

The Persian Wars

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

UNIT 1 - LECTURE 7



Battle of Thermopylae 480 BC

Cyrus the Great

- 580 BC phil-Hellenic King Croesus of Lydia captures Ionia.
- 559 BC Cyrus of Persis becomes king of Media (Persian Empire).
- 547 BC Cyrus takes Lydia & kills Croesus (Solon pyre story).
- 512 BC Darius takes Thrace & divides Ionia into 2 satrapies.





Cyrus
600-576 BC



Darius
550-486 BC



Xerxes
518-465 BC









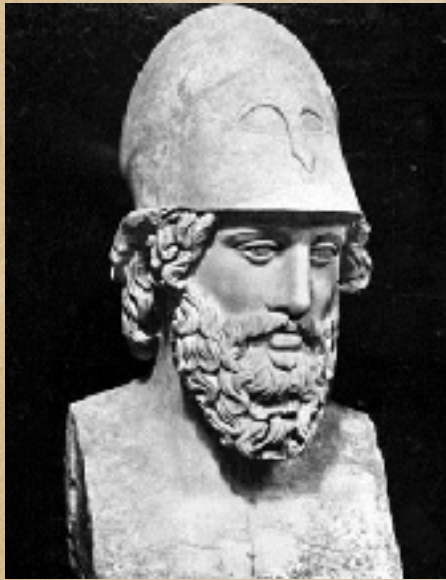
Persian Empire

Ionian Revolt (500-493 BC)



- 2 satrapies affected trade.
- Artaphernes satrap of Sardis
- Aristagoras, tyrant of Miletus
- Together fail to take Naxos.
- Artaphernes accuses Miletus of revolting to cover failure
- Attacks Ionian polities
- Athens sends ships & men
- Artaphernes defeat Ionians
- Miletus is sacked, depopulated

1st Persian War



- 493 BC Themistocles (non-eupatrid) elected archon
- Fails to persuade ekklesia to build up navy to defend against the Persians
- 490 BC Artaphernes & Hippias sack Eretria deporting Athenian land holders.
- 490 BC Athens win Battle of Marathon
- Philippides run 43km to Athens for help
- Other poleis refuse except Sparta (too late)
- Athens accuses other poleis of medizing.





Battle of Marathon

In-between the Wars

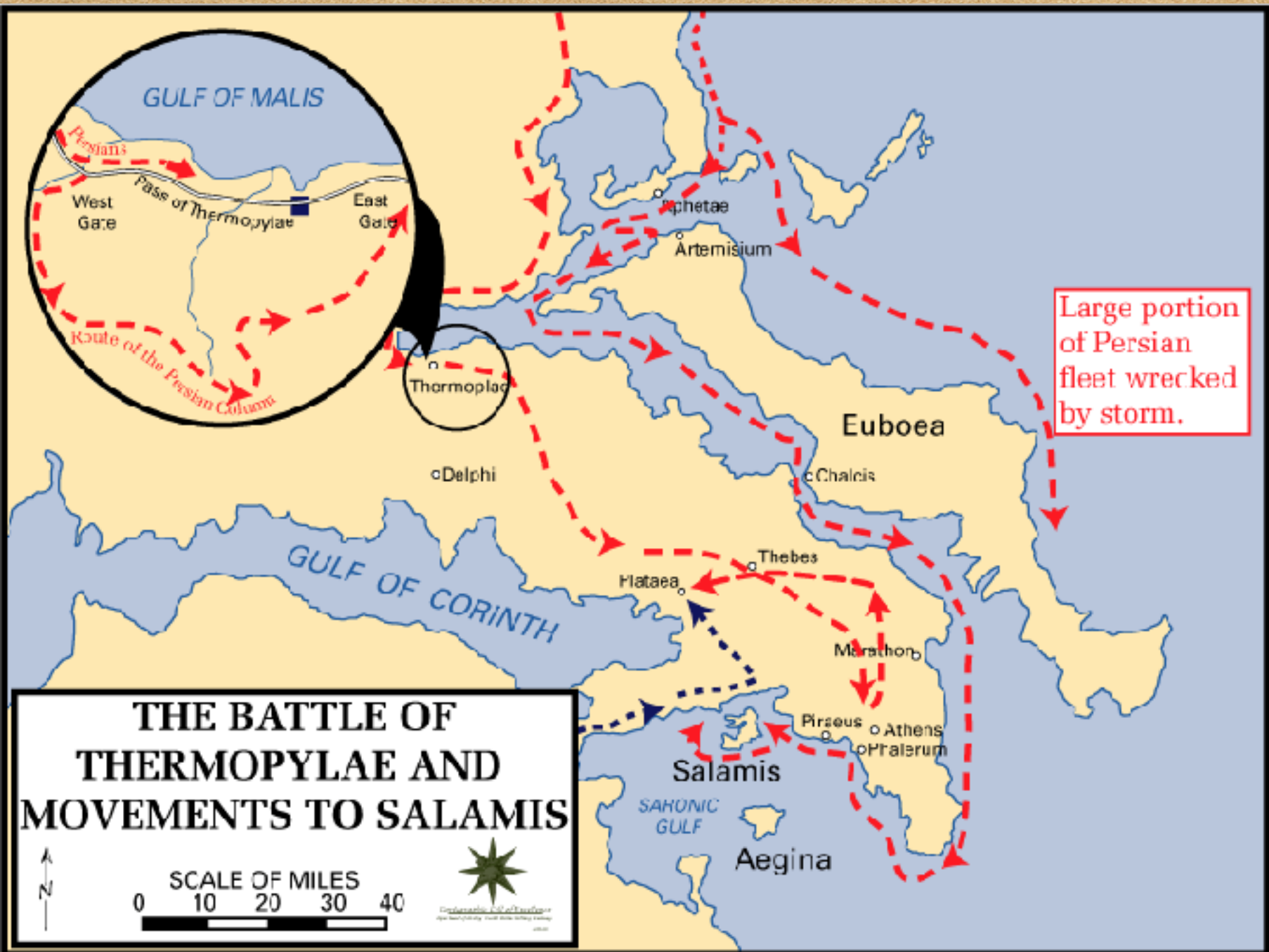
- Athenian victory convinces other poleis not to join Persians.
- Themosticles ostracizes opponents and builds navy with thetes as sailors, thus their politician power increases
- Census changed from bushels to drachma, thus more people can run for office.
- 480 BC Xerxes settles Egyptian rebellions, builds bridge over Hellespont, gets Macedonia & Thessaly to medize, but many ships lost in a storm.
- 480 BC Synedrion of Probouloi at the Isthmus of all poleis to swear to defend Greece from Persians under Sparta leadership & punish all medizers.

2nd Persian War



Death of the
Persian admiral
Ariabignes

- B. of Thermopylae (480 BC) King Leonidas leads 300 Spartans vs. 200,000 (10,000 Persian Immortals)
- Athenian navy blocks Persian fleet at Artemisium.
- Persians sack & burn Athens (previously evacuated)
- B. of Salamis (480 BC) Themistocles tricks Persians to attack the Greeks in the straits but Persian fleet is destroyed & can't supply army & Xerxes returns to Asia.
- B. of Plataea (479 BC) Greek defeat Persians, who never battle in Greece again.





Herodotus & Birth of History

THE END
