

to move inside the city walls. The overcrowded conditions soon led to disaster. A terrible plague broke out, killing at least a third of the population, including Pericles himself. His successors were much less able leaders. Their power struggles quickly undermined the city's democratic government.

As the war dragged on, each side committed savage acts against the other. Sparta even allied itself with Persia, the longtime enemy of the Greeks. Finally, in 404 B.C., with the help of the Persian navy, the Spartans captured Athens. The victors stripped Athenians of their fleet and empire.

The aftermath of war. The Peloponnesian War ended Athenian greatness. Although the Athenian economy revived, its spirit and vitality declined. In Athens, as elsewhere in the Greek world, democratic government suffered. Corruption and selfish interests replaced older ideals such as service to the city-state.

Fighting continued to disrupt the Greek world. Sparta itself soon suffered defeat at the hands of Thebes, another Greek city-state. As Greeks fought among themselves, a new power rose in Macedonia (MAS uh dohn ee yuh), a kingdom to the north. By 359 B.C., its ambitious ruler stood poised to conquer the quarrelsome city-states.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

1. **Identify** (a) Marathon, (b) Themistocles, (c) Delian League, (d) Aspasia.
2. **Define** direct democracy.
3. Describe two effects of the Persian Wars.
4. What are three ways in which Pericles contributed to Athenian greatness?
5. How did the growth of Athenian power contribute to the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War?
6. **Critical Thinking Linking Past and Present** Compare Athenian democracy under Pericles to American democracy today. (a) How are they similar? (b) How are they different?
7. **ACTIVITY** Draw a political cartoon commenting on the causes or effects of the Peloponnesian War, from the viewpoint of either Athens or Sparta.

4 The Glory That Was Greece

Guide for Reading

- What political and ethical ideas did Greek philosophers develop?
- What were the goals of Greek architects and artists?
- How did Greek theater evolve?
- **Vocabulary** *rhetoric, tragedy, comedy*

Despite wars and political turmoil, Greeks had great confidence in the power of the human mind. "We cultivate the mind," declared Pericles. "We are lovers of the beautiful, yet simple in our tastes." Driven by curiosity and guided by a belief in reason, Greek thinkers, artists, and writers explored the nature of the universe and the place of people in it.

Lovers of Wisdom

As you have read earlier, some Greek thinkers denied that events were caused by the whims of gods. Instead, they used observation and reason to find causes for what happened. The Greeks called these thinkers philosophers, meaning "lovers of wisdom."

Philosophers explored many subjects, from mathematics and physics to music and logic, or rational thinking. Through reason and observation, they believed they could discover laws that governed the universe. Much modern science traces its roots to the Greek search for principles explaining how the universe works.

Other philosophers were more interested in ethics, or moral behavior. Their debates centered on questions such as what was the best kind of government and what standards should govern people's behavior.

In Athens, one group of thinkers, the Sophists, questioned accepted ideas about truth and justice. To them, success was more important than moral truths. They urged students to develop skills in *rhetoric*, the art of skillful speaking. Ambitious men could use clever

words to advance their careers within the city-state. The turmoil of the Peloponnesian War led many young Athenians to follow the Sophists. Older citizens, however, condemned the Sophists for undermining traditional values. An outspoken critic of the Sophists was Socrates, an Athenian stonemason and philosopher, who lived from 469 B.C. to 399 B.C.

Death of a Philosopher



"The unexamined life is not worth living," declared Socrates. True to his word, he encouraged those around him to examine their deepest beliefs and ideas. Eventually, this commitment to truth cost Socrates his life.

A wandering teacher. Most of what we know about Socrates comes from his student Plato. Socrates himself wrote no books. Instead, he lounged around the marketplace, questioning fellow citizens about their beliefs and ideas. In one dialogue reported by Plato, Socrates challenges his friend Euthyphro (yoo THIH roh) to define what actions are pious, or holy. "What is pleasing to the gods is pious," Euthy-

phro immediately responds. But Socrates refuses to accept this simple answer. Through patient questioning, he gets Euthyphro to contradict himself:

“Have we not said, Euthyphro, that there are quarrels and disagreements and hatreds among the gods?”

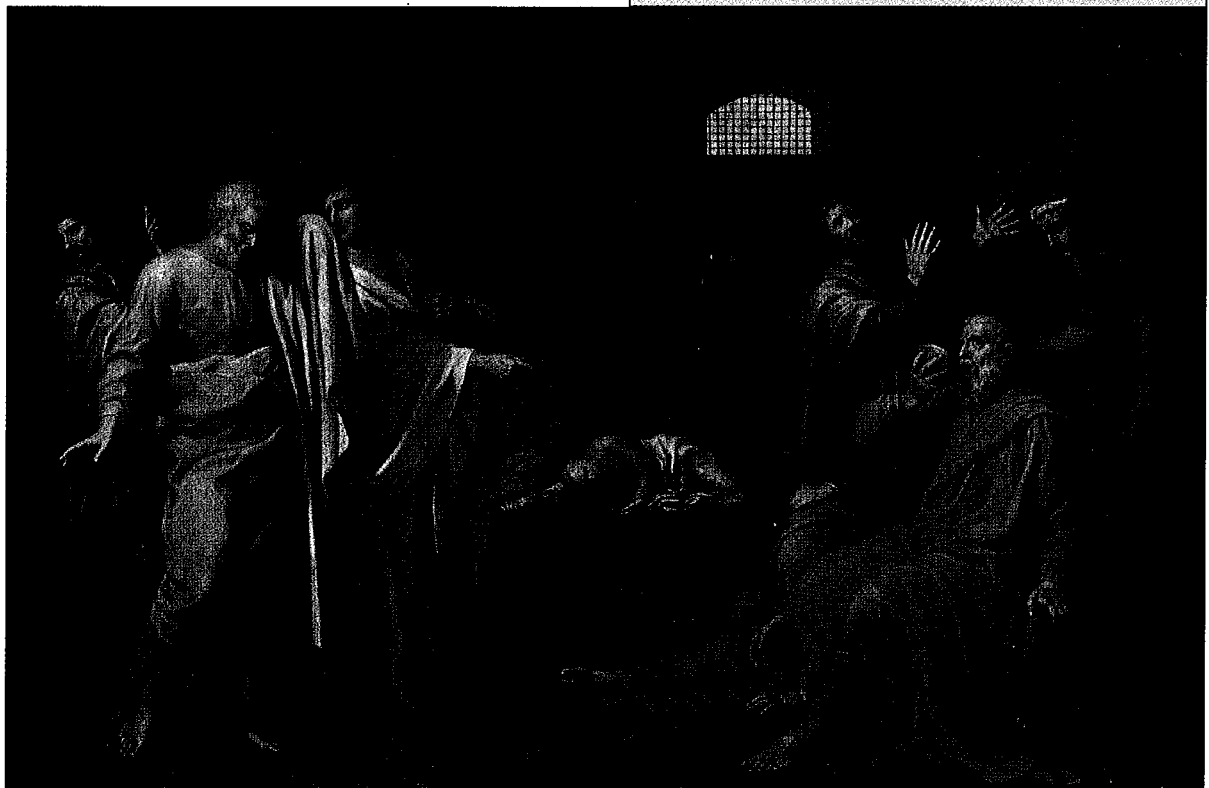
“We have. . . .”

“Then you say that some of the gods think one thing just, the other another; and that what some of them hold to be honorable or good, others hold to be dishonorable or evil; . . . and the same thing will be displeasing and pleasing to them?”

“Apparently.”

“Then, according to your account, the same thing will be pious and impious.”

Death of Socrates Socrates urged his students to question and critically examine all around them. For “corrupting the youth” in this way, an Athenian jury sentenced him to death. This French painting of the 1600s shows the condemned Socrates drinking deadly hemlock. **Impact of the Individual** Why do you think later artists like this one portrayed Socrates as a heroic figure?



This questioning process is known today as the Socratic method. To Socrates, it was a way to help others seek truth and self-knowledge. To many of his students, it was an amusing game. To other Athenians, however, it was an annoyance and a threat to accepted traditions.

Trial and execution. When he was about 70 years old, Socrates was put on trial. His enemies accused him of corrupting the city's youth and failing to respect the gods.

Standing before a jury of 501 citizens, Socrates offered a calm defense:

“All day long and in all places I am always fastening upon you, stirring you and persuading you and reproaching you. You will not easily find another like me, and therefore I would advise you to spare me.”

To the jurors, Socrates' cool reason seemed like arrogance. They condemned him to death.

His friends urged Socrates to flee. By examining the issue, however, he showed how escape would be morally wrong. “In leaving the prison against the will of the Athenians,” he asked, “do I not desert the principles which were acknowledged by us to be just?”

Loyal to the laws of Athens, Socrates accepted the death penalty. He drank a cup of hemlock, a deadly poison. Then, as the poison surged through his body, he chatted with friends and students. According to Plato, his last words were, “Crito, I owe a rooster to Asclepius. Will you remember to pay the debt?” So died the man Plato called the “wisest, justest, and best of all I have ever known.” ■

Ideas About Government

The death of Socrates so shocked and disturbed Plato that he left Athens for 10 years. When he returned, he set up the Academy, a school that survived for almost 900 years. There, he taught and wrote about his own ideas.

Plato. Like Socrates, Plato emphasized the importance of reason. Through rational thought, he argued, people could discover unchanging ethical values, recognize perfect beauty, and learn how to organize an ideal society.

In *The Republic*, Plato described his vision of an ideal state. He rejected Athenian democracy because it had condemned Socrates. Instead, Plato felt the state should regulate every aspect of its citizens' lives in order to provide for their best interests. He divided society into three classes: workers to produce the necessities of life, soldiers to defend the state, and philosophers to rule. This elite class of leaders would be specially trained to ensure order and justice. The wisest of them, a philosopher-king, would have the ultimate authority.

Plato thought that women could rank among the ruling elite of his republic. He claimed that, in general, men surpassed women in mental and physical tasks, but he thought that some women were superior to some men. Talented women, he said, should be educated and put to use by the state. The ruling elite, both men and women, would take military training together and raise their children in communal centers for the good of the republic.

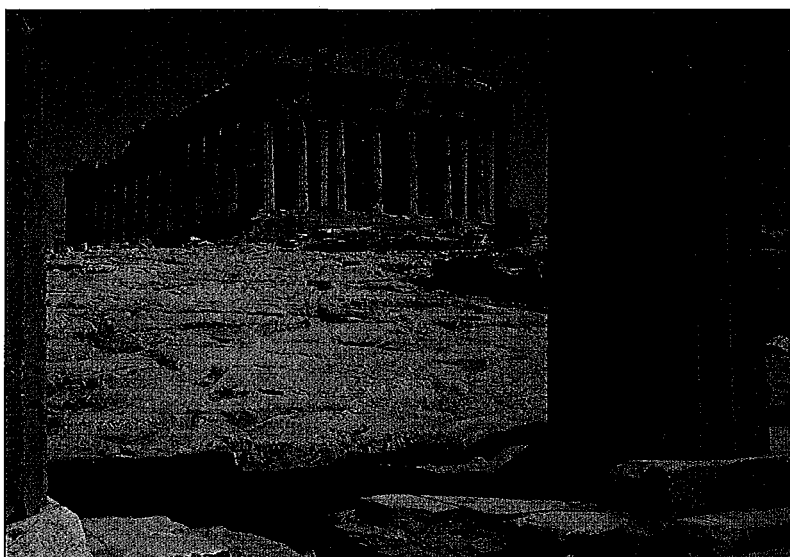
Aristotle. Plato's most famous student, Aristotle, developed his own ideas about the best kind of government. He analyzed all kinds of government—from monarchy to aristocracy to democracy—and found good and bad examples of each. Like Plato, he was suspicious of democracy, which he thought could lead to mob rule. In the end, he favored rule by a single strong and virtuous leader.

Like Plato, Aristotle also addressed the question of how people ought to live. In his view, good conduct meant pursuing the “golden mean,” a moderate course between extremes. He promoted reason as the guiding force for learning.

Aristotle set up a school, the Lyceum, for the study of all branches of knowledge. He left writings on politics, ethics, logic, biology, literature, physics, and many other subjects. When the first universities evolved in Europe some 1,500 years later, their courses were largely based on the works of Aristotle.

The Search for Beauty and Order

Plato argued that every object on Earth had an ideal form. The work of Greek artists and architects reflected the same concern with form and order.



The Parthenon Each year, armies of tourists invade Athens to gaze at the temples on the Acropolis. These buildings have been battered by 2,500 years of weather, war, and pollution. Yet they stand as proud monuments to the Greek quest for order and beauty. The most revered temple on the Acropolis is the Parthenon, shown here. **Continuity and Change** Based on this picture, what modern buildings were influenced by the style of the Parthenon?

Architecture. The most famous Greek temple, the Parthenon, was dedicated to the goddess Athena. Its builders sought to convey a sense of perfect balance to reflect the harmony and order of the universe. The basic plan was a simple rectangle, with tall columns supporting a gently sloping roof. The delicate curves and placement of the columns added dignity and grace.

Greek architecture has been widely admired for centuries. Throughout the United States today, you can see buildings that have adopted various kinds of Greek columns.

Sculpture. In ancient times, a towering figure of Athena, covered in gold and ivory, stood inside the Parthenon. Though this statue has not survived, many other works from this period show Greek sculpture at its best.

Early Greek sculptors carved figures in rigid poses, perhaps imitating Egyptian styles. By 450 B.C., Greek sculptors had developed a new style that emphasized natural poses, such as athletes in motion. While their work was realistic, or lifelike, it was also idealistic. That is, sculptors carved gods, goddesses, athletes, and famous men in a way that showed individuals in their most perfect, graceful form.

Painting. The only Greek paintings to survive are on vases and other pottery. They offer intriguing views of Greek life. Women carry water from wells, oarsmen row trading ships, warriors race into battle, and athletes compete in

javelin contests. Each scene is designed to fit the shape of the pottery perfectly. (See the picture on page 111.)

Poetry and Drama

In literature, as in art, the ancient Greeks set the standard for what later Europeans called the classic style. Ever since, writers and artists in the western world have studied the elegance, harmony, and balance of Greek works.

Greek literature began with the epics of Homer, whose stirring tales inspired later writers. Other poets wrote about the joys and sorrows of their own times. Sappho sang of love and of the beauty of her island home. Pindar's poems celebrated the victors in athletic contests. (See page 102.) Perhaps the most important Greek contribution to literature, though, was in the field of drama.

The beginnings of Greek drama. The first Greek plays evolved out of religious festivals, especially those held in Athens to honor Dionysus (di uh NĪ suhs), god of fertility and wine. Plays were performed outdoors in large theaters gouged out of the sides of hills. There was little or no scenery. Actors wore elaborate costumes and stylized masks. A chorus responded to the action by singing or chanting commentary between scenes.

Greek dramas were often based on popular myths and legends. Through these familiar

stories, playwrights discussed moral and social issues or explored the relationship between people and the gods.

Tragedy. The greatest Athenian playwrights were Aeschylus (EHS kuh luhs), Sophocles (SAHF uh kleez), and Euripides (yu RIHP uh deez). All three wrote **tragedies**, plays that told stories of human suffering that usually ended in disaster. The purpose of tragedy, the Greeks felt, was to excite emotions of pity and fear.

Aeschylus drew on tales of the Trojan Wars in *The Oresteia* (ohr eh STEE uh). This series of three plays unfolded hideous crimes of murder and revenge within a powerful family. The plays showed how pride could bring misfortune and how the gods could bring down even the greatest heroes.

In *Antigone* (an TIHG uh nee), Sophocles explored what happens when an individual's moral duty conflicts with the laws of the state. As the play opens, Antigone's brother has been killed leading a rebellion against the city of Thebes. King Creon forbids anyone to bury the traitor's body. When Antigone buries her brother anyway, she is arrested. She tells Creon that duty to the gods is greater than human law:

“For me, it was not Zeus who made that order. Nor did I think your orders were so strong that you, a mortal man, could overrule the gods' unwritten and unfailing laws.”

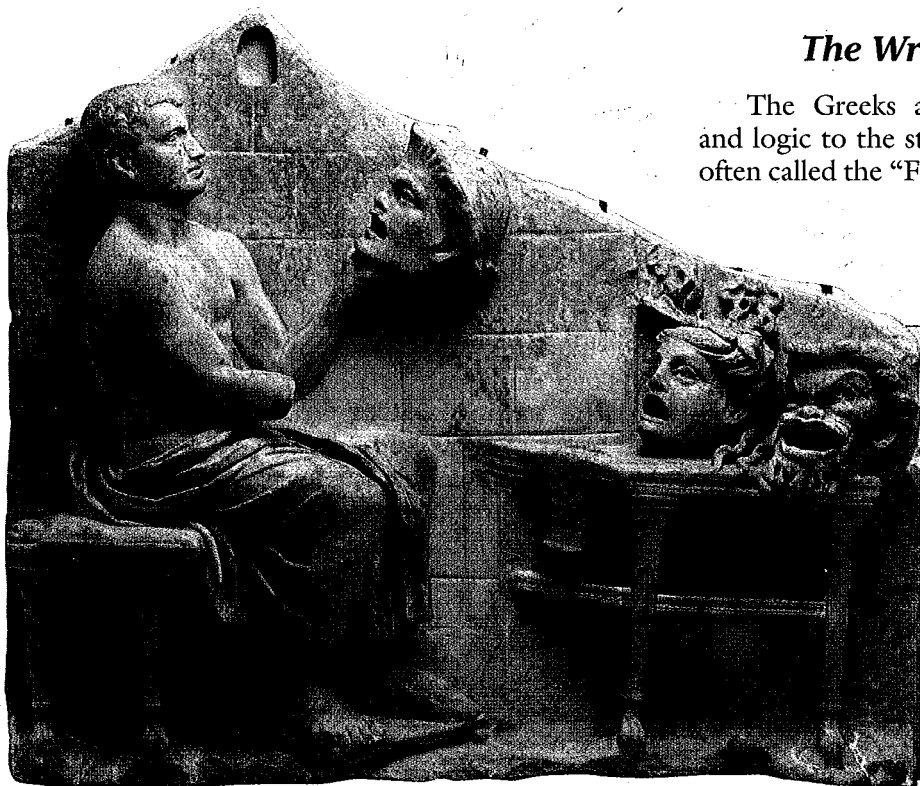
For her defiance, Antigone is put to death. Creon, too, is punished when his actions lead to the deaths of his wife and son.

Both Sophocles and Euripides survived the horrors of the Peloponnesian War. That experience probably led Euripides to question accepted ideas. His plays said little about the gods. Instead, they suggested that people were the cause of human misfortune. In *The Trojan Women*, he stripped war of its glamour by showing the suffering of women who were victims of the war.

Comedy. Other Greek playwrights composed **comedies**, humorous plays that mocked people or customs. Through ridicule, they criticized society, much as political cartoons do today. Almost all surviving Greek comedies were written by Aristophanes (ar ihs TAHF uh neez). In *Lysistrata*, Aristophanes tells what happens when the women of Athens together force their husbands to end a war against Sparta.

The Writing of History

The Greeks applied observation, reason, and logic to the study of history. Herodotus is often called the “Father of History” in the west-



Comic Masks In this marble relief, the playwright Menander looks at the masks used in one of his comedies. The masks, with their exaggerated facial features, enabled those sitting far from the stage to recognize the characters. A small mouthpiece inside the mask helped project the actor's voice. **Art and Literature** What emotions do you see in each of these masks?

ern world because he went beyond listing rulers or retelling ancient legends. Before writing *The Persian Wars*, Herodotus visited many lands, collecting information from people who remembered the events he chronicled.

Herodotus cast a critical eye on his sources, noting bias and conflicting accounts. Yet his writings reflected his own view that the war was a clear moral victory of Greek love of freedom over Persian tyranny. He also invented conversations and speeches for historical figures.

Thucydides, a few years younger than Herodotus, wrote about the Peloponnesian War, a much less happy subject for the Greeks. He had lived through the war and vividly described its savagery and its corrupting influence on all those involved. Although he was an Athenian, he tried to be fair to both sides.

Both writers set standards for future historians. Herodotus stressed the importance of research. Thucydides showed the need to avoid bias in recording the past.

SECTION 4 REVIEW

- 1. Identify** (a) Socrates, (b) Aristotle, (c) Parthenon, (d) Aeschylus, (e) Sophocles, (f) Euripides, (g) Herodotus, (h) Thucydides.
- 2. Define** (a) rhetoric, (b) tragedy, (c) comedy.
- 3.** What standards of beauty did Greek artists follow?
- 4.** (a) How were Greek plays performed? (b) What themes did Greek playwrights explore?
- 5.** (a) Why did Plato reject democracy as a form of government? (b) Describe the ideal government set forth in Plato's *Republic*.
- 6. Critical Thinking Analyzing Information** Review Socrates' statement about an "unexamined life" on page 117. (a) Restate this idea in your own words. (b) How did his actions reflect this belief? (c) Why was Socrates seen as a danger to the state?
- 7. ACTIVITY** Thucydides wrote about an event he had lived through because he believed it would still have an impact years later. Choose an event during your own lifetime that you think historians will write about 100 years from now. Write a paragraph explaining the importance of this event.

5 Alexander and the Hellenistic Age

Guide for Reading

- What were the results of Alexander's conquests?
- Why was Alexandria a center of the Hellenistic world?
- How did individuals contribute to Hellenistic civilization?

Again and again, Demosthenes (dih MAHS Athuh neez), the finest public speaker in Athens, tried to warn fellow citizens of the danger they faced. Philip II, the ambitious king of Macedonia, was gradually bringing Greece under his control:

“He is always taking in more, everywhere casting his net round us, while we sit idle and do nothing. When, Athenians, will you take the necessary action? What are you waiting for?”

When the Athenians finally took action against Philip, it was too late. Athens and the other Greek city-states lost their independence. Yet the disaster ushered in a new age that saw Greek influence spread from the Mediterranean to the edge of India.

Macedonian Ambitions

To the Greeks, the rugged, mountainous kingdom of Macedonia was a backward, half-civilized land. The rulers of this frontier land, in fact, were of Greek origin and maintained ties to their Greek neighbors. As a youth, Philip lived in Thebes and came to admire Greek culture. Later, he hired Aristotle to tutor his young son Alexander.

When Philip gained the Macedonian throne in 359 B.C., he dreamed of conquering the prosperous, warring city-states to the south. He built a superb army and hired foreign captains to train his troops. Through threats, bribery, and