

READ TO DISCOVER

- 1 How did the Persian Wars begin and what were their results?
- 2 What effect did Pericles's leadership have on Athens?
- 3 Why did the Peloponnesian War begin and what were its results?

IDENTIFY

Persian Wars
 Battle of Marathon
 Battle of Thermopylae
 Themistocles
 Delian League
 Pericles
 Peloponnesian War

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

The United Nations today works much like the Delian League in ancient Greece. Member nations contribute money and promise to send troops to trouble spots around the world. Use cnnfyi.com or other **current event** sources to find examples of activities in which the United Nations is involved. Record your findings in your journal.

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The Expansion of Greece

The Main Idea

Destructive wars that pitted Greeks against other powers and city-state against city-state weakened Greece.

The Story Continues *At first, the Greek city-states developed without interference from the nearby empires of Southwest Asia. Eventually, however, the mighty Persian Empire entered into Greek affairs. In 546 B.C. King Cyrus of Persia conquered the Greek colonies on the western coast of Asia Minor. Cyrus permitted these Greeks to keep their local governments. Later rulers, however, tightened Persian rule and raised taxes.*

The Persian Wars

In about 500 B.C. Greeks in Asia Minor rebelled against the Persians. Athens helped these city-states in their uprisings. This began a series of conflicts between Greece and Persia that lasted until 479 B.C. These conflicts are known as the **Persian Wars**.

The wars under Darius and Xerxes. Persian ruler Darius easily crushed the Greek revolts in Asia Minor. However, he also wanted to punish Athens for helping the rebels. Darius hoped to gain control of the Greek mainland. In 492 B.C. his forces conquered Thrace and Macedonia. Two years later, the Persians invaded Greece itself. The Athenians, although outnumbered, defeated the Persians at the **Battle of Marathon**. The Persians withdrew, and an uneasy peace lasted for 10 years.

In 480 B.C. Darius's son Xerxes led another huge Persian army and fleet against Greece. This time, several Greek city-states united to stop the Persians. The Persians had to advance through the narrow mountain pass of Thermopylae (thuhr·MAH·puh·lee). A small force led by 300 Spartans met them there. The Greeks held the pass for three days. Then the Persians found another way through the mountains and surrounded the Greeks. The Spartans, although badly outnumbered, refused to surrender. Instead, they fought until they were all killed. The Spartans' courage at the **Battle of Thermopylae** bought the other city-states time to prepare their forces.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

War memorial This present-day memorial honors the Greek soldiers who fought to the death at Thermopylae. Even today, the battle symbolizes resistance against huge odds.

Link to Today What does this memorial tell us about how modern Greeks feel about the Battle of Thermopylae?





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KEYWORD: Holt Researcher

FreeFind: Xerxes

After reading more about Xerxes on the Holt Researcher, write a paragraph summarizing his successes and failures as a leader.

The Persians then marched toward Athens. **Themistocles** (thuh-MIS-tuh-kleez), Athens's leader, told the Athenians to leave the city and escape. Xerxes's army entered Athens and destroyed it. However, Themistocles tricked Xerxes into attacking the Athenian fleet in the narrow Salamis Strait. The Persian navy was larger than the Greek navy, but the Greek ships were more maneuverable. In the narrow waters of the strait, the Greeks sank much of the Persian fleet. In 479 B.C. the Athenians and Spartans joined forces to defeat the Persians at Plataea, northwest of Athens. This ended the Persian Wars.

Results of the Persian Wars. Although Greek city-states in Asia Minor were now free from Persian rule, the Persian Empire still remained powerful. The Persians still meddled



The Persian Wars, c. 500 B.C.–479 B.C.

Interpreting Maps Some of the Greek city-states supported Persia or took no side in the Persian Wars.

- **Skills Assessment: 1. Using Geography** Why was the Persian army able to march easily through northern Greece?
- **2. Drawing Inferences** Why might some Greek city-states have remained neutral or favored Persia?

in Greek affairs and worked to prevent Greek unity. However, success against the Persians gave the Greeks confidence. The Athenians rebuilt their city and entered a period of great cultural achievement. Athens began to create its own empire in the Aegean Sea.

Although the Persians had been defeated, the threat of invasion from the Persian Empire continued. Unity among the Greek city-states seemed necessary for survival. Sparta wanted Greek unity under its own leadership, but fear of helot revolt kept the Spartans from sending troops far from home for very long. Athens was more successful, using diplomacy to form the **Delian League**, an alliance of city-states with Athens as leader. Eventually the league included 140 other city-states, who each contributed money or ships. The money was kept on the island of Delos, from which the name Delian is derived. By the 450s B.C. Athens had built an empire based on the Delian League.

✓ **READING CHECK: Drawing Conclusions** Why did the Greek city-states unite during and after the Persian Wars?

The Age of Pericles

During this time, Pericles was the leader in Athens. **Pericles** was a great general, orator, and statesman who held public office or was active in public life from 461 B.C. to 429 B.C. During those years, Athens reached its peak of power and wealth. Pericles's leadership was so important to Athenian success that this period is called the Age of Pericles.

Under Pericles, Athenian democracy reached its height. All male citizens except for the lowest class could hold public office. Officeholders were paid a salary and were chosen by lot so that no one had an advantage. Athens achieved probably the most completely democratic government in history. Remember, however, that women rarely took part in public life. Also, many other residents were not citizens or were slaves.

Pericles strengthened and extended the empire that Athens had built. He established colonies of Athenian citizens in important or rebellious areas. He used the Athenian navy to keep the Persians out of the Aegean Sea. The Athenian system of weights and measures became standard throughout the empire. The rule of Pericles brought stability and prosperity to the eastern Mediterranean region. The members of the Delian League received these benefits but lost their independence.



HISTORY MAKER

Pericles
(c. 495 B.C.–429 B.C.)

Pericles was one of the greatest Greek statesmen. He was responsible for building the Parthenon and the Acropolis. He made Athens the cultural and political capital of Greece.

Pericles came of age at a time when Greeks first used the popular vote to change politics. He defeated his enemies in war, but used trade to build unity among the Greek city-states. **How did Pericles help make Athens the center of Greece?**

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

The Acropolis Pericles rebuilt the buildings on the Acropolis after the Persian Wars. All Athenians took pride in the new look of the Acropolis. **How did the Acropolis reflect Athenian pride?**



Although government in Athens was democratic, the Delian League was not. Athens made all the decisions. According to the historian Thucydides (thoo-SID-uh-deez), one citizen gave the following advice to his fellow Athenians:

Analyzing Primary Sources

Identifying Points of View

According to this passage, how did some Athenians feel about Pericles's policies?



“Your empire is a tyranny . . . over subjects who do not like it and who are always plotting against you; you will not make them obey you by injuring your own interests . . . ; your leadership depends on superior strength and not on any goodwill of theirs.”

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*

Pericles moved the league's treasury from Delos to Athens. He used the money for the good of Athens. Pericles also forced more city-states to join the league. Sometimes Athenian forces had to put down revolts by other city-states.

✓ **READING CHECK: Summarizing** What changes did Pericles bring to Athens and to the rest of Greece?

The Peloponnesian War

Pericles failed to unite Greece under Athens. Discontent grew. Quarrels over trade divided Athens and Corinth. Tensions grew between Athens and Sparta until war broke out in 431 B.C. This war is called the **Peloponnesian War**. Athens and Sparta shared responsibility for the Peloponnesian War. The city-states had been rivals for years. As Thucydides wrote, “The Peloponnesus [Sparta] and Athens were both full of young men whose inexperience made them eager to take up arms.”



The Peloponnesian War

Interpreting Maps At the beginning of the Peloponnesian War, both Athens and Sparta had help from other city-states.

■ **Skills Assessment: 1. Locate** Locate the main allies of Athens and Sparta. **2. Drawing Conclusions** Why might Sparta be better able to win the Peloponnesian War?



The Spartans had the stronger army. They started the fighting by invading the Attic peninsula, destroying fields and villages. The Athenians withdrew behind the city walls of Athens. Because Athens had the better navy and could bring in food by ship, the Spartans could not starve the Athenians out. The siege of Athens continued for years. During this time a plague broke out in Athens, killing many people, including Pericles.

The war continued for 27 years, punctuated by periods of truce and armed peace. The struggle even spilled over into the rest of the Greek world. During one truce in 415 B.C., Athens attacked the Greek city-state of Syracuse in Sicily. Syracuse was friendly to Sparta. The Athenians were driven back with great losses, which weakened the government of Athens. For a time aristocrats seized power. The Athenian people overthrew the aristocrats and restored their democracy, but the internal fighting further weakened Athens. Sparta, with the help of Persia, finally managed to block Athens's food supply. The starving Athenians finally surrendered to Sparta in 404 B.C. Athens was reduced for a time to being a second-rate power in Greece.

After the Peloponnesian War, Greece was politically unstable. First Sparta and then Thebes tried to control all of Greece. They were defeated and wars between the city-states continued. Many Greeks felt that only a foreign power could unite Greece. It would be many years before this would come to pass. However, Greek civilization still made great advances during this time.



During the Peloponnesian War, Athenians erected monuments to soldiers killed in battle.

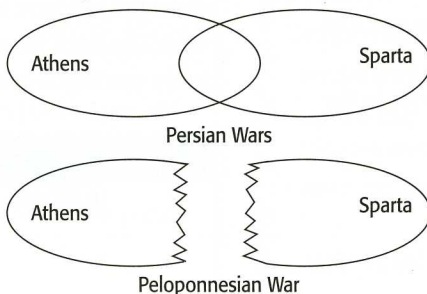
✓ **READING CHECK: Identifying Cause and Effect** Why did the Peloponnesian War begin?

SECTION 5 REVIEW

1. **Identify** and explain the significance:

Persian Wars
Battle of Marathon
Battle of Thermopylae
Themistocles
Delian League
Pericles
Peloponnesian War

2. **Comparing** Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to write a brief comparison of the relationship between Athens and Sparta during the Persian Wars and the Peloponnesian War.



3. **Finding the Main Idea**

- How did the Greek victory over the Persians help bring about an Athenian empire?
- Why did paying officeholders a salary widen Athenian democracy during the Age of Pericles?
- How did the many differences between Sparta and Athens lead to the Peloponnesian War?

4. **Writing and Critical Thinking**

Supporting a Point of View Write a letter to a friend in which you share your thoughts and feelings about Pericles's policies toward the Delian League.

Consider:

- why the Delian League was set up
- how Pericles affected the Delian League



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