Chapter 5

Classical Greece, 2000 B.C. – 300 B.C.
2000 B.C. Minoan civilization prospers on Crete.

1500 B.C. Mycenaean culture thrives on Greek mainland.

About 1200 B.C. Trojan War takes place.

750 B.C. Greek city-states flourish.

479 B.C. Greece triumphs in Persian Wars.

334 B.C. Alexander starts to build his Empire.
Cultures of the Mountains and the Sea
Geography Shapes Greek Life

• The Sea
  – The Aegean Sea, the Ionian Sea, and the Black Sea were important transportation routes
  – Sea travel and trade are important because Greece was poor in natural resources, like timber, precious metals, and usable farmland.
• The Land

- Mountains divide Greece into a number of different regions
- Greece developed small, independent communities within each little valley and its surrounding mountains
- Only 20 percent of the land was arable

• The Greek diet included crops like grains, grapes, and olives
• The Climate
  – Varied climate
  • Winter temperatures averaging 48 degrees Fahrenheit
  • Summer temperatures averaging 80 degrees Fahrenheit
Mycenaean Civilization Develops

• Culture And Trade
  – Warrior-kings control local production and commercial trade
  • Wealthy kings used wielded bronze weapons and cups of gold
  – The common people used tools made from stone and wood
The Mycenaean invasion of Crete

- Mycenaean's preserved elements of Minoan culture
- Mycenaean value seaborne trade to islands in the Aegean, coastal towns of Anatolia, and to cities in Syria, Egypt, Italy, and Crete

The Mycenaean’s adapt the Minoan writing system to the Greek language
• **The Trojan War**
  - 1200 B.C., the Mycenaean kings fought a ten-year war against Troy
  - The Greek army besieged and destroyed Troy because a Trojan youth had kidnapped Helen, the beautiful wife of a Greek king
  - The Trojan horse
The Trojan War – fact or fictional?

- 1870 Heinrich Schliemann, a German archaeologist finds remains of city life
Greek Culture Declines Under the Dorian's

• 1200 B.C., the Mycenaean civilization collapsed

• The Dorian’s moved into the country
  – The Dorian’s spoke a dialect of Greek
  – The Dorian’s were less advanced
  – Greeks appear to have temporarily forgotten the art of writing during the Dorian Age
• Epics of Homer
  – The Trojan War forms the backdrop for Homer’s two great epic poems
    • The Iliad
    • The Odyssey
• Greeks Create Myths
  – The Greeks developed a set of myths about their gods
  • Myths are used to understand the mysteries of nature and the power of human passions
• Greek Gods
  – Zeus - king of the gods, the ruler of Mount Olympus and the god of the sky
Hera – wife of Zeus and goddess of marriage, women, childbirth, heirs, kings and empires
Athena - goddess of wisdom, warfare, battle strategy, heroic endeavor, handicrafts and reason
- Poseidon - god of the sea, rivers, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and the creator of horses
Warring City-States
Rule and Order in Greek City-States

- Greek Political Structures
  - Ways to rule a Greek polis
    - Monarchy
    - Aristocracy
    - Oligarchy
    - Representative government
• A New Kind of Army Emerges
  – A new kind of army made of merchants, artisans, and small landowners
    • Hoplites

• Phalanx
Tyrants Seize Power

- Tyrants gained control of the government by appealing to the lower classes

- New ways of governing
  - Sparta and Athens
Sparta Builds a Military State

- Sparta Dominates Messenians
  - Sparta conquered neighboring Messenia
  - The Messenians become helots
  - Spartans demanded half of the helots’ yearly crop
• Sparta’s Government and Society
  – Two groups governed Sparta
    • The assembly
    • The Council of Elders
  – Ephors carried out the laws
    • They control education and prosecuted court cases

– Two kings ruled over Sparta’s military
• Sparta’s social groups
  – The ruling families
  – Noncitizens
  – The helots
• Spartan Education
  - Men
    • Daily life centers around military training
    • At the age of seven, boys left home and moved into army barracks
    • Schooling produced toughest soldiers in Greece
– Spartan females
  • Girls would ran, wrestled, and played sports
  • Women managed the family estates while their husbands served the polis
  • Spartan women did not have the right to vote

– All forms of individual expression were discouraged
  • Spartans did not value the arts
  • Spartans valued duty, strength, and discipline over
Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

• Political Developments in Athens
  – Athenian reformers tried to create democracy

• Athenian Social Structure
  • Free adult males counted as citizens
  • Women, slaves, and foreigners living in Athens were excluded from citizenship

  – Athenian women focused on child bearing, weaving cloth, preparing meals, and managing the household
• Solon’s Political and Economic Reforms
  – 621 B.C., the Greek lawmaker Draco wrote the first legal code
    • Concerned with contracts and property ownership
    • Debt slavery - small farmers worked as slaves to repay their debts
  – Solon’s reforms
    • Debt slavery outlawed
    • All citizens participate and debate policies in the Athenian assembly
    • But, no land reforms
• Reforms of Cleisthenes
  – Cleisthenes introduces further reforms
    • Makes Athens a full democracy
    • He breaks up the power of the nobility
    • Increased the power of the assembly by allowing all citizens to submit laws for debate and passage
  • The Council of Five Hundred
• Battle at Marathon
  – Darius attacks Greece and landed 25,000 men at Marathon
  – 10,000 Athenians use the phalanx to defeat the Persians
  – Pheidippides races to Athens
• Thermopylae
  – Xerxes invades Greece

  – The Mountain pass at Thermopylae
    • 7,000 Greeks, including 300 Spartans, block Xerxes' way

  • The Greeks fought for three days before being betrayed
• Salamis
  – Themistocles convinced Athenians to evacuate the city and fight at sea
  – The Greek fleet waits at the island of Salamis
  – Greek ships use their battering rams and sink most of the Persian fleet
• Consequences of the Persian Wars
  – Athens becomes the leader of the Delian League
  • Alliance of 140 city-states
  • The league drove the Persians from the territories surrounding Greece
  • Athens uses its powerful navy to control other league members
Democracy and Greece’s Golden Age
Pericles’ Three Goals for Athens

• Stronger Democracy
  – Pericles increased the number of paid public officials
    • The poor could serve if elected
    • More citizens engaged in self-government
  – But, political rights were still limited to those with citizenship status
  – Athens direct democracy
## Athenian Democracy

- Citizens: male; 18 years old; born of citizen parents
- Laws voted on and proposed directly by assembly of all citizens
- Leader chosen by lot
- Executive branch composed of a council of 500 men
- Juries varied in size
- No attorneys; no appeals; one-day trials

## Both

- Political power exercised by citizens
- Three branches of government
- Legislative branch passes laws
- Executive branch carries out laws
- Judicial branch conducts trials with paid jurors

## U. S. Democracy

- Citizens: born in United States or completed citizenship process
- Representatives elected to propose and vote on laws
- Elected president
- Executive branch made up of elected and appointed officials
- Juries composed of 12 jurors
- Defendants and plaintiffs have attorneys; long appeals process
• Athenian Empire
  – Pericles tried to enlarge the wealth and power of Athens
  • He build's a 200-ship navy for Athens with money from the Delian League’s treasury
  • A strong navy provided the safety of its empire
• Glorifying Athens
  – Pericles beautifies Athens
  – With money of the Delian League, Athens builds the Parthenon
Greek Styles in Art

- Greek Sculpture
  - Phidias and the statue of Athena
    - Made from gold and ivory
    - It stood 38 feet tall
Greek Drama

• Tragedy
  – Aeschylus
    • Wrote more than 80 plays including the trilogy The Oresteia
– Sophocles
  • Wrote about 100 plays, including the tragedies 
    • Oedipus

– Euripides
  • Author of the play Medea
• Comedy
  – Greek comedies – satires poking fun
  – Aristophanes
    • The Birds
    • Lysistrata
Spartans and Athenians Go to War

• Peloponnesian War
  – Sparta declares war against Athens in 431 B.C.
    • Athens had the strongest sea power
    • Sparta had the strongest army
– Pericles evacuates the countryside
• Sparta Gains the Edge
  – A plague killed roughly one-third to two-thirds of Athens’ population, including Pericles

  – Athens suffered defeat at Syracuse

  – 404 B.C., Athens and its allies surrendered
• War Brings Political Changes
  – 27 years of war end
  • Athens lost its empire, power, and wealth
  • Loss of general confidence in democratic government
Philosophers Search for Truth

• Socrates
  – Believed that absolute standards did exist for truth and justice
  – He encouraged Greeks to question themselves and their moral character
  – In 399 B.C., Socrates condemned to death
• Plato
  – Student of Socrates
  – Between 385 and 380 B.C., Plato wrote The Republic
    • A vision of a perfectly governed society
    • The ideal society divided into three groups:
      – Farmers and artisans
      – Warriors
      – Ruling class
• Aristotle
  – Aristotle questioned the nature of the world and of human belief, thought, and knowledge
  – He invented a method for arguing according to rules of logic
    • He later applied his method to problems in the fields of psychology, physics, and biology
    • It provided the basis of the scientific method used today
Alexander—Empire Builder
Philip Builds Macedonia’s Power

• Philip’s Army
  – 359 B.C., Philip II becomes king of Macedonia
  – Philip transformed peasants into a professional army
    • Heavy Phalanx with 16 men across and 16 deep
    • Armed with 18-foot pikes
• Conquest of Greece
  – Athens and Thebes join forces against Philip
  – The battle of Chaeronea
  • Greek city-states come under control of Philip
  – 336 B.C., Philip is assassinated
  – Alexander proclaimed himself king of Macedonia
Alexander Defeats Persia

- Invasion of Persia
  - The battle at the Granicus River
    - Alexander defeats 40,000 Persian’s
– The battle at Issus
  • Alexander defeats Darius III army of 50,000–75,000 men
  • Darius fled the battlefield
Alexander’s Ambitions Grow

– Alexander invades Egypt in 332 B.C.
  • The Egyptians see Alexander as a liberator
  • Alexander was crowned pharaoh
  • Alexander founded the city of Alexandria
• Conquering the Persian Empire
  – The battle of Gaugamela
– Alexander’s army occupy Persia
Alexander’s Other Conquests

• Alexander in India
  – In 327 B.C., Alexander crossed into the Indus Valley

  – The battle at the Hydaspes River
Alexander turns back
– 323 B.C., Alexander and his army had returned west to Babylon
  • Alexander announced plans to organize and unify his empire
  • Alexander died one year after his return
• Alexander’s Legacy
  – Alexander’s empire divided
  • Antigonus became king of Macedonia and took control of the Greek city-states
  • Ptolemy seized Egypt, took the title of pharaoh, and established a dynasty.
  • Seleucus took most of the old Persian Empire, which became known as the Seleucid empire
The Spread of Hellenistic Culture
Hellenistic Culture in Alexandria

• Trade and Cultural Diversity
  – Alexandria becomes center of commerce and Hellenistic civilization with an international community of mixed customs and traditions
• Alexandria’s Greatest Attractions
  – Alexander’s tomb - contained Alexander’s elaborate glass coffin
– The Lighthouse of Alexandria
  • More than 400 feet tall - called the Pharos
– The Museum of Alexandria
  • The museum, housing art galleries, a zoo, botanical gardens

– The Library of Alexandria
  • Had a collection of half a million papyrus scrolls
Science and Technology

• Astronomy
  – Aristarchus of Samos
    • He estimated that the sun was at least 300 times larger than the earth
    • He proposed that the earth and other planets revolve around
- Ptolemy
  - Placed the earth at the center of the solar system, a view accepted for the next 14 centuries

- Eratosthenes
  - Calculated the earth’s true size
  - He used geometry to compute the earth’s circumference at 24,662 miles
### Greek Astronomy

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<th>The Earth</th>
<th>The Sun</th>
<th>The Solar System</th>
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<td>Eratosthenes’ estimate of the circumference — 24,662 miles</td>
<td>Aristarchus’ estimate — 300 times the size of Earth</td>
<td>Ptolemy’s view of the universe</td>
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<td>actual circumference — 24,860 miles</td>
<td>The sun is actually 1.3 million times the size of the earth</td>
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Mathematics and Physics

- Euclid

- His best-known book, the Elements, contained 465 carefully presented geometry propositions and proofs
– Archimedes
  • He estimated the value of pi (π)
  • He explained the law of the lever and invented the compound pulley to lift heavy objects
  • He invented the Archimedes screw
  • He invented a catapult or missile-throwing machine
Philosophy and Art

• Stoicism and Epicureanism
  – Zeno
    • Founded the school of philosophy called Stoicism
    • Stoics believed in a divine power who controlled the universe
    • People should live a virtuous life in harmony with natural law
    • Stoics preached that vices such as human desires, power, and wealth were dangerous distractions
– Epicurus

• Founded the school of thought called Epicureanism

• Taught that the universe was composed of atoms and ruled by gods with no interest in humans

• Believed that the only real objects were those that the five senses perceived

• Taught that the greatest good and the highest pleasure came from virtuous conduct

• Proposed that the main goal of humans was to achieve harmony of body and mind
• Realism in Sculpture
  – The Colossus of Rhodes
    • A bronze statue, more than 100 feet high
    • One of the Seven wonders of the ancient world

– The Winged Victory of Samothrace
  • Commemorates a naval victory by the Greeks