

## RIVAL CITY-STATES – ATHENS AND SPARTA

### SPARTA

**Location:** Peloponnesus

**Founders:** Dorians

**Economy:** agricultural (non-colonial)

**Labor:** helots (farm slaves or serfs) and foreign artisans provided most labor

**Social Order:** military society; boys went into military training at age 7; from ages 20-30 men did frontier military service; at age 30 they married but lived in barracks until age 60; women given physical training to increase strength to marry at 14-19 to breed sons for the military; women were not citizens but could own property and interact socially

**Government:** oligarchy evolved slowly; dual kings had military role, but did not govern; the assembly (all male citizens over 20) had general law-making role; main power was in Council of 5 **Ephors** (veto power over actions of the Assembly); a **Council of (28) Elders** formed the judiciary and counseled the Assembly and the Ephors

**Achievement:** strong military role in Greek conflicts (Persian and Peloponnesian Wars); strict military rule and tight social control stifled intellectual development, creativity, and technical advancement

### ATHENS

**Location:** Attica Peninsula

**Founders:** Mycenaeans

**Economy:** seafaring traders and some (non-colonial) agriculture

**Labor:** common people were artisans, and farmers; middle and upper class were merchants and traders; conquered people, used as slaves, did mining, farm work, and tutoring

**Social Order:** private education for males 7-18 (studies included math, literature, music, and rhetoric, as training for citizenship); 2-year military service, ages 18-20; no formal education for females, trained at home in domestic skills

**Government:** democracy evolved slowly; at first, just natural born landholders could be citizens; later, all males could be citizens regardless of class and participate in the Assembly; later, foreigners could become citizens; from 621-508 BC there were periods of rule by **tyrants** (benevolent dictators supported by the Assembly):

- **Draco** (621 BC) encoded laws; severe punishments
- **Solon** (594 BC) abolished debt-slavery; bicameral legislature (Council of 400 = aristocrats plus Assembly=commoners)
- **Peisistratus** (561 BC) reformer; redistributed land
- **Cleisthenes** (510 BC) expanded democracy; Assembly chose military high command and a lottery chose **Council of 500** (= bureaucracy); developed a large scale jury system

**Achievement:** prosperity led to an expansive creativity, especially in drama, and allowed the city to adorn itself with magnificent public buildings such as the Parthenon (c. 447)