

# The Rise of Athens

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

UNIT 1 - LECTURE 9



Age of Pericles by Leo von Klenze

## Prelude to War with Sparta

- 464 BC Cimon (pro-Sparta) sends army to help Sparta.
- Sparta refuses help & Athens is insulted.
- Pericles (anti-Sparta) has Cimon ostracized.
- 458 BC Pericles settles helot refugees
- Megara & Corinth at war.
- Megara asks Athens for help, thus Corinth asks Sparta for help
- Athens defeats Corinth & controls Isthmus & Boeotia.
- 449 BC after Delian league retakes Ionia, Persia declares Peace
- Members want to dissolve league
- Athens refuses, members revolt, Athens crushing revolts.
- 443 BC Athens starts colonizing in Aegean, Sicily & Black Sea area.

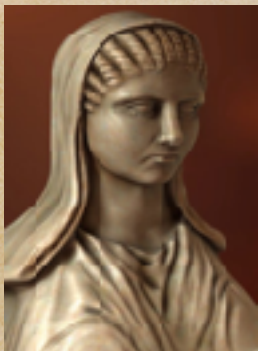
# Pericles (495-429 BC)



Pericles

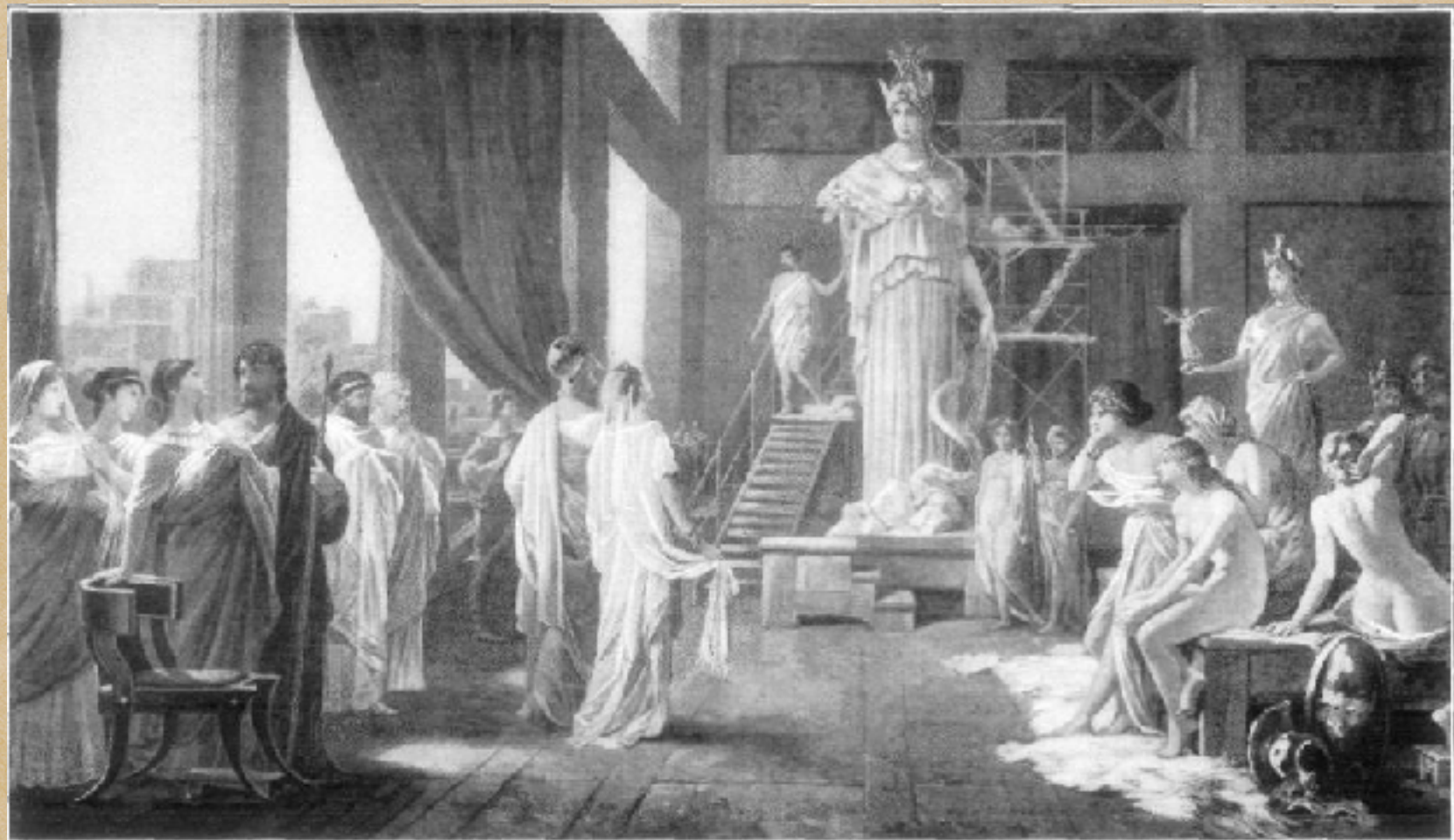


Phidias



Aspasia

- Profound influence on Athenian society.
- Turned the Delian League into an Athenian empire.
- Promoted the arts and literature & made Athens the educational and cultural centre of the Greek world.
- Classical Athens = Periclean Athens
- Est. pay for all civil servants & mandatory paid voting.
- Citizenship law stating both parents must be Athenian, limiting foreign eupatrid marriages.
- Est. liturgies for wealthy to pay for massive building.
- Hired Phidias (480-430 BC) to build.

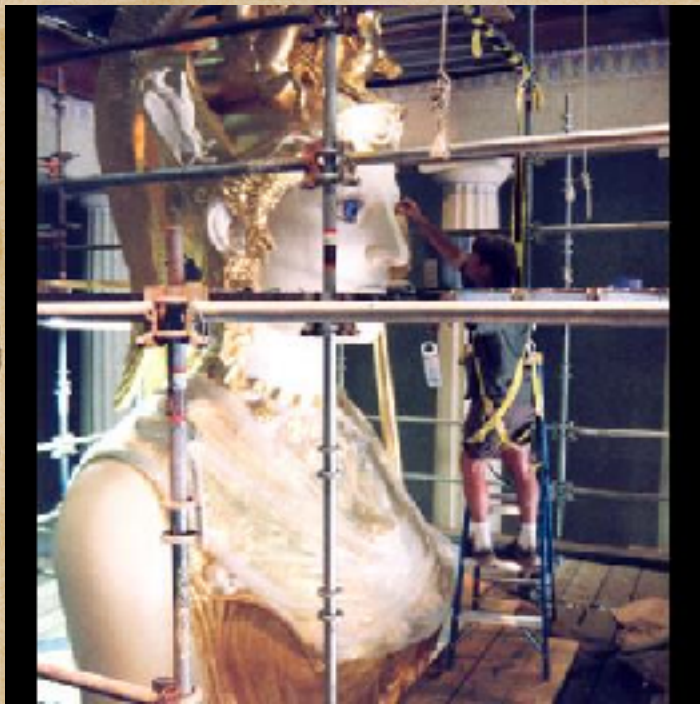


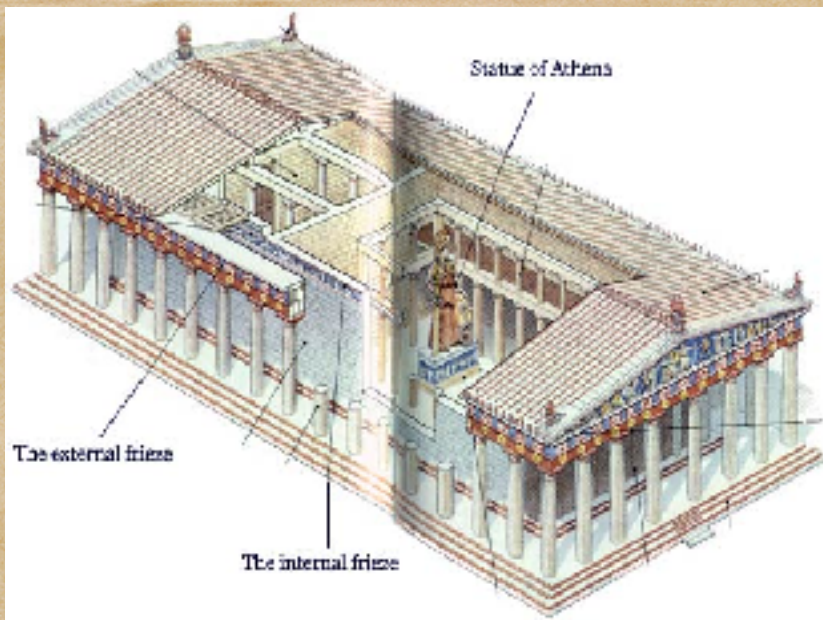
*After the painting by Hector Le Roux*

**PERICLES AND ASPASIA IN THE STUDIO OF PHIDIAS**



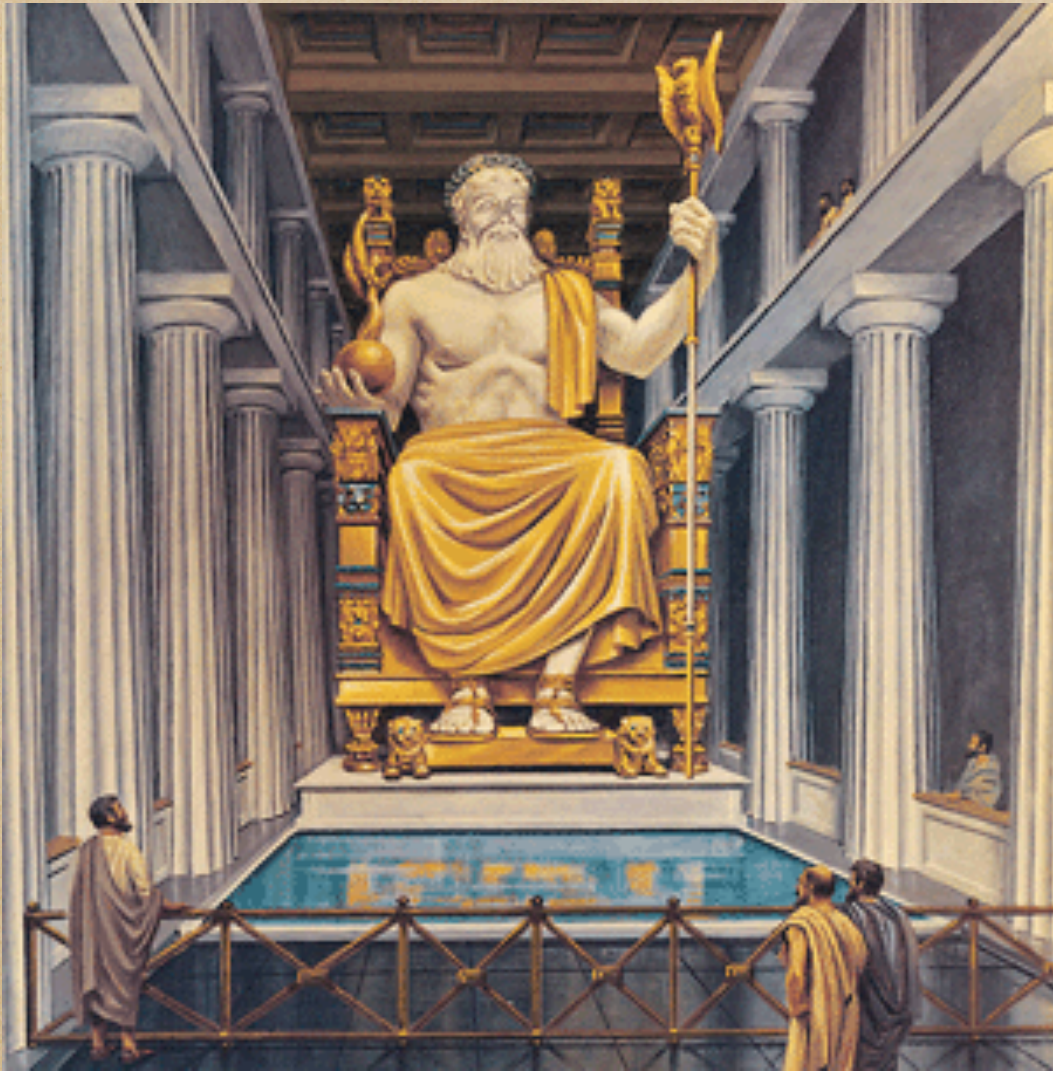
Pericles divorced his wife to marry the hetaira Aspasia





# Athena Parthenos in the Parthenon





Temple of Zeus  
at Olympia

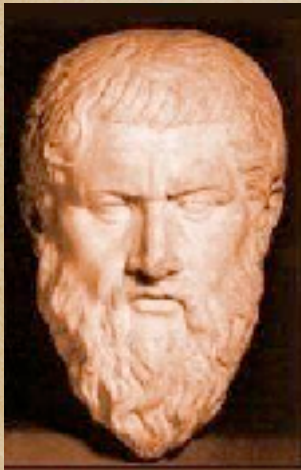


# Pericles & the Delian League

# Socrates (470-399 BC) & Plato (429-347 BC)



- Socrates
- Democracy were dangerous.
- Tried to restore the values of absolute morality, based upon reason and logic.
- Executed for corrupting youth & denying the national gods.



- Plato's Academy
- Socratic & mathematical learning for abstract philosophical truth (realm of forms or ideas)
- Hated democracy

Art

# Athenian Theatre



- Tragedy evolved from religious rites to political criticism, using old myths & stories to make statements on present issues.
- Dionysos god of fertility, thus creativity & wine thus liberation, truth, spontaneity, thus theatre started a temple of Dionysos.
- Rural & Urban Dionysia (originaly chorus & dancing)
- 540 BC Thespis first to step out of the chorus, thus the first actor introducing protagonist, antagonist & 3 party.

# Tragedy

Aeschylus (525-456 BC), general at the B. of Marathon

- Oresteia trilogy (Agamemnon, Libation Bears, Eumenidies)
- Athenian democracy solves all problems of the past & male justice (democracy) over female vengeance (furies)

Sophocles (496-406 BC), general at the B. of Samos

- Theban trilogy (Oedipus King, Antigone, Oedipus at Colonus)
- Athenian democracy hubristic & must obey the gods

Euripides (480-406 BC), social radical

- Medea, Electra, etc. very provocative plays on social issues
- Strong female characters

Aristophanes (446-386 BC), political & social comedies (Lysistrata)



Theatre

THE END

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