

Classical Greece: The Fifth Century

(Continues)

III. Persian Wars of 490B.C. and 480B.C.

A. War of 490

1. Persians sent two military forces against two Greek cities
2. One against Eretria – Eretria was totally destroyed.
3. Another against Athens at Marathon - Persians were defeated at Marathon. Persia lost 6,440 men to Athens 192.
4. Persia did not return to Greece for 10 years because of a revolt in Egypt and the death of Darius.

B. War of 480

1. Athens discovered silver. Themistocles convinced Athens to build ships for commercial and military use.
2. The Persians, under the leadership of Xerxes, head toward Athens for war in 480.
3. The Persians built a bridge over the Hellespont so they could enter Europe.
4. Persia defeated the Spartan 300, an ally of Athens, at Thermopylae. The 300 were led by Leonidas.
5. The people of Athens fled to Salamis and the lower part of Greece. Later the Persians entered the abandoned city of Athens and completely destroyed Athens.
6. Themistocles led the Greeks and their allies in a naval battle against the Persian at Salamis. The Persian fleet was defeated at Salamis.
7. Later, the Athenians call for the creation of the Delian League to unite all of Greece against any foreign enemy. Taxes were also collected from each Greek city to support this military union. However, Athens used those taxes to rebuild their city. This was the beginning of an Athenian Empire.

IV. Pericles led in the rebuilding of Athens. Pericles wanted Athens to be the artistic, intellectual, and political center of Greece.

V. Peloponnesian War 431B.C. to 404B.C.

- A. Athens, which controlled the Delian League, tried to impose their will on the other Greek cities.
- B. Corinth persuaded the Spartans to go to war against Athens.
- C. War lasted for 27 years.
- D. In 404 Sparta, with the help of Persia, defeated Athens.
- E. With the defeat of Athens the Athenian Empire died, democracy began to die, and Greek religion began to fade.