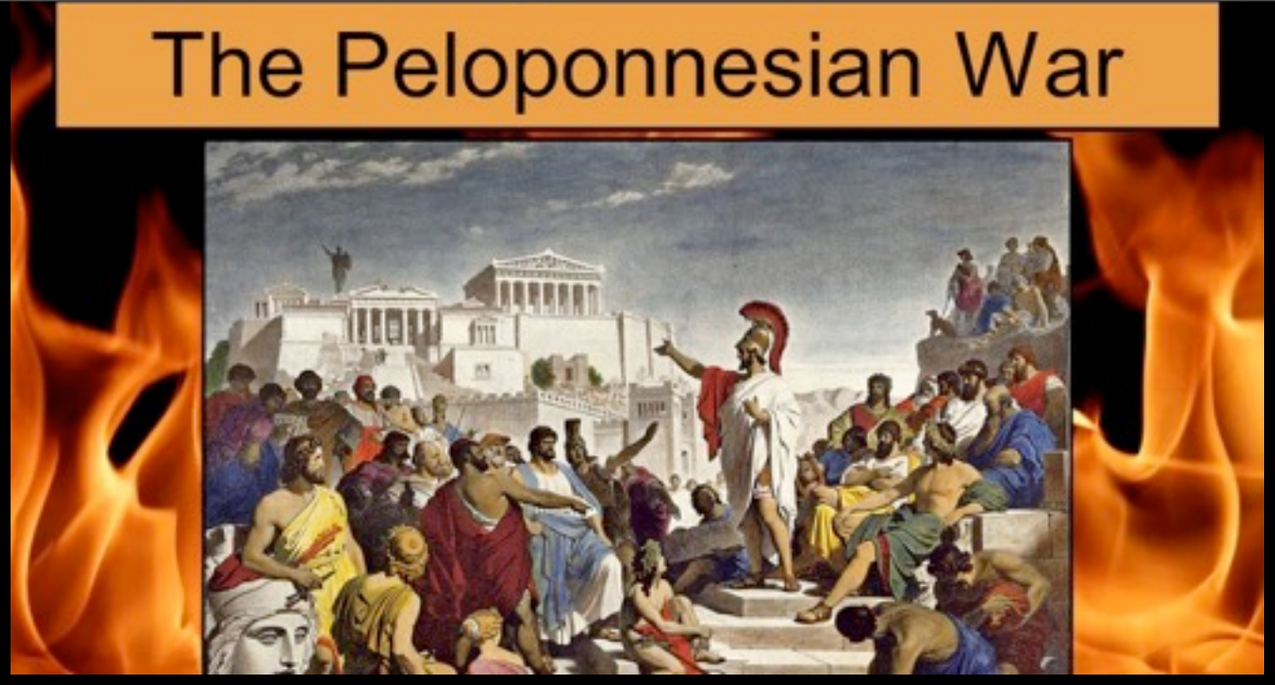
(416). Thucydides:
the Athenian envoys gave no other reason for their action than that might is right.
"Of the gods we believe, and of men we know, that by a necessary law of their nature they rule wherever they can. And it is not as if we were the first to make this law, or to act upon it; we found it existing before, and shall leave it to exist forever after us; all we do is to make use of it, knowing that you and everybody else, having the same power as we have, would do the same as we do."

Arrogant Athens and her outrage at the island of Melos 416
Athens demands total submission

(416). Thucydides:
**The Melians refused to yield, and announced that they would put their trust in the gods**. Later, as irresistible reinforcements came to the Athenian fleet, they surrendered at the discretion of the conquerors. **The Athenians put to death all adult males** who fell into their hands, sold the women and children as slaves, and gave the island to five hundred Athenian colonists. Athens rejoiced in the conquest, and prepared to illustrate in a living tragedy the theme of her dramatists, that a vengeful nemesis pursues all insolent success.

# 416 Arrogant Athens and her outrage at the island of Melos

# The Peloponnesian War



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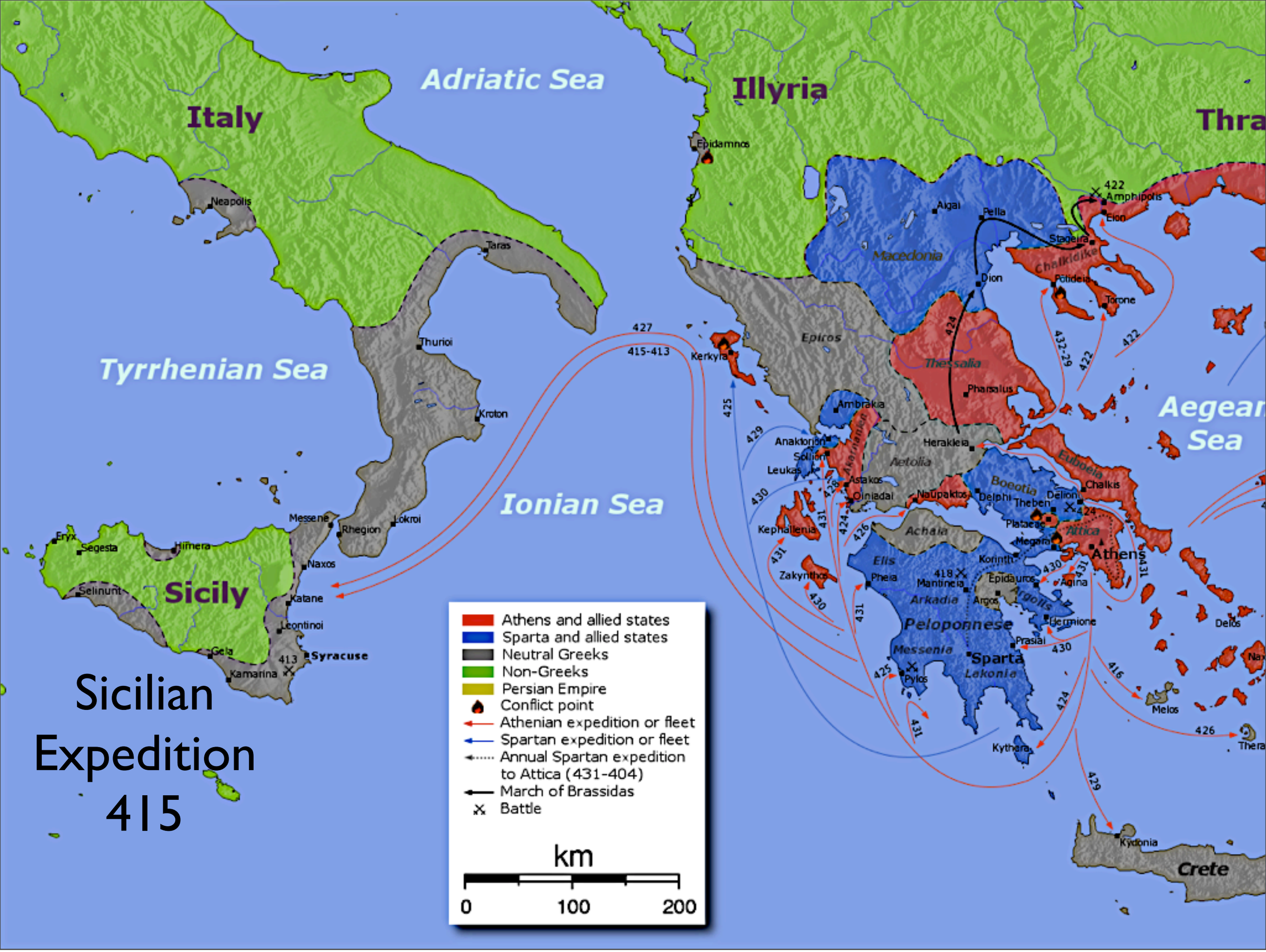
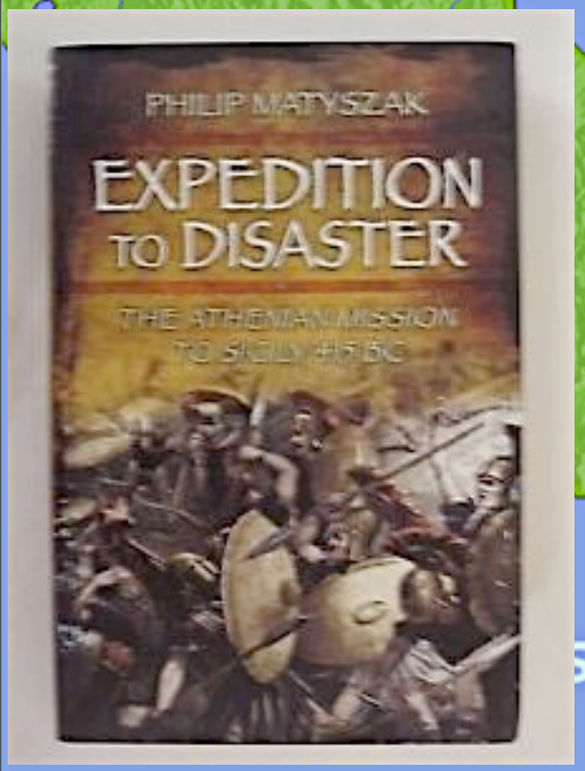
Alcibiades
450 BC
to
406 BC

The motion to punish Melos was supported by Alcibiades and his support for any motion usually sufficed to carry it, for he was now the **most famous man in Athens**, admired for his eloquence, his good looks, his versatile genius, even for his faults.

# Greek Democracy: Pericles to Alcibiades

# Sicilian Expedition 415






# Sicilian Expedition 415

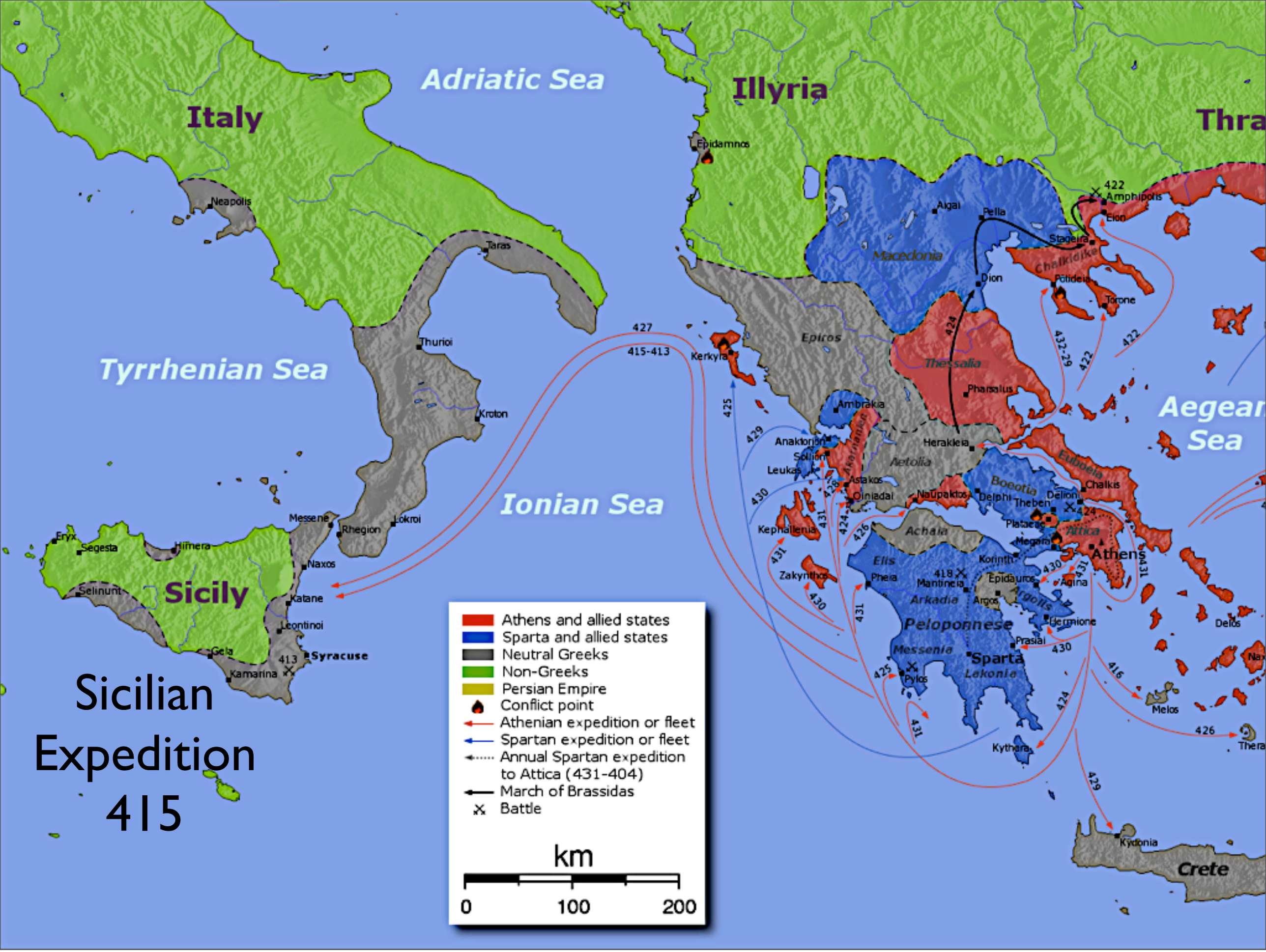
Adriatic Sea
Ionian Sea
Aegean Sea
Illyria
Thra
Sea
Sicily
Epidamnos
Taras
Thurioi
Kroton
Kerkyra
Epiros
Macedonia
Aigai
Pella
422
Amphipolis
Eion
Stageira
Chalkidike
Potideia
Torone
Dion
Thessalia
Pharsalus
Ambrakia
Anaktorion
Sollion
Leukas
Akarnania
Aetolia
Herakleia
Euboea
Chalkis
Boeotia
Delphi
Thebes
Delion
Naupaktos
Oiniadai
Astakos
Kephallenia
Zakynthos
Achaia
Plataea
Attica
Megara
Athens
Elis
Pheia
Korinth
Epidauros
Aigina
Mantineia
Arkadia
Argos
Argolis
Hermione
Peloponnese
Messenia
Sparta
Lakonia
Pylos
Prasiai
Kythera
Delos
Melos
Thera
Kydonia
Crete
Messene
Rhegion
Lokroi
Eryx
Segesta
Himera
Naxos
Selinunt
Katane
Leontinoi
Gela
Syracuse
Kamarina
413
427
415-413
425
429
424
432-29
422
430
431
426
418
416

- Athens and allied states
- Sparta and allied states
- Neutral Greeks
- Non-Greeks
- Persian Empire
- Conflict point
- Athenian expedition or fleet
- Spartan expedition or fleet
- Annual Spartan expedition to Attica (431-404)
- March of Brassidas
- Battle

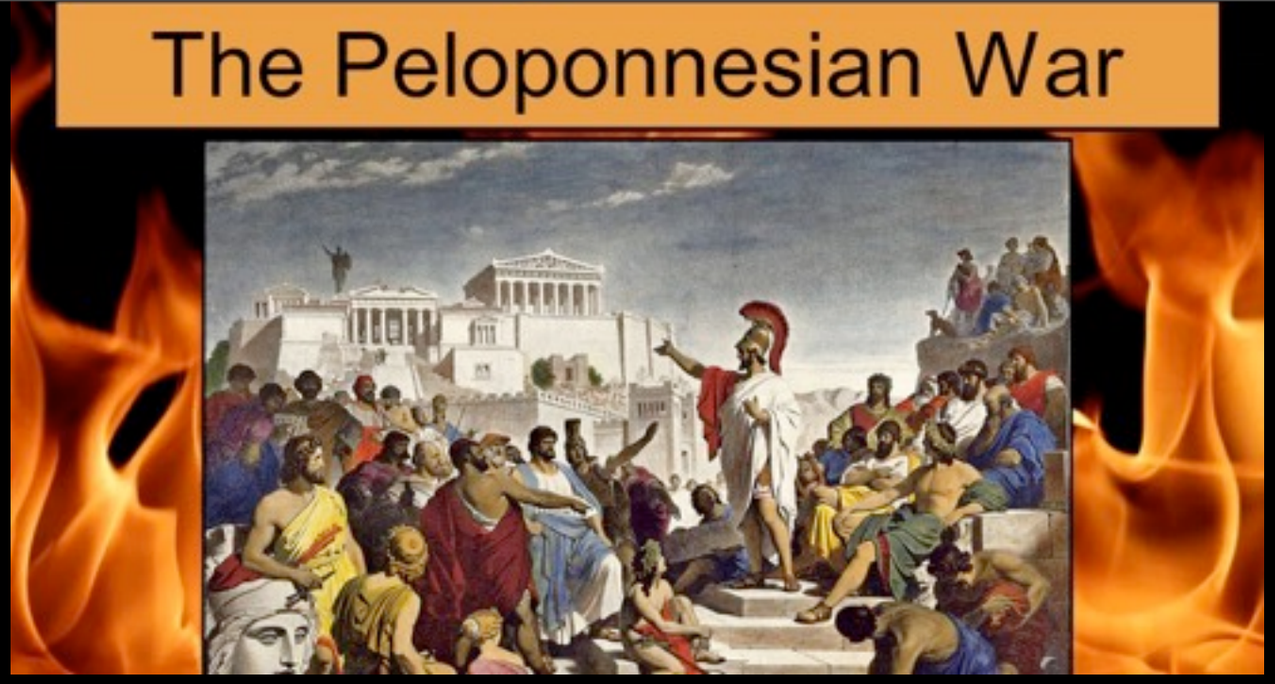
km
0 100 200

# The Athenian Disaster at Sicily 415 BC

# Sicilian Expedition 415



# The Peloponnesian War



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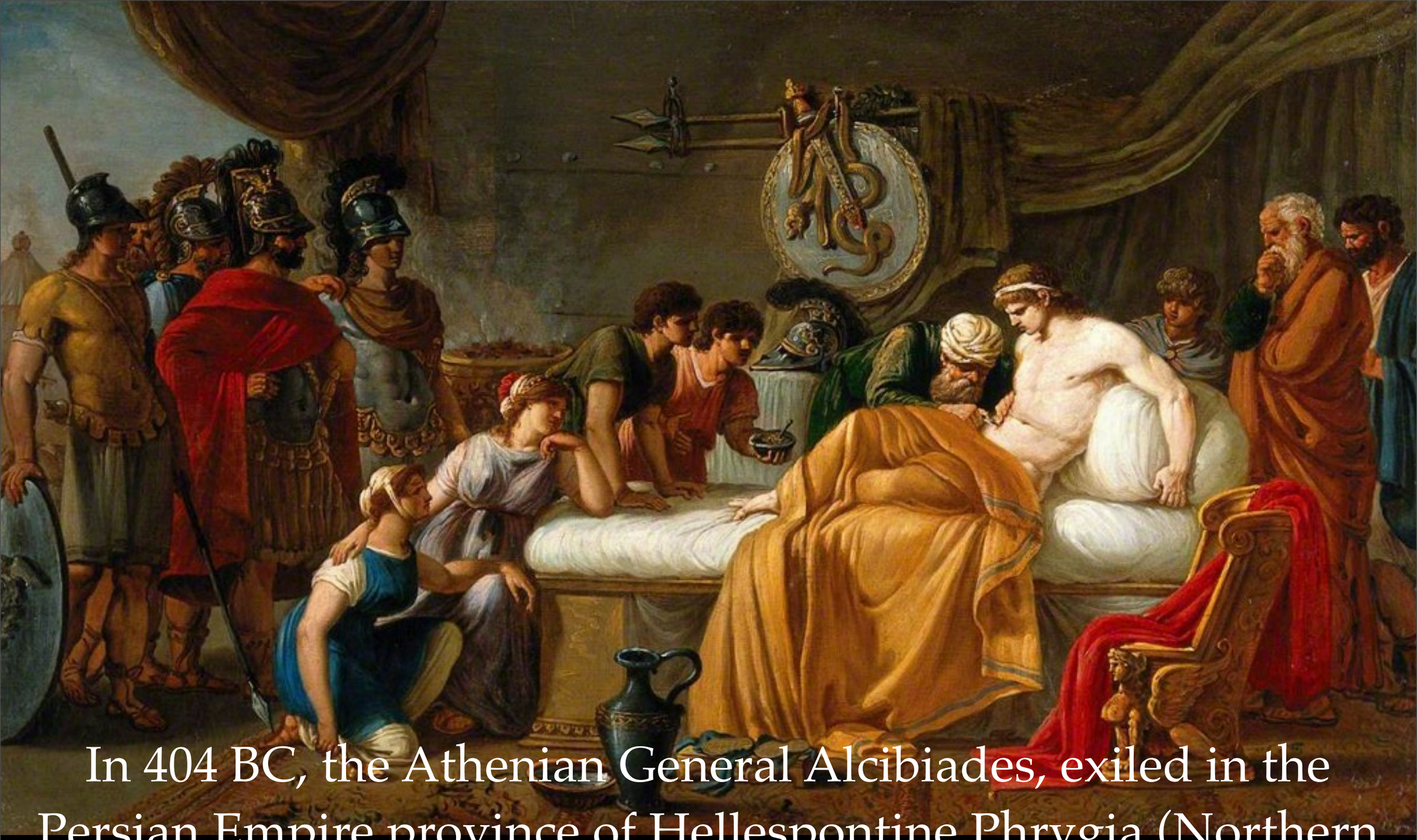
# The Death of Alcibiades
# 404 BC



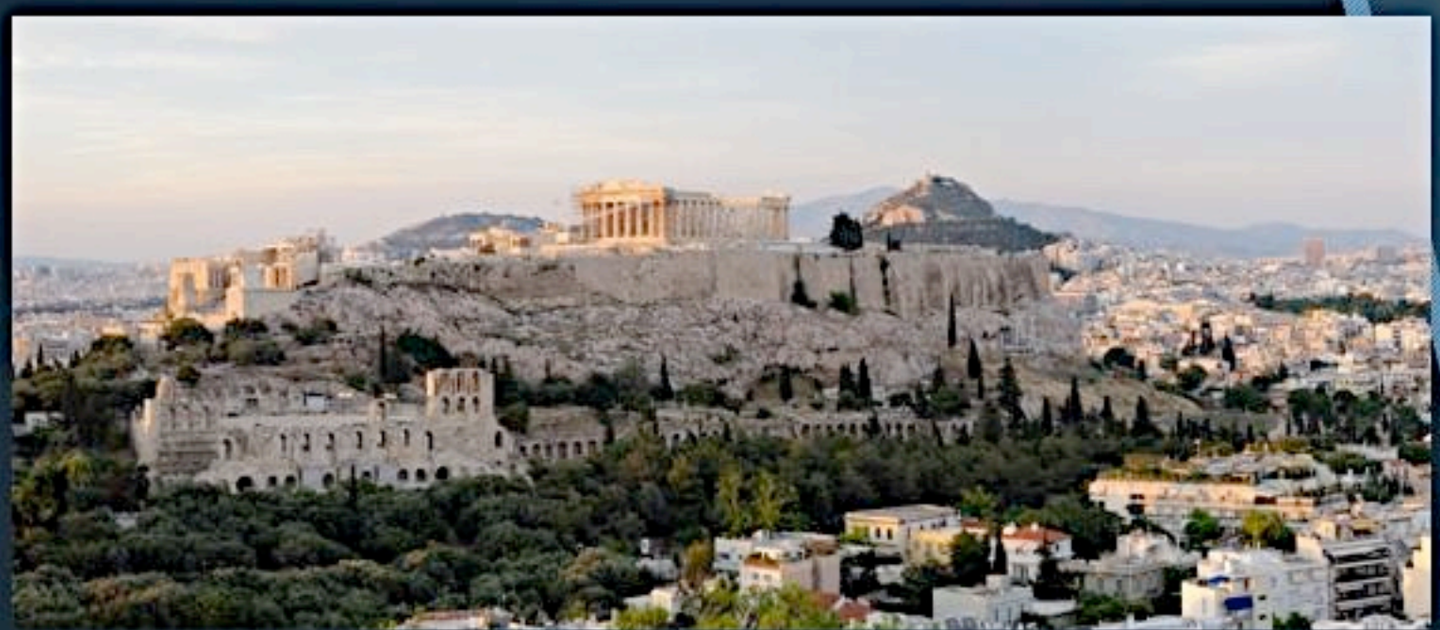
In 404 BC, the Athenian General Alcibiades, exiled in the Persian Empire province of Hellespontine Phrygia (Northern Turkey), was assassinated by Persian soldiers, who may have been following the orders of Pharnabazus II, at the instigation of Sparta's Lysander.

# An End to Democracy

**In the 330s BC, Athens was conquered by the Macedonians.**

**Athens kept its democracy but it had very limited powers.**

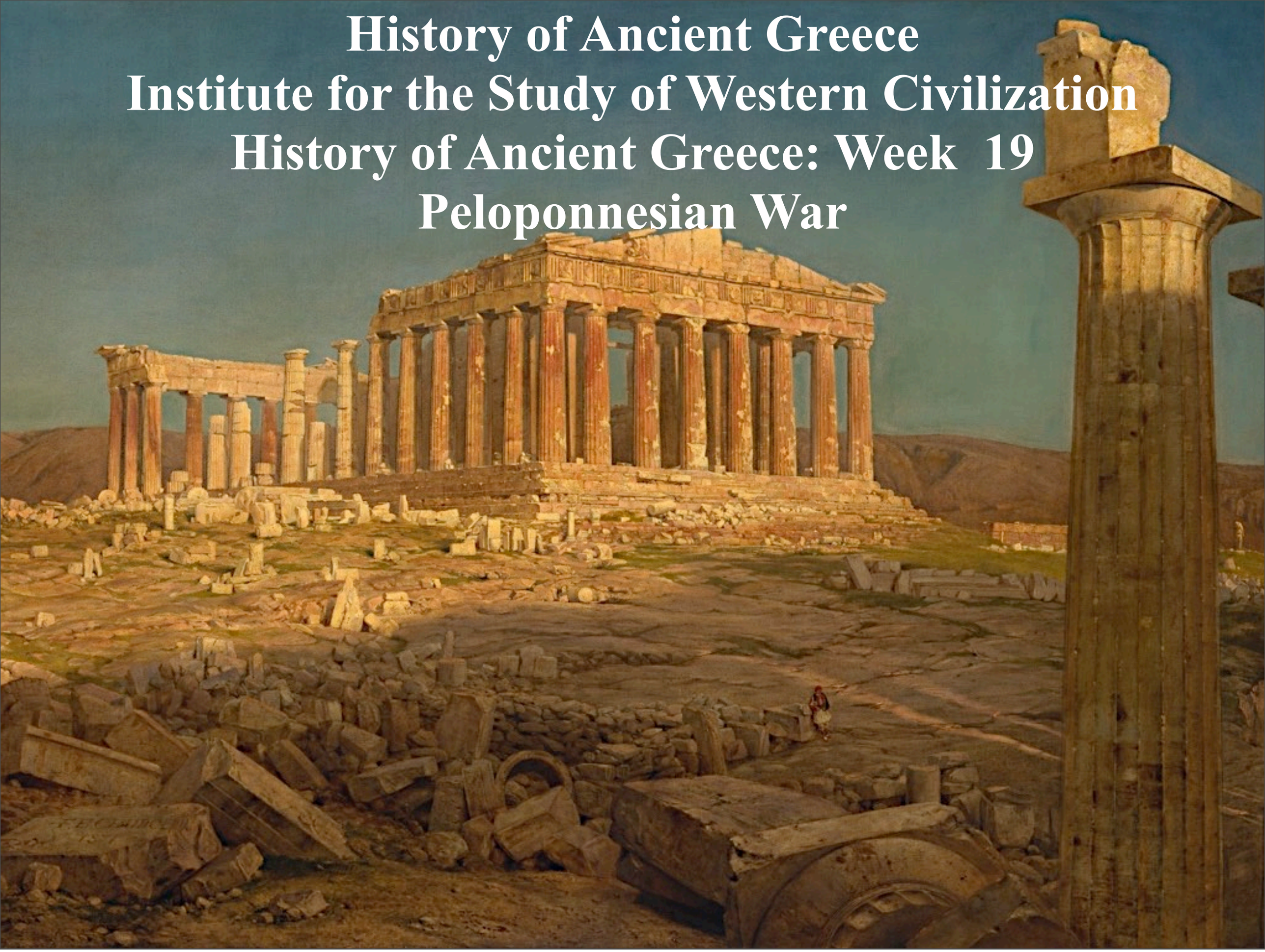
Philip King of Macedon and son Alexander conquer Athens 338 BC



Why did Athenian democracy fail?

1. 338 BC conquered by larger state.
2. Class conflict (old families, Pericles, Alcibiades)
3. Slavery
4. Sexual politics (pederasty, jealousy)
5. Aristotle: lack of "Philia"
6. philosophers didnt believe in it.
7. War. aggression. empire.
8. Direct democracy doesn't work for large state. (or maybe for anybody)

# History of Ancient Greece
# Institute for the Study of Western Civilization
# History of Ancient Greece: Week 19
# Peloponnesian War



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