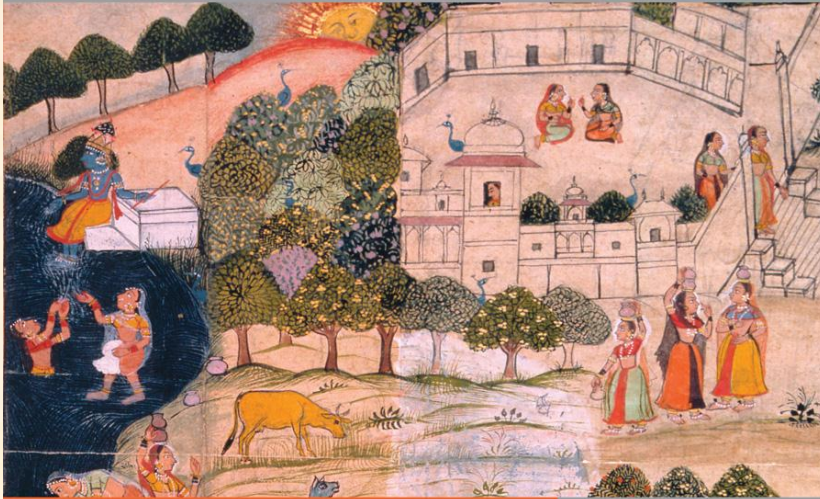


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



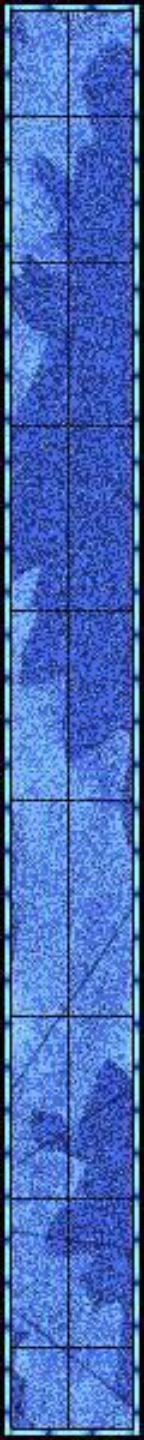
Seventh Edition

Chapter 9 Greek Humanism, 800–100 B.C.E.

776 B.C.E.	First Olympic Games
c. 600–c. 500 B.C.E.	Pre-Socratic philosophers
c. 500–c. 300 B.C.E.	Classical Age
470–399 B.C.E.	Socrates
c. 427–347 B.C.E.	Plato
384–322 B.C.E.	Aristotle
c. 300–50 B.C.E.	Hellenistic Age in eastern Mediterranean

Greek Contribution to Civilization

- Hellenic Culture: classical Greece
 - Fine arts
 - Philosophy
- “*Hellenistic*” culture/civilization synthesis of Greek and Asian culture spread as a result of Alexander the Great



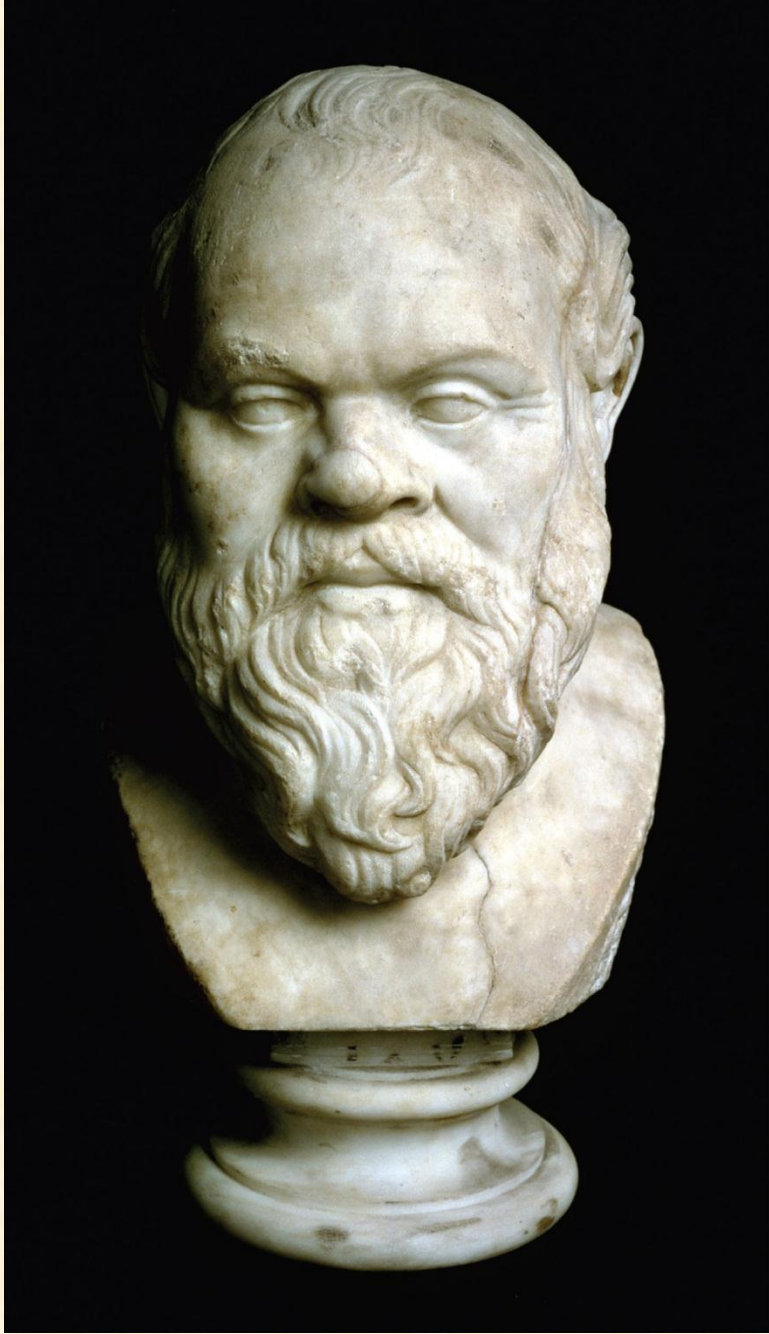
Philosophy: the Love of Wisdom

- Philosophy means “love of wisdom”
- Systematic examination of entire spectrum of human knowledge
- Three periods:
 - Pre-Socratic Period: early writings to Socrates 470–399 BCE
 - Classical Age: from Socrates to 300 BCE
 - Hellenistic Era: 300 to 50 BCE

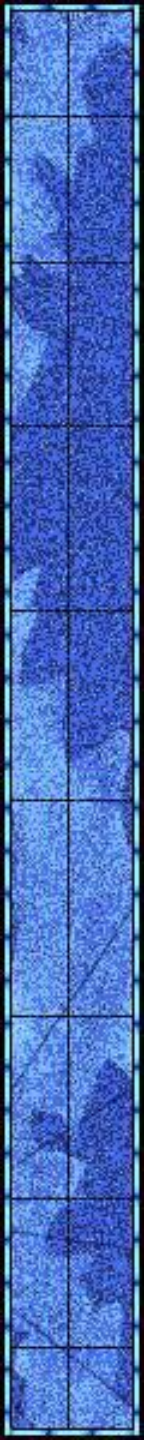


Pre-Socratic Philosophy

- Greatest contribution: concept of law in the universe
 - cosmos was result of laws of causation, thus understandable and predictable
 - did not look to gods for explanations of phenomena
- Natural law – set of phenomena in nature which explain why certain things happen
- Anaximander
 - theory of natural evolution of species
 - universe without limits
- Hippocrates
 - founder of scientific medicine
 - first great empiricist in natural sciences

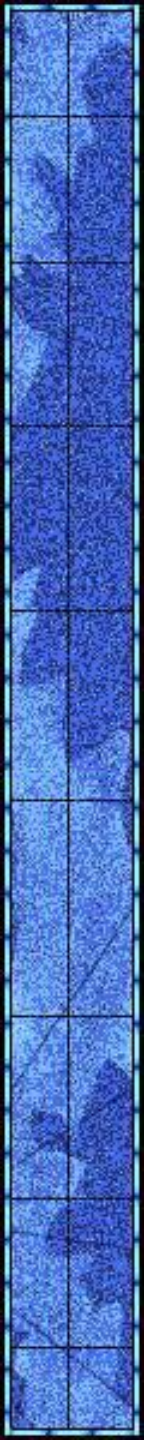


Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples, Italy/Alinari/The Bridgeman Art Library



The Classical Age: Socrates, Plato

- Socrates (470-399 BCE)
 - Focus was on questions of ethics and truth
 - Socratic method: Systematic questioning
 - Challenged students to examine, justify everything before accepting it
 - Accused of poisoning minds of the youth; found guilty; and forced to drink hemlock
- Plato (427-347 BCE, pupil of Socrates)
 - Tried to solve problem of how to recognize truth and reality (*Metaphor of the Cave*)
 - Analysis of how politics were and should be (*The Republic, Laws*)
 - Anti-democratic views because of the turmoil it created in Greece



The Classical Age:

Aristotle (384-322 BCE)

- Student of Plato
- Interested in every form of science
 - Formal rules of logic
 - Best-known works are *Politics*, *Physics*, *Metaphysics*
 - Mathematician, astronomer, botanist, student of medicine
 - Later referred to as the Master or Philosopher in both Christendom and the Islamic World.



Hellenistic Varieties

Mystery Religions

New Philosophies and Science

- **Cynicism**
 - Diogenes called for absolute simplicity and rejection of artificial divisions: political or economic
 - Rigid poverty and absence of egotism
- **Epicureanism:** founder Epicurus
 - Principle of life pleasure, avoidance of pain
 - Not self-indulgence in physical sensations
 - Inner peace through consciously rejecting values and prejudices of others and turning inward to discover what is important to you
 - Focus on finding own serenity and ignoring world affairs



New Philosophies and Science

- Stoicism
 - School founded by Zeno, a freed Phoenician slave
 - Emphasis on unity of all humanity and disdained social conventions
 - Good people obliged to participate in public life to help less fortunate
 - A philosophy of noble acts; service to one's fellows and the recognition that all are equal
 - Success was not important: *virtue was its own reward*
 - Natural law governed human affairs
 - Following among the Romans and became the normal belief of their ruling class
 - Had largest following

Greek Science

- Pursuit of *scientific* knowledge in the Hellenistic Period
 - Erasthones accurately calculated earth's circumference
 - Archimedes: Elements of Geometry
 - Center: Alexandria, Egypt
 - Ptolemaic kings established, supported research centers, largest library of ancient world
 - Aristotle insisted on careful observation to explain causes of phenomena
 - Followers in Lyceum pursued this line of thought
 - Astronomy/cosmology of period accepted until the 16th c. CE
 - Key figures:
 - Aristarchus of Samos (310-230 BCE) – Heliocentrism
 - Hipparchus of Nicea (260-190 BCE) – attacked Heliocentrism
 - Ptolemy (2nd c. CE) proposed Geocentrism becomes standard for the next 1500 years.



Greek Religion

Polytheistic, anthropomorphic gods

- creatures molded in the human image with foibles and strengths of men and women
- Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Athena, Apollo, Demeter
- Greek civilization of the Hellenic era was **humanistic**:
 - human beings were second to gods
 - human race related to race of gods
 - both descended from the Earth Goddess
 - confidence in human qualities and ability of humans to solve any problem
 - “Man is the measure of all things” was reflected in art, philosophy, religion
- Gods were less threatening, less powerful than other people’s gods
- No priestly class



Greek Religion

- As in China, ethics came from philosophy, not religion
- Unavoidable Fate
- Golden Mean: middle ground between extremes of thought and action
 - Greeks distrusted radical measures
 - Believed person who claimed to have perfect solution was guilty of over-confidence (hubris)



Hellenistic Religions

Mystery Religions

- Worship of Greek gods like Zeus and Athena died in the East
- Greek immigrants turned to native cults:
 - Offered eternal life or earthly prosperity
 - Provided emotional support and dealt with longing for security
 - Three Cults:
 - Isis – Egyptian goddess of resurrection and renewal
 - Mithra – Persian sun god becomes god of eternal life
 - Serapis -Greco-Egyptian god replaces Osiris as god of the underworld and judge of souls
- Characteristics of **mystery religions**
 - Demanded faith over reason
 - Promised eternal life - life would overcome death
 - Afterworld more pleasant place than present
 - Deities were universal gods
 - Stage was set for the triumph of Christianity



*Scientists'
Reconstruction*

Louisa Gouliamaki/AFP/Getty Images

*Original
Antikythera
Mechanism*





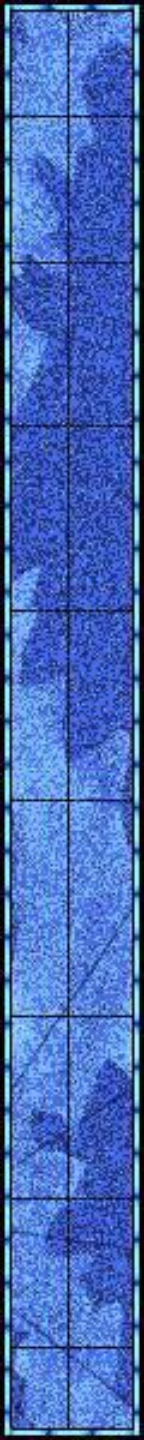
Arts and Literature

- Three major art forms
 - Drama
 - Lyric poetry
 - Sappho of Lesbos
 - Classical architecture
- Pictorial, sculpture and architectural art
 - Harmony, symmetry
 - Ideal beauty of human body
 - Grace, strength



Literature

- Literature took several forms
 - Poetry, highly developed
 - Drama, one of most popular arts
 - Dance music intensely cultivated
 - Reed, string instruments
- Greeks prized craftsmanship
 - Ceramics in great demand
 - Clay jugs used in export trade



Art and Literature in the Hellenistic Age

Literature

- Artistic inspiration and execution declined
- Many imitators, but few original thinkers
- Main centers of literature: Alexandria, Rhodes, Pergamum, not in Athens or Greece

Plastic arts

- More great sculpture and buildings created in the East than in Greece
- Richest cities found there, along with wealthiest inhabitants

Sculpture and architecture

- Impressive – more superior to the literary works
- Mastery of stone continued and developed: *Laocoön*, *The Dying Gaul*, and *The Old Shepherdess*
- Copying of earlier forms and abundance of second-class work



Acropolis, Athens, Greece/The Bridgeman Art Library



Society and Economy

- Polis was the heart of Greek life
- small place with racially and culturally homogenous inhabitants
- Education essential for participatory government
- Was Athens the first literate society in history?

Hellenistic Age:

- True urban civilization – towns/cities more important than rural areas
- Alexandria in Egypt, Antioch in Syria, and Susa in Persia dominated
- Towns were centers of commerce and learning with museums, libraries, and amusement halls
- Sense of community - came from different social and ethnic groups
- Greek language remained the tongue of the cultured, but Eastern way of life and thought became predominant

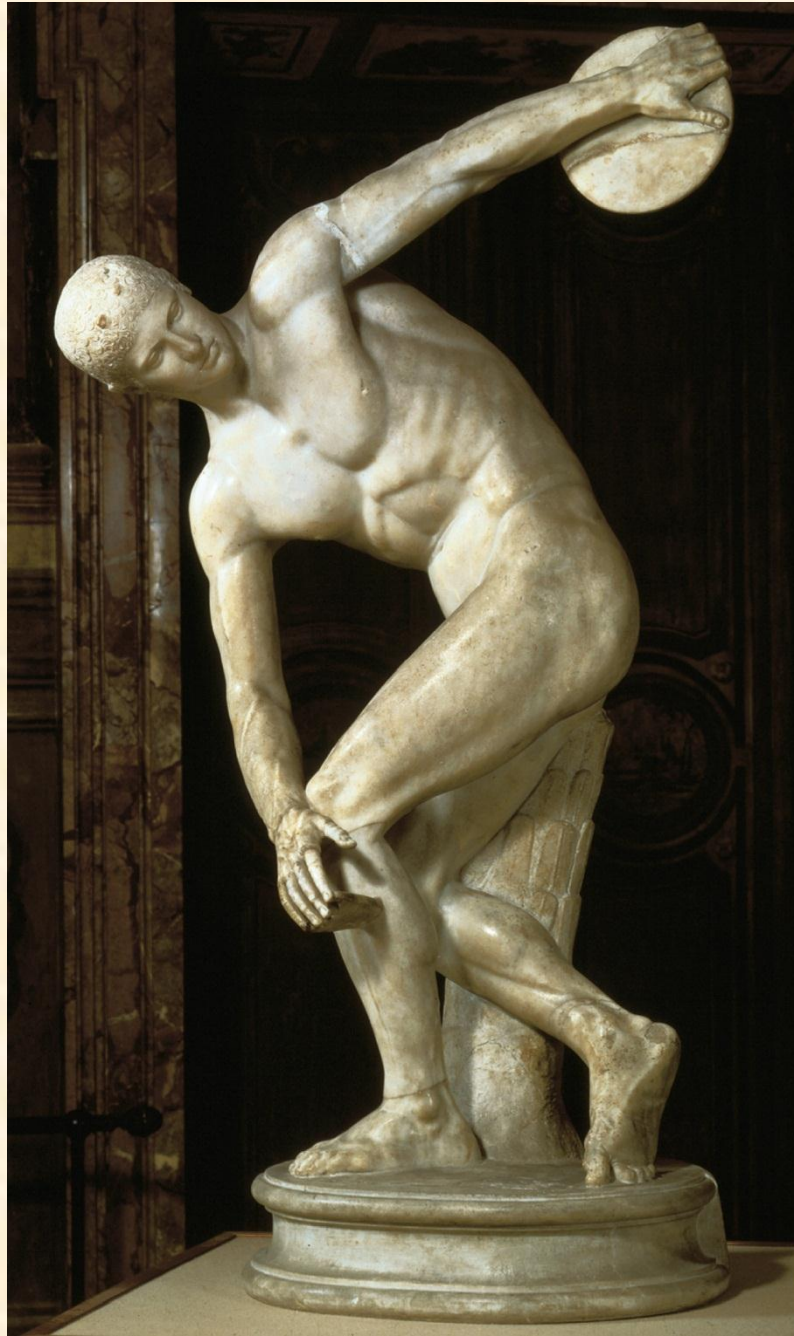


Slavery

- Slaves (Greeks and foreigners) were numerous
- Usually prisoner of wars, debtors, criminal
 - Slave status often not lifelong or inherited
- Not normally abused, many were highly prized and skilled
 - Exception those who worked in silver mines

Hellenistic era

- dramatic rise in slaves
- lifetime slave status and slavery became hereditary



Scala/Art Resource, NY

Gender Relations

- Women excluded from political and economic power
- Men distrusted, disliked women – misogyny
- Tragic heroines: Electra, Antigone, Medea, Cassandra and Artemis
- Anti-female prejudice in later Greek literature not in Homeric period
- Spartan women were free and equal



Gender Relations

- Respectable Athenian women limited to the home and segregated within house
- Poor and rural women more free and had some civic rights
- Spartan women freer than Athenian women
- Homosexuality relatively common among educated
- Women and religion
 - Participation in mystery cults
 - Oracles

Hellenistic Age

- Status of women rose in Hellenistic and Roman imperial eras
- Upper-class women handled business affairs
- No longer property of husbands/fathers, but independent and legal
- More opportunities for education
- Epicurean school admitted women
- Sports were opened to some females



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