

Sparta in the Archaic Period 600-500 BC

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

UNIT 1 - LECTURE 4



Hoplite/Phalanx Warfare

Developments in Sparta (Laconia)

- 1000-600 BC Dorian invaders become the Spartiates & dominate the original population & caste system develops...



- 885 or 650 BC Lycurgus established unwritten rhetia (constitution) & agoge (social & economic system)

Developments in Sparta (Laconia) continued

1st Messenian War (730-710 BC)

- Spartiates invaded & divided lots for citizens.
- Reduced Messenians to helots who worked the land & sent half the produce to Sparta.

2nd Messenian War (685-668 BC)

- Messenians helots rebel initially defeating the Spartans.
- But the Spartans eventually retake Messenia.
- Perioikoi established settled around the borders.
- Krypteria (secret police undercover as helots).
- Potential danger of helot revolts lead to slow economic development & rise of non-material military & “communistic” culture.



Peloponnesus

Spartan Rhetia

1. 2 Kings (Religious, War commander)
 - Inherited, 1 Agidae & 1 Eurypontidae, why?
2. Gerousia (counsel of 30 elders)
 - Age 60 & older elected by the apella
 - Advise the kings, veto laws, judge criminal court
3. Apella (assembly of Spartiates)
 - Age 30 & older, discuss & make new laws
 - Elect annually gerousia & ephors, vote on war & peace, confirm new kings
4. Ephors (5 overseers)
 - Any Spartiate, veto kings, apella, gerousia

Spartan Agoge

- Newborns judged as acceptable or to be exposed.
- Age 7-16 put into agela (military scout group)
- Age 16-20 become iranes ("scout leaders")
- Age 20-30 lived in barracks as soldiers in syssitia (mess groups).
 - Homosexual relations among older boys & younger boys
 - But expected to marry and start a family
- Age 30-60 in reserve army, in apella live at home & raise families
 - Full Spartiate, engaged in governing
- Forbidden to own gold or silver, engage in commerce, gain wealth
- 1st half of his life fighting, 2nd governing

Spartan Society

- Before 600 B.C., cultural arts, imported luxury goods, aristocratic patrons of the arts, and a large pottery export industry were present at Sparta.
- After 600 B.C. all these things decline and militarism rises.
- Perhaps the potential danger felt that after the Messenian revolt & unstable helot population causes the Spartans to become more militaristic way of life.
- Women had more say than women in other Greek states
- Girls lived at home, train athletically, learn about home economics to run family estates, make strong babies (tell wedding story!)

The Peloponnesian League

- Spartan militarism was not based on external conquest, but based on internal conflict
- Power was a reaction due to the internal relationships and struggles between the helots, Messenians and Spartiates.
- 600 to 550 BC gained control and supremacy of Peloponnesus through military campaigns
- Thus establishing the Peloponnesian League and exerted her influence to maintain local oligarchies.
- Thus shaping the constitutional developments of other poleis of the Peloponnesus.
- Sparta became the strongest and most influential polis in Greece, creating an empire of allies.



Sparta

THE END
