**Persians/Iran (500 BCE)** (Indo-European—along w/ Greeks & Hittites, all spoke a related language); traded minerals, textiles, & carpets

--came out of the Medes from the Zagros Mountain area; skilled horsemen

--military tactic was to overwhelm the enemy w/ infantry & cavalry while archers shot from behind

--three waves would be sent w/ the Immortals being in the third

--Immortals were always 10,000 strong & in peace time they protected the king

--Cyrus the Great (کوروش)(550 – 530 BCE)—united Persians & Medes; defeats Egypt, Babylonians, Lydians, Elamites; called

it the Achaemid Empire (def: “ancestor”); dies of flu & son Cambyses takes over (later Cambyses would die from

gangrene after an injury taken on while trying to stop a rebellion)

--Cyrus Cylinder—”first charter of human rights”—religious tolerance, abolishes slavery, freedom of choices of

professions; women had property rights & political influence

--Allowed the Jews to return & start rebuilding the temple

--Darius the Great (Δαρεῖος)(521-485 BCE)—separated in 20 districts or satrapies (satraps=governors) w/ self-rule allowing

own customs & laws (bureaucracy) allowing conquered people to live under their own laws; 4 capitols (Susa,

Ecbatana, Babylon, Persepolis); creates ghanats or underground irrigation tunnels; Great Royal Road 1600 miles long & the Red Sea-Nile River Canal; used art to illustrate an empire of cooperating people

--Xerxes—postal system, roads, common currency; borrows Egyptian writing

--Darius III—defeated by Greeks in 331 BCE; weapons could not pierce Greek armor

--Zoroastrianism:

--formed in territory now found in modern day Iran; formed by Zoroaster (Zarthustra) who left home at age 20 to

search for religious truth; he lived alone for 10 years & then had a vision; he was commended to worship God (Ahura Mazda) & fight the evil spirit of Angra Mainyu; only a portion of the Avesta survives & was written in the Gathic language; Avesta is composed of hymms or Gathas—details the fight b/t good & evil; the divine qualities of Ahura Mazda are: good mind, truth, good power, right mindfulness, perfection, & immortality; believes in a divine judgment; like Judaism an emphasis on good and evil

**Classical Civilization: Mediterranean—Greece**

I. Greece was an amalgamation of cultures—founded on the traditions of the Minoans (Crete, King Minos, Linear B written language,

Linear A not deciphered yet but we know it was derived from hieroglyphics) & Mycenaean (king or anax & priests led each acropolis, conquered the Minoans & adapted to their culture, were sea traders); adapted the Phoenician alphabet; Mesopotamian learning (weights/measures, uni-solar calendar, astronomy, musical scales), & Lydian coinage

--Minoans worshipped goddesses

--unlike China, there was the idea of active citizenship while China would have been critical of both Greece & Rome in placing

too much emphasis on laws rather than trained workers

II. Impact of geography--founded city-states then founded colonies due to geographic limitations

1. started reaching out for raw materials & places for excess pop; early trade involved the Egyptians; sea=connector

2. dev. of the trireme (Τριήρεις) w/ a bronze bow for ramming; originated w/ the Phoenicians; increase in the WWW

3. exports—wine & olive oil; imports—grain; agriculture depended on rainfall not irrigation; mined marble & clay

4. dev. of city/states (sim. to Meso); the household or oikos was the foundation of the Greek economy providing ag. wealth

5. could not use chariots, so military was infantry or hoplite oriented

--phalanx formed using a wall of men (usually 8 rows) later under Philip armed w/ 20’ spear/pikes (sarissas)

--main enemy of Greeks were themselves & the Persians who preferred archers & cavalry

--later the Romans would use flanking movements to counter the phalanx

--hoplites wore bronze Corinthian helmets, a cuirass to protect the body (could be bronze), a hoplon or shield,

bronze greaves to protect the legs, & one long & one short spear.

III. Stages of dev.

1. Dark Ages of Greece (1100 – 800 BCE) – invasion of the Dorians gradually led to the downfall of the Mycenaean; brought

Olympian gods; little written evidence

a. art is very primitive & uses basic shapes for decoration of pottery

b. dominance of the aristocrats

c. after Mycenaean’s collapses, Phoenicians gradually fill the trade vacuum; Greece adopts the Phoenician alphabet

2. Archaic Greece (800-500 BCE)-population grew, colonies, trade (coins), conquered, acquired iron to fight off Assyrians

a. dev. of the *polis* (πολις) centered around the acropolis & marketplace (agora)—each polis was composed

of several tribes & citizenship was based upon birth

i. each polis had 3 groups of people: citizens (adult males); free people w/ no rights; & non-citizens/slaves

--slavery was part of life (Aristotle had 13) & some wealthy had slaves for hire (+1000)

ii. slave & female festivals provided a safety valve for tensions to be let off

b. dev. of Sparta (militaristic, while Athens more commercial)

i. the Constitution of Lycurgus created a permanent military state

ii. military soldiers (hoplites or infantry at age 7); 3 classes: Spartans, free Greeks, helots or serfs were

enslaved people of Messenia who provided food

iii. Women had more equality than Athens; more freedom to speak out

c. dev. of Athens—Draco Law code (621 BCE) revised by Solon in 594 abolished the monarchy & sought to

help the peasants who would become the foundation for Athenian democracy; wealth came from controlling silver mines in its territory, as well as tribute from surrounding areas

i. democracy? only 20-30% were citizens (all males over age 18 after 2 years of military service), the

poorest were the *thestes* 40-50% were slaves

ii. women had no vote (*demos*=people); rule by the aristocrats (means “rule of the best”)

--female infanticide more common; women married at puberty, while men around 30; women

somewhat confined to the home

--*hetairai* or prostitutes were quite common among men

iii. Assembly wielded power—could vote on ostracism for any politician (anyone w/ +6000 votes was kicked

out); Council of 500 was created as an organizer for the Assembly

d. art begins to see larger free-standing statues

3. Classical Era (480 – 336 BCE)—Age of Pericles (Περικλῆς ) (443-429 BCE)

a. Literature & Intellectual (Philosophy)

i. Homer—*Iliad* & the *Odyssey* (actually written during the Dark Ages Period)

ii. Architecture—Parthenon; Doric, Ionic, & Corinthian columns

iii. Poetry—Sappho, Pindar

iv. Drama or tragedies: tragedies at festivals; maintained city cohesion

Aeschylus (Αἰσχύλος) wrote *Agamemnon*

Sophocles (Σοφοκλης) wrote*Oedipus Rex*

Euripides (Ευριπίδης) wrote *The Frogs*

v. First playwright was Thespis

vi. Historians: Herodotus, Thucydides, Hesiod (summary of Olympic gods)

vii. Comedy- Aristophanes (Ἀριστοφάνης)

b. Religion—no world class religion; gods were anthropomorphic & were an amalgamation of various cultures

i. 12 main gods (δωδεκα θεον) included:

Zeus (Ζεύς) king of the gods Hera (Ἥρα) the wife & older sister of Zeus

Poseidon (Ποσειδών) god of the sea Ares (Άρης) god of war & son of Zeus

Aphrodite (Ἀφροδίτη) love Hephaestus (Ἡφαιστος) god of craftsmen

Apollo (Ἀπόλλων) medicine, music, poetry, & later the (sun)

Hermes (Ἑρμῆς) messenger, commerce, & travel

Artemis (Ἀρτεμις) goddess of the hunt

ii. religious rituals were crucial & very significant for the city; communication w/ the gods was via sacrifice,

oracles (over 15 oracle sites, including Delphi are known)

c. Economics: Greece’s colonization led to its economic advancement; use of coins—each c/s issued its own

(borrowed from the Lydians)

i. w/ increase in colonization came an increase in the WWW, diffusion, & syncretinization

ii. w/ rise of trade came tensions w/ the rise of the merchant class

d. Wars w/ Persia (our accounts are Greek & not Persian) & Sparta

i. Marathon (490 BCE) defeated Darius after the Persians had destroyed Athens

--10,000 Athenians vs. 20-60,000 Persians w/ 600 triremes

--victory for Greece (192 dead vs. +6400 Persians)—double envelopment

--”myth” of Pheidippides

ii. Salamis (479 BCE) defeated Xerses & his army of 250,000; 300 Spartans led by King Leonidas hold off

Persians at Thermopylae—had total of 5,000 men; Persia won & then burned & sacked Athens

--Battle of Plataea followed which forced the Persians to leave making Athens the most powerful

--Delian League formed by Pericles--150 c/s w/ Athens as the head & supreme naval power

bringing in tribute (tribute cities had a Greek representative, proxenos, to collect); Athens also sent colonies of people (cleruchy) into new areas w/o losing their citizenship

--Pericles rebuilds Athens & Sparta doesn’t like it & forms the Peloponnesian League w/ other

city-states to protect itself against Athens’ power

iii. Peloponnesian Wars (431 – 404 BCE)—cause—the festering pimple of resentment against Athens

growing power

--Sparta wins (plague had killed 1/3 in Athens in 430 BCE) w/ financial help from Persia & the loss

of food growing areas (Attica) for Athens

--*History of the Peloponnesian War* by Thucydides

--because of the internal wars, both Athens & Sparta were weakened & the Macedonians moved

into the power vacuum

4. Hellenistic Greece (336 – ca. 30 BCE)—syncretinization (Hellenes=Greek)

a. Philip of Macedon (φίλος ίππος )(359-336) rises up as Greek c/s fight against one another

i. takes advantage of the power vacuum & new military tech., the sarissa & torsion catapult

ii. formed the League of Corinth of c/s after conquering Greece to invade Persia but was assassinated

iii. Respected Greek culture & actually helped spread it

b. Alexander the Great (Μέγας Αλέξανδρος)(356 – 323 fever) – started rule by putting down rebellions—destroyed

Thebes; took 13 years to conquer all of Persia destroyed & pillaging any city that stood in his way

i. encouraged Greek colonization—syncretinization; establishing trading empire w/ a growing aristocracy,

& urban cities of learning (Antioch, Alexandria); people able to retain own languages & religion

ii. Empire divided into three parts at Alexander’s death at age 33

--Ptolemies (Egypt & Palestine); Seleucid (Persia, Meso., Syria), Antigonoid (Macedon, Greece,

Asia Minor)

--of the 3 the Ptolemaic Empire was most successful due to its trading location at Alexandria

c. In Egyptian (Ptolemic) Empire women gained right to divorce, some movement, & had marriage contract power

d. cities grew in power & usually ruled by elite upper classes

e. into the crumbling empire of Alexander came the Romans who filled the vacuum after defeating the Greeks in

four Macedonian Wars & then later the Seleucid Empire; Ptolemy Egypt fell in 30 BCE when Cleopatra & Antony were defeated at Actium by Octavian & later committed suicide

5. Legacy of the Greeks: a philosophy that separated religion/magic from science

A. Hellenistic philosophy—300 yrs—private individual search for happ. (philosophy=lover of wisdom)

--Cynics=knowledge is relative, doubt everything & rebel against the social values; name possibly comes

from the Greek word for dog (κύων)

-main leader was Antithenes

--Stoics=universe governed by reason; goal is to end suffering through “clear judgment”; highest goal was

a life of virtue & required self-control, detachment, & fortitude; founder was Zeno

--Epicureans=philosophy should help individuals find happiness by banishing fear & ignorance; denied the

afterlife, emotions, & politics

--Sophists: a group of philosophers who used debate to teach & spread their ideas; focused more on human

issues rather than science & the universe

--Famous Philosophers:

Socrates (Σωκράτης) (430-399 BCE)—ethics, morality; knowledge=virtue; dialectic method of

questioning

Plato (Πλάτων )(428-354)—founded the Academy; wrote *The Republic* which said the wise

should rule; believed that humans could approach an understanding of the perfect forms of the absolute good, true, & beautiful

Aristotle (Ἀριστοτέλης) (382-321): founded the Lyceum; most influential; knowledge from the

senses; great classifier of all information

B. Educational & Intellectual—big advances in science

--Alexandria—library & museum

--science—Euclid (Εὐκλείδης) (geometry), Ptolomy (Πτολεμαῖος) (sun revolves around the earth),

Eratosthenes (Ἐρατοσθένης) (geography, world was round & determined the circumference), Aristarchus (heliocentric theory of the solar system)