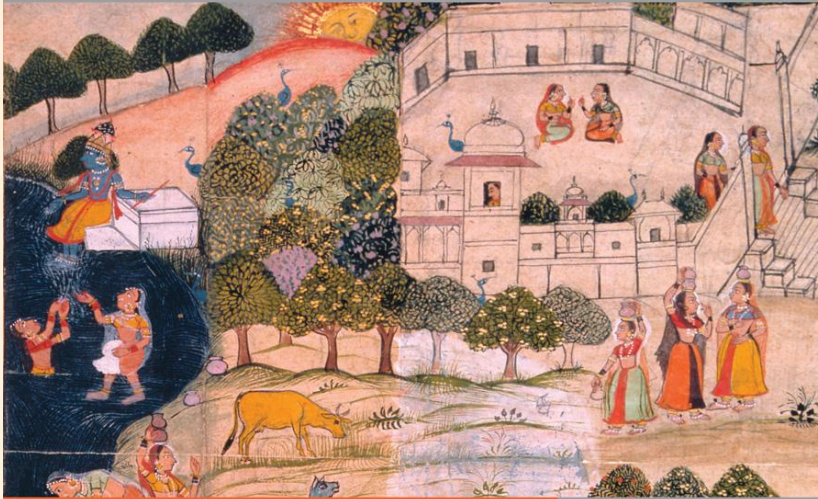


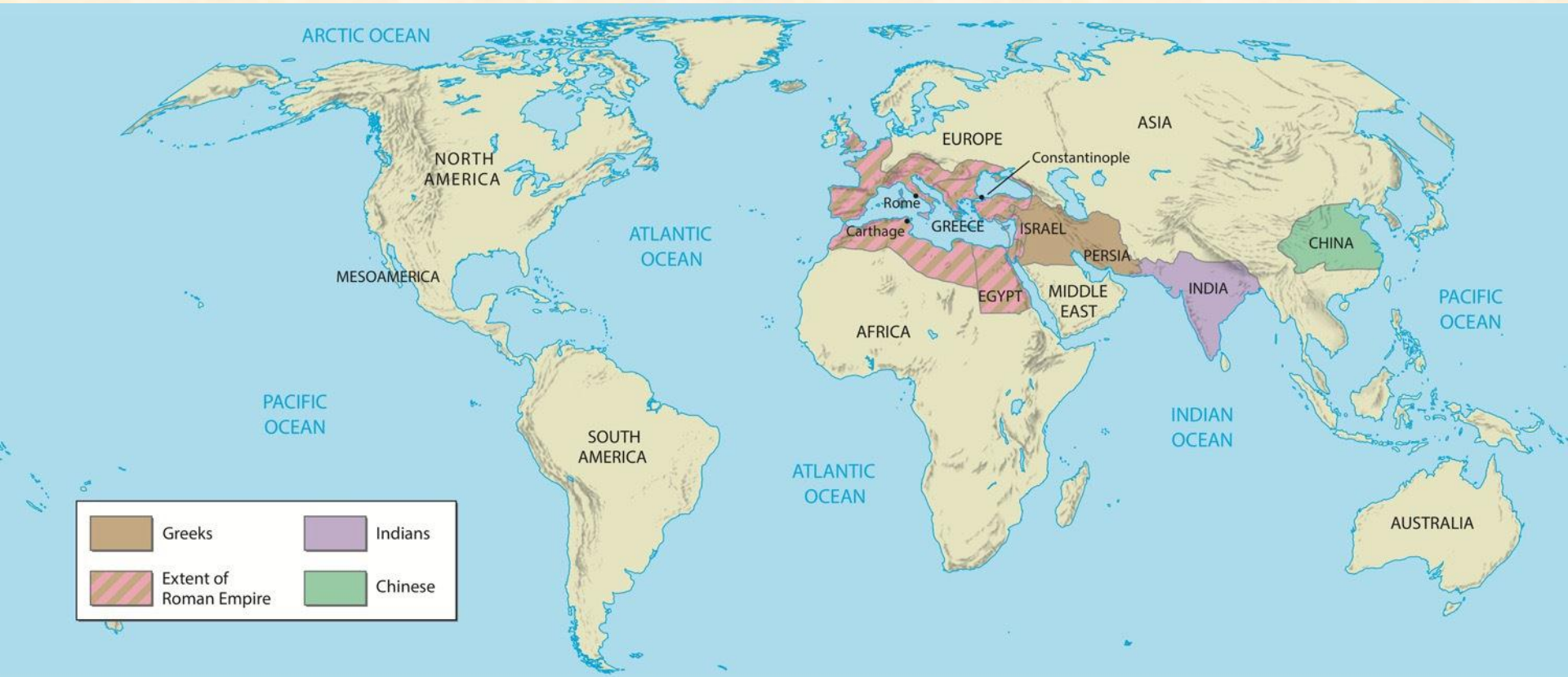
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WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



Seventh Edition

Chapter 8 The Greek Adventure

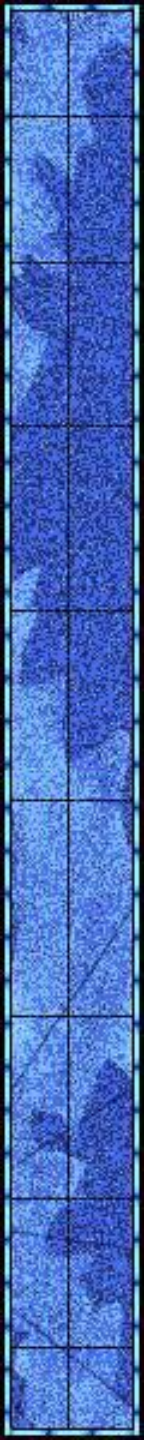


c. 6500–4500 B.C.E.	Neolithic revolution spreads across Europe
c. 2500–1500 B.C.E.	European transition to Bronze Age
c. 2000–1400 B.C.E.	Minoan civilization on Crete
c. 1600–1100 B.C.E.	Mycenaean Age
c. 1100–800 B.C.E.	Greece's Dark Age
c. 800–300 B.C.E.	Hellenic civilization in Greece
c. 550–330 B.C.E.	Achaemenid Empire in Persia
c. 500–325 B.C.E.	Classical Age in Greece
336–323 B.C.E.	Alexander the Great's reign and campaigns
c. 300–50 B.C.E.	Hellenistic Age in eastern Mediterranean and Western Asia



Geography and Political Development

- Greece is shaped by its geography
 - many small islands and mountainous southern tip
 - Little suitable land for large scale farming
- No place within Greece was 80 miles from the sea
- Greeks expert sailors with ships, shipping was livelihood
- Travel and trade by sea easier
- Geography encouraged political fragmentation
 - Each area developed own sense of community and identity
 - Only secondarily shared common culture and language



The Minoan Civilization

- Traditionally, origins of Greek civilization traced to Crete
- Supported urbanized civilization dating back to 2000 BCE
- Cretan culture called Minoan (Minos, mythical king of Crete)
- Not known if Minoans were Greeks but part of the formation of Greek civilization
 - Written language not deciphered
- Established a seaborne commercial network
- Socially complex society (tiny states with palace-dwelling kings)
 - Great Palace of Knossos



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Mycenaean Civilizations

- Mycenaean, an Indo-European people
 - Migrated to mainland Greece as nomadic herders
 - Became sedentary about 1600 BCE
 - invaded Crete 1450 BCE
 - Destruction of Minoan Civilization aided by volcano, earthquakes
 - Took over trading networks
- Our knowledge comes from archaeological excavations and epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, Homer's epic poems
- Trojan War – probably caused by Mycenaean's trade rivalry with Troy
- Mycenaean engaged in extensive internal warfare
 - Fell to the Dorians
 - Dark Ages began as culture declined (1100-800 BCE)





Early Hellenic Civilization

The Polis (pl poleis)

- Community of free persons making up a town (city-state)
- Could be any size: Athens 300,000 people
- Each polis a political and cultural unit, but also as part of distinct “Greek” culture
- Polis, frame of reference for all public life



Early Hellenic Civilization

- Not everybody was a citizen
 - Women, resident aliens, slaves excluded
 - Included only free males over age 20
- Each polis had same economic and demographic design
 - Town of varying size, surrounded by farms, pasture, woods
 - Artisans, traders, import-export merchants, intellectuals, artists etc.
 - Most Greeks were peasants, workers



Athens and Sparta

- Two poleis dominated Greek life and politics
- They came into conflict
- Four types of government known to the Greeks
 - Monarchy (rule by a king)
 - Aristocracy (rule by “leading families”, nobility)
 - Oligarchy (rule by a few, wealthy landowners)
 - Democracy (rule by the people, majority will)

Early Athens

- Original monarchy forced aside by aristocrats
- Aristocrats gave way to oligarchs
 - Most important oligarch was Solon
 - Oligarchs gave him supreme power to deal with discontent
 - He established a constitution
- Pisistratus made himself sole ruler, gave concessions to common people
 - Tyrant: Ruler who gains power illegally
- Cleisthenes
 - Comes to power as a tyrant
 - Establishes political bodies which provide the foundation of Athenian democracy



Athenian Democracy

Ekklesia – town meeting

All free male Athenians, met on ad hoc basis

Boule

Council of 500 citizens, served 1-year terms

Day-to-day legislature, executive

All male citizens would serve at least one term

Deme

Territorial unit

Could select certain number of boule members

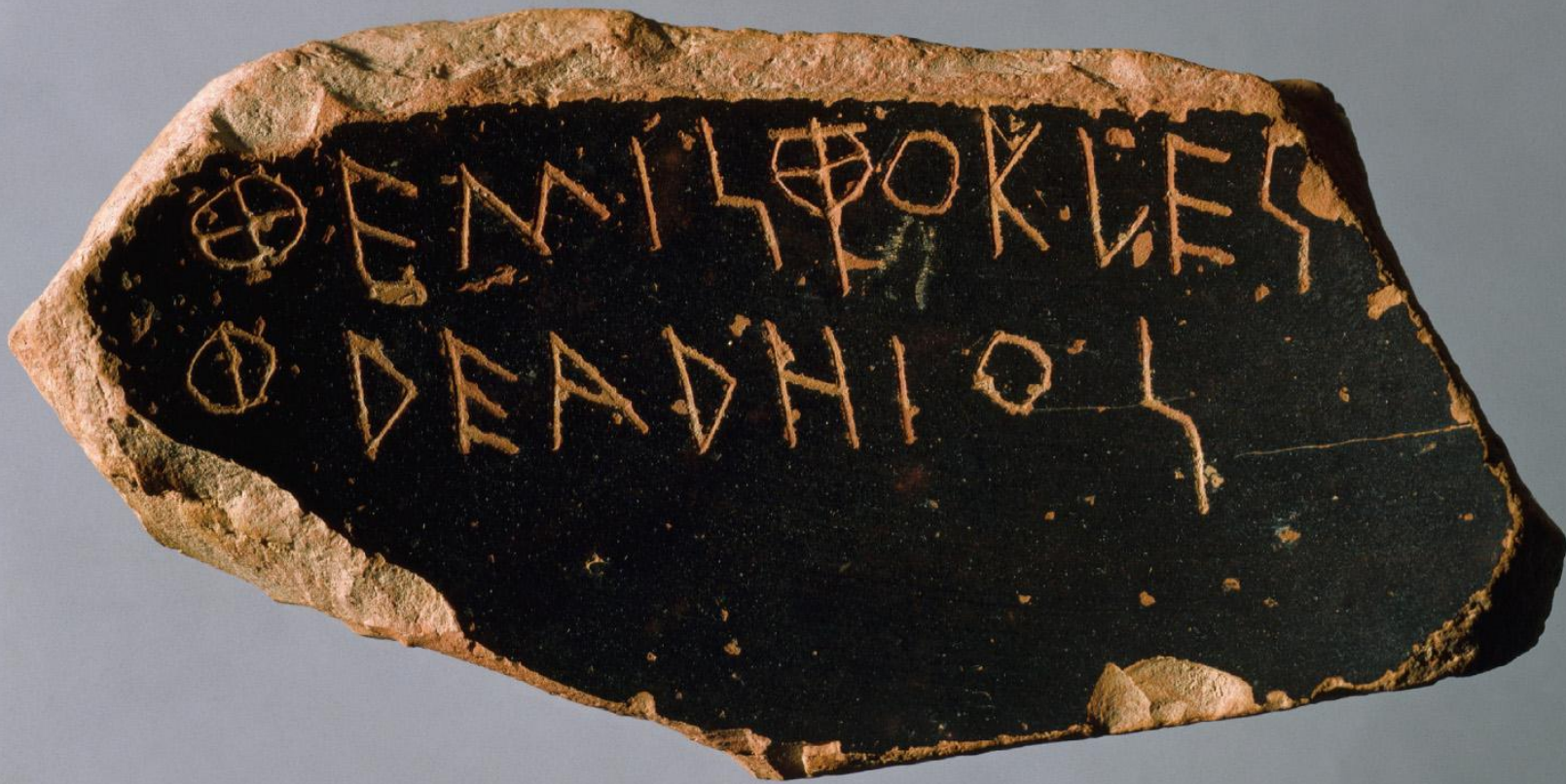
Ostracism

Ten-year exile of those who did not conform



Spartan Militarism

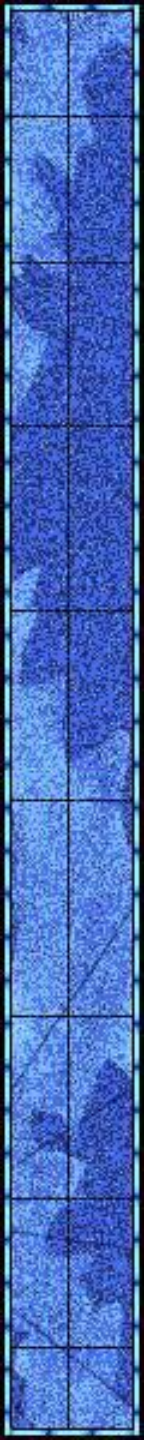
- Spartans held arts in contempt, rejected individualism
 - Public life meant total obedience
 - Government headed by ephors (elected officers)
 - Symbolic leadership of dual monarchy
- Most Greeks admired Spartan way of life
 - Self-discipline, courage, rigid obedience, physical vigor
 - Single-minded patriotism
- Sparta was conservative, non-aggressive state
 - Army was large and feared, thus rarely used





Persian Wars

- Athens and Sparta concerned with keeping independent of foreign threat (Persia)
- First Persian War
 - Athens went to aid rebellious Greek colonies in Asia Minor (now the Turkish coast)
 - Persian emperor Darius sent army to Greek mainland
 - Persians defeated by Athens at Battle of Marathon in 490 BCE



Persian Wars

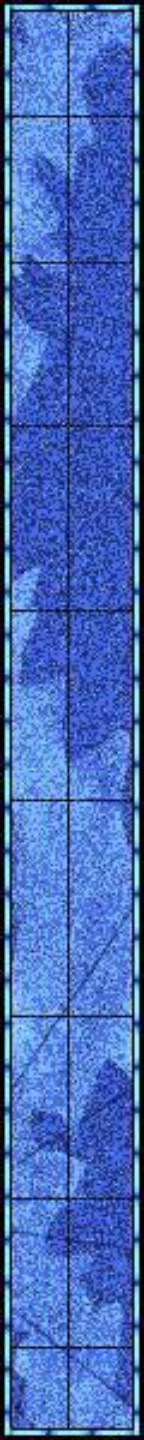
- Second Persian War (480-478 BCE)
 - Xerxes attempts second invasion overland
 - Poleis combine in joint effort to defend Greece
 - Spartan troops hold off Persians in at Thermopylae in 480 BCE
 - Athenian navy destroy Persian fleet at Salamis



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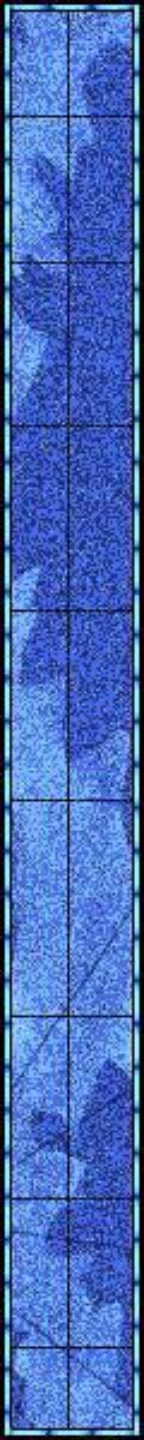
Peloponnesian War (431-404 BCE)

- Formation of Athenian-led Delian League
 - Becomes an Athenian Empire led by Pericles
- Pericles seeks to extend control to Corinth sparking war between Sparta and Athens
- Athens thought they could defend against Sparta indefinitely with superior navy
- War was an intermittently fought deadlock
- In 404 Spartans defeated Athenian navy with Persian help
- War was a loss for all concerned



Alexander and the Creation of a World Empire

- Assassination of Philip of Macedon
- Had planned to invade Persian Empire
- Plans implemented by young son Alexander
 - Conquers Asia Minor followed by an unresisting Egypt
 - Persian heartlands invaded
 - Expands territory into the Indus basin and Bactrian cities to the north
 - The Army exhausted forces Alexander to turn back to Persia where he died a year later in Babylon at age 33



A Mixed Culture

- Alexander the Great founded greatest empire the world had ever seen
 - Founded garrison cities named after him
 - Encouraged Greek emigration and intermarriage
 - Result was a mixture of Greek and Asiatic cultures
- Territories split into kingdoms (Hellenistic kingdoms), each ruled by one of his generals
- Greek participatory polis abandoned for absolutist monarchies
- Indian Hindu/Buddhist world introduced to the Western world
- Greek realism influences Buddhist and Zoroastrian plastic arts
- Direct trade contacts between India and the Mediterranean
- Influences formation of Mauryan Dynasty and Kushan Empires in India and Central Asia



Greeks and Easterners in the Hellenistic Kingdoms

THREE MAJOR KINGDOMS:

- Ptolemaic, Kingdom of Egypt
 - General Ptolemy captured Egypt and ruled as pharaoh
 - By 100s BCE, Egypt became a hybrid society - Greeks and Egyptians intermixed
- Seleucid, Kingdom of Persia
 - General Seleucus ruled from India's borders to the Mediterranean
 - Kingdom began to lose pieces to rebels because of its large expanse
 - Immigrant Greeks mixed with locals especially in Syria and Turkey
 - When Romans invaded the western areas, most of the east was lost
- Antigonid Kingdom
 - General claimed the Macedonian homeland and part of Greece
 - Rest of Greece divided into city-states vying for political and economic supremacy
 - Fell to the Romans in the middle 100s BCE