

# The Peloponnesian war



**Essential Question:**

*What were the  
results of the  
Peloponnesian  
War?*





(1)

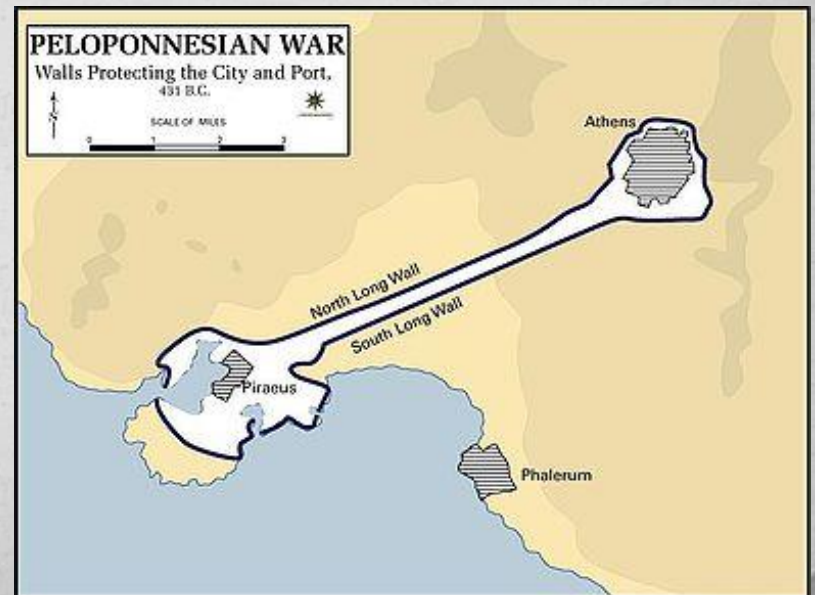
# What happened because Athens wanted more power?

- After the Persian Wars, Athens and Sparta were the most **POWERFUL** city-states in Greece
- The Athenian leaders wanted even more power over the other city-states
- Sparta **FEARED** that the Athenians were becoming too powerful
- This rivalry led to the **PELOPONNESIAN WARS**



(2)

- The Delian League that had been formed during the Persian War was now under **ATHENIAN** control
- Pericles used the money coming in to **STRENGTHEN** the city
- He built a wall to the seaport to protect incoming trade
- He strengthened the Athenian navy
- This power **PRESSURED** other city-states to come under Athenian rule









(3)

- The actions of Athens made the Spartans **NERVOUS**
- In 460 B.C., the tension between the two city-states erupted in **WAR**
- They would continue to fight for the next **15** years
- In 445 B.C., a peace treaty was signed called the **THIRTY YEARS' PEACE**
- But bad feelings still remained, and the treaty would not last...



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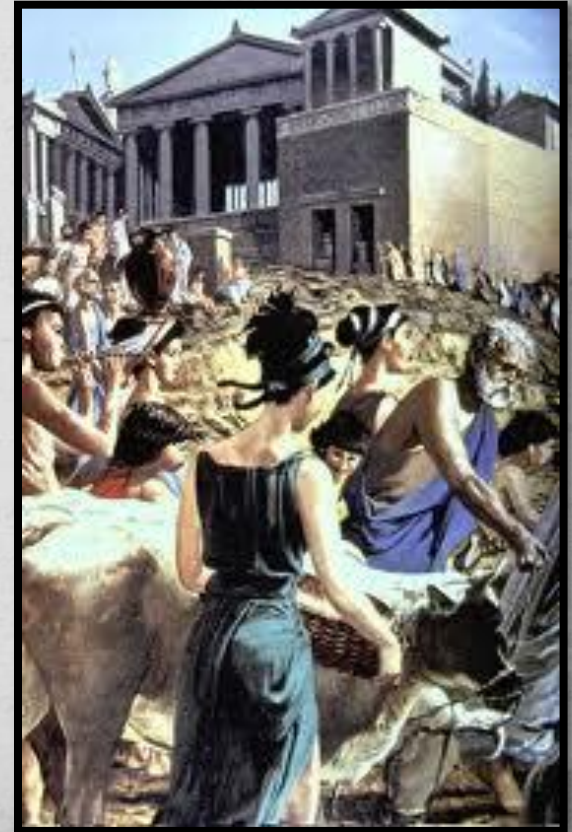




(4-5)

# How was the war lost?

- In 431 B.C., war began again, this time it would last for **27** years
- The **GOLDEN AGE** of Athens had come to an end
- The Spartans launched an attack on **ATTICA**, a city-state near Athens
- The people came inside the walls of Athens for protection
- The Spartans **DESTROYED** the countryside they left behind





(6)

- While Sparta attacked the land left in Attica, the Athenian **NAVY** attacked Sparta's allies
- Because so many people were now in Athens, a **PLAGUE** broke out and killed many people, including their leader, Pericles



- Athens had many leaders after his death, most of them only told the people what they wanted to hear

(7)



- Sparta built up its navy, with help from the **PERSIANS**
- The Spartans attacked the Athenian fleet near Hellespont and destroyed it
- Athens **SURRENDERED** to Sparta in 404 B.C.



431 BC - 404 BC

AEGEAN SEA

What caused  
Athens to lose the  
war?



(8) *How did the Spartans change the Athenian government?*

- Because they had won the war, the Spartans determined the **TERMS** of peace
- Athens had no control over land outside of its city-state
- Sparta broke up the Athenian empire, limited their navy to only 12 ships, and took control of Athens's **GOVERNMENT**





(8)

- Sparta changed the democracy in Athens to a **DICTATORSHIP**
- This new dictatorship was composed of 30 pro-Spartan leaders
- They became known as the **THIRTY TYRANTS**
- They threw the old leaders into prison, killed many Athenians, and forced many more into exile



(9)

- The Tyrants created their own laws and took away **CITIZENSHIP** from many Athenians
- Only three thousand of the richest Athenians still had the right to a trial
- The change in government greatly **ANGERED** the Athenians
- They tyrants replaced the Athenian council with their own
- They formed their own police force, this force guarded the city-state and the ports
- Democracy was **DEAD**



*How did the Spartans  
change the Athenian  
government?*



(10) *How was Athens able to regain control of their government?*

- Athens was supported by other city-states who took in the exiled citizens
- In **THEBES**, an exiled Athenian general formed an army
- The Thebans helped the **EXILES** take back the main port of Athens, the port of Piraeus
- The leader of the Thirty Tyrants **DIED** in this attack
- The tyrants requested help from **SPARTA**



(11)

- Sparta and other city-states had seen how **CRUEL** the Thirty Tyrants had been
- They began to feel **SORRY** for the defeated Athenians
- Sparta and the other city-states refused to send help to the tyrants
- The **THREE THOUSAND** Athenians regained control of their city
- They got rid of all the tyrants' laws and restored **DEMOCRACY**

(12)

- People had little **CONFIDENCE** in the government and were unsure of how to proceed
- A new Athenian **COUNCIL** gained control over the city-state, but the original form of democracy never fully recovered





How was Athens able  
to regain control of  
their government?



(13) *What problems were the city-states facing?*

- Even though Sparta had won the Peloponnesian War, they had still **SUFFERED** from all the fighting
- To gain more strength, they tried to get control of trade by conquering several city-states in Asia-Minor that were under **PERSIAN** control
- To stop them, the city-states of Corinth, Athens, and Argos formed the **CORINTHIAN ALLIANCE** in 375 B.C.
- Both sides hired soldiers, called **MERCENARIES**, to fight for them



(14)

- Sparta defeated the alliance, but the war slowed down Sparta's goals of conquest
- Athens and about 70 other city-states allied with **THEBES** to defeat Sparta in 371 B.C.
- Because of its good democracy, Thebes was now the **STRONGEST** of the city-states
- Thebes broke up Sparta's Peloponnesian League
- They formed a new league that did not include Sparta



(15-16)

- The Thebans also **FREED** the Spartan slaves and allowed them to create their own city-state, called **MESSENE**
- The city-states began to resent how strong Thebes had become
- Athens and its allies attacked **THEBES**
- Athens lost, but they managed to kill the Theban leader
- Thebes lost its **POWER** over Greece
- Conflicts were arising among all the city-states
- No one had power to control the region
- By 355 B.C., Greece had become **UNSTABLE**





What problems  
were the city-  
states facing after  
the Peloponnesian  
War?



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[Peloponnesian War 6 min](#)

# THE END?



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