

# The Peloponnesian War

LW4U1 - GRADE 12 CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION - MR. A. WITTMANN

UNIT 1 - LECTURE 10



# Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC)

- Athens set trade regulations for Corinth & Megara, but they're in Peloponnesian League
- 431 BC Spartan army enters Attica
- Athenians move people into the long walls
- Pericles Island strategy based on ceasing expansion
- Athens refuse to engage Sparta on open field
- Runs the empire & engages in naval raids on Peloponnese
- 430 BC Pericles give Funeral Oration
- 429 BC plague in Athens thus Sparta only attacks Athenian allies.
- Pericles dies, Cleon becomes the first demagogue (people rouser).

# PELOPONNESIAN WAR

Walls Protecting the City and Port,  
431 B.C.



SCALE - KM / MILES



Athens



North Long Wall

South Long Wall

Piraeus



Phalerum



# Key Developments in the War

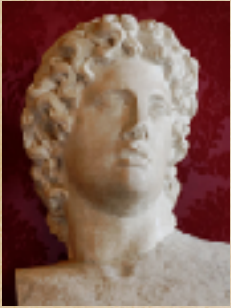
## Revolt of Mytilene (428 BC)

- Athens captures city & tries oligarchs back to Athens.
- Cleon argues to kill all the men and sell women & children, ekklesia agrees & sends a ship with the order.
- Next day Diodotus argues just kill the oligarchs & take the land, ekklesia agrees & sends a second ship, but too late.

## B. of Pylos (425 BC)

- Athenian fleet stops near Pylos.
- Demosthenes beats Corinth fleet & Cleon captures 290 Spartan prisoners (shocking - Spartans don't surrender).
- Peloponnesian League members not happy with Sparta.

# Sicilian Expedition (416-414 BC)



Alcibiades (450-404 BC)

- Immoral, ambitious, charismatic demagogue
- High birth, beauty, intellect & wickedness.



## Sicilian Expedition

- Alcibiades persuades ekklesia to attack Syracuse to expand empire.
- Night before mutation of herms & mockery of Eleusinian Mysteries.
- He recalled for trial but defects to Sparta.
- Athenians besiege Syracuse but Sparta kills them all.



# Hermes

## Decline of Athens (continued)

- 412 BC Athens losing war because of demagogues & losing money.
- Thus Athens starts suspending some democratic processes.
- Alcibiades now Spartan admiral, but he seduces Spartan queen.
- He defects to Persia & helps satrap of Sardis play both sides.
- 411 BC Alcibiades convinces Athens to restate him with Persian help
- Alcibiades & Athenian navy rebel & work for Persia
- 406 BC Alcibiades' navy defeated at B. of Naxos
- B. of Arginusae (406 BC)
  - Demagogues & ekklesia try & execute commanders

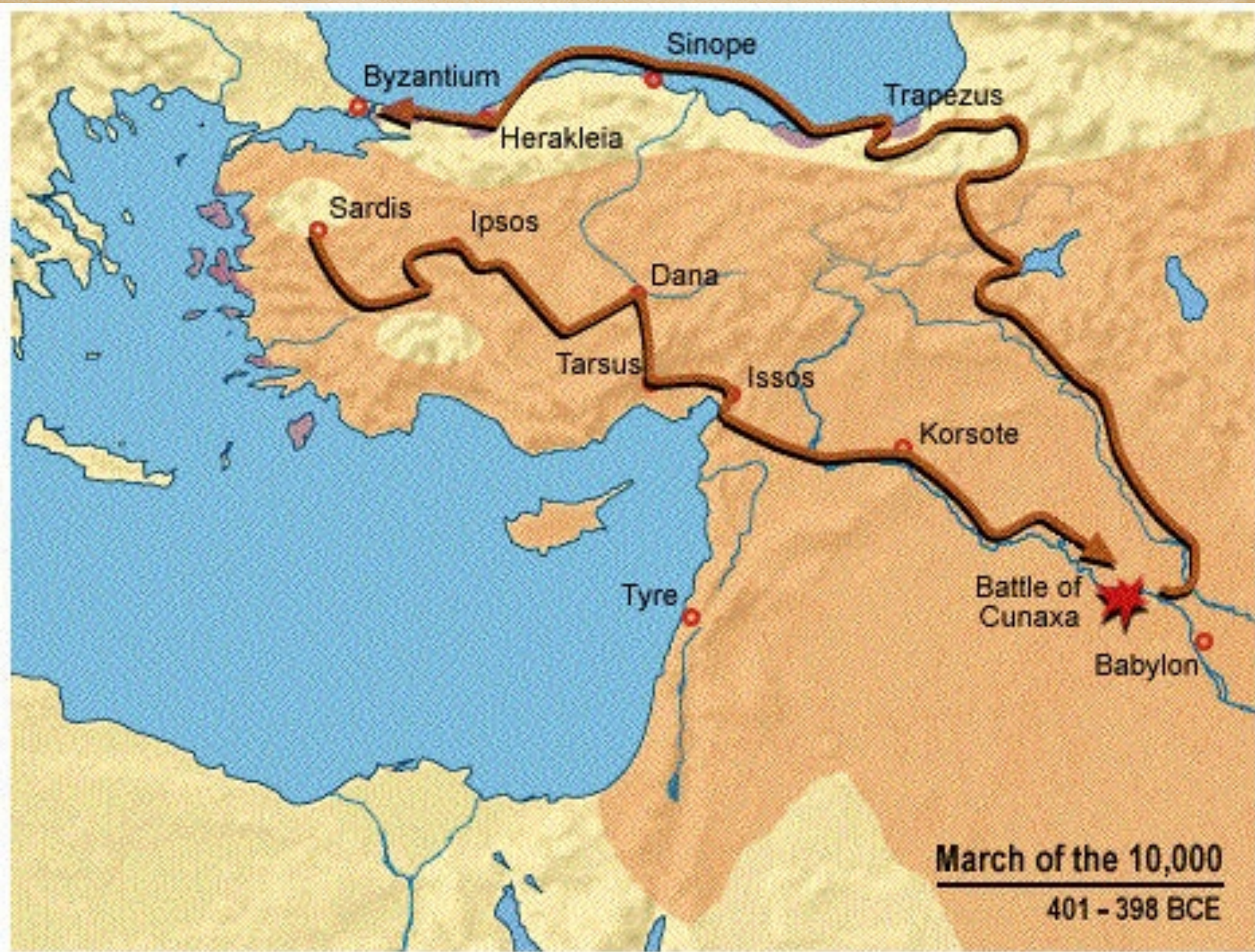
## Athens Defeated (continued)

- 404 BC Athen fleet & army destroyed at B. of Aegospotamoi.
- Athens surrenders to King Lysander of Sparta.
- Thebes & Corinth want to sack & depopulate Athens
- Sparta disagrees & Thebes & Corinth gain nothing
- Sparta est. oligarchical constitution at Athens & her allies
- Rule of 30 oligarchs
- Socrates blamed for defeat & executed
- Beginning of the end of Athenian democracy
- Sparta over stretched & man power depleted from war & Helot revolts, thus greatly weakened.



## Spartan-Persian War (399-386 BC)

- 400 BC Persian King's brother hires 10,000 Spartan mercenaries to overthrow the king & wins
- Mercenaries being used more & more.
- Persians trick & kill commanders thinking the army will disband.
- 10,000 elect new commanders & march around Asia-minor working for various satraps quelling rebellions (i.e. Black Sea Kurds).
- March of the 10,000
- Xenophon (historian) Athenian general = Anabasis
- Ionian cities ask Sparta to fight Persians & Persians hires the 10,000
- Then Sparta hires 10,000 & Persia sues for peace.
- Persia convinces Corinth, Thebes, Argos, Athens to attack Sparta.



THE END

---