

L2 - The Greek City States p. 80

POLIS - Greek term for city-state. We get the word "Politics" from it. Like the city-states in Mesopotamia, the Greek city-states were made up of a city and the surrounding area in the countryside.

Acropolis - the center of the city, usually a high hill - also a fortress or a religious center.

Agora - marketplace, below the acropolis

The City States:

- 1 varied in size and population. Athens=30,000, but most were much smaller. (200-2000)
- 2 people shared common identities and goals. Women, children and males were all citizens, but only males could have political rights. Foreigners, agriculture workers and slaves were considered non-citizens.
- 3 Male citizens also had to serve in the military as hoplites who were foot soldiers equipped with - shield, sword and spear.
phalanx: a tight military formation where soldiers are densely packed and work together as a unit.
- 4 did not usually agree with other city-states
- 5 had much division between the city-states.

Greek Expansion (750 BC-500 BC)

Many Greek people left the mainland to form colonies elsewhere. The most important new city was Byzantium, which will become one of the most important cities in the world.

This expansion:

- 1 spread Greek culture and ideas throughout the Mediterranean
- 2 increased trade and industry
- 3 created a new group of wealthy people who wanted political power, but couldn't wrestle it away from powerful aristocrats. (<<<define)

City-State Politics

Tyrants: seized power from the aristocrats, with the support of the people. (these tyrants do not have the same definition we use). The people supported them because they were tired of domination by aristocrats. How did they seize this power? Paid soldiers. Soon, tyranny lost popularity as well (because many of them ended up doing as they wished) and it left room for more people to participate in government.

Rule of Law: everyone must obey the laws, even the ruler

Democracy: government participation by many of the people. This is one of the lasting legacies of ancient Greece to the United States and the west.

Oligarchy: government rule by a few people.

Two city-states were rivals and did not see things at all alike:

Sparta: captured other Greeks and made them "helots". Created a military state, Ruled by an oligarchy (two kings and a council of ephors)

Athens: tried many types of government before trying DEMOCRACY

Cleisthenes: created a Council of 500 and an Assembly - males only (would lead to democracy later on)