Greece in the Dark and Archaic Ages

- Since aristocrats controlled land, they engaged in manufacturing and trade
  - Led to a new class of well to do Greeks
- Still had no political voice, since only aristocrats could hold office, and one could only be an aristocrat if he/she was born an aristocrat
- Wealthy merchants and peasants were unhappy with the aristocratic class
  - People got a chance to better their positions through warfare
    - Aristocrats used to be the only ones who fought in war
      - No government funding, so they had to buy their own supplies
      - The aristocrats recognized they were outnumbered, and didn't want to give the rest of the population a military role if they wanted to remain in their own positions
    - Large numbers of rich merchants became infantrymen known as hoplites and armies were larger
      - Larger armies abandoned chariots and duels, and fought as a large phalanx that was composed of about six ranks
    - By 650 BCE, cities such as Sparta, Argos, Corinth, and Athens all created hoplite armies
  - The First Sacred War (595-585 BCE) in which the Amphictyonic League took Cyrrha
    - Used chemical warfare to poison the water, and undertook unconditional warfare
    - Captured, cursed, and destroyed the city, and slaughtered the entire population
  - Gained a well deserved reputation as excellent soldiers, and served as mercenaries
    - Helped restore the pharaoh Psamtik I in the mid seventh century BCE

Lawgivers, Oligarchy, and Tyranny

- Merchants gained power through military positions, and allied with other suppressed groups for more political rights --> aristocrats acquiesced in fear of a rebellion
- Primary grievance was that only the aristocrats knew what the laws were
  - Between 650-600 BCE appointed lawgivers to write down the laws
    - Tried to reduce strife by giving the city the duties that families once had
    - Still did little to reduce the discontent
- Created an oligarchy based not on birth, but on wealth
  - The amount of money a person had determined his government position
  - Was still exclusive, but allowed for a bit more social mobility
- The Age of the Tyrants (650-600 BCE) was when tyrants were sponsored to overthrow the aristocracy
  - Tyrants were created from the disunity of the aristocracy and attempted to seize power by hiring a bodyguard composed of either local people or foreign mercenaries
    - Remain in power if they kept the underprivileged happy