

COMPARING SPARTA AND ATHENS

The Greeks of Sparta and Athens spoke different dialects and developed different political systems, and very different societies. Sparta sought conformity, Athens allowed individual expression. The two city-states would serve as the role models for most other Greek city-states. The differences between the two rival city-states would lead to Greece's fall from power.

City-State	Sparta	Athens
Religion	Polytheistic – Zeus Ares – War	Polytheistic – Zeus Athena - Wisdom
Environment	Balkans Polis Acropolis	Balkans Polis Acropolis
Culture	Phoenicians – alphabet Military Fear of change	Phoenicians – alphabet Wisdom
Intellectual	Lack of imagination, curiosity Duty Strength Discipline	Eager to learn new ideas Individuality Beauty Freedom
Political	Solution to its land hunger was to conquer its neighbors, enslave them (helots) Began with Messenia, which outnumbered them 7 to 1 (750 BC) Monarchy – two kings (compromise made between two powerful families) Oligarchy – rule by a few Five ephors elected by an assembly of citizens (men over 30) Assembly Harsh laws (Lycurgus Code) Run like a military state (totalitarian)	Athens solution to growth was colonization Monarchy Oligarchy Aristocracy Tyrant Democracy (the Greeks invented democracy) Draco – written code (621 B.C.), who sought order (tough code) Solon (594 B.C.) rewrote the laws, ended debt slavery, established peoples' courts, expanded the right to vote (property, not birth) Pisistratus (560 B.C.), who exiled nobles, divided their land, encouraged trade, supported the arts, instituted new festivals; however, his son was a harsh ruler Cleisthenes (510 B.C.), he opposed class divisions based on wealth, divided citizens into 10 tribes based on where they lived, set up the Council of 500 (50 members from each tribe), made all citizens over 20 part of the Assembly (30,000), and it could choose archons and generals, used ostracism to oust unworthy, began paying officials, term limits established -three branches -trial by jury By 500 B.C. Athens was a democracy (but for only male citizens, about 20% of pop., still practiced slavery), it would blossom under Pericles
Economic	-Based on farming -Little industry -Discouraged trade (outsiders) -No coin money - Iron Bars	Trade - Sea traders Colonies -small farmers -Lots of small industry -Encouraged artisans (lured away from other places, gave them citizenship)
Social	-Structured to ensure military might -Rigid social divisions: Spartiates (full citizens), Periocy (free, but not citizens), Helots (always feared revolts, used spy networks, had helot seasons, license to kill trouble makers) -All dressed much alike, ate together (and really bad food), no luxuries -Family life sacrificed to the polis	Society also structured, but more fluid: citizens, metics, slaves (women could not be citizens) Citizens Non-citizens -women -slaves -foreigners Education was needed to promote democratic values Boys studied Homer, music, rhetoric, read and wrote poetry, gymnastics, math and science (became citizens at age 19, and