Sparta, Athens, and the Classical Age

- Each year, nine aristocrats were selected to serve as chief magistrates, archons
  - Chief executive officer, chief priest, war leader, and six law recorders
- Ex-members became part of the Areopagus, a Council that initiated legislation, served as the supreme court, and chose the archons
- The Assembly was made up of citizens, but they could only approve measures already approved by the Areopagus

- As Athens became richer, a new merchant and farming class formed and bought their way into the army, but still could not hold power like the aristocrats
- Immigrant foreigners were also unhappy since they could never be granted citizenship
- In 632 BCE Cylon tried to become a tyrant, but failed
- In 612 BCE the aristocrats responded to discontent by hiring a lawmaker, Draco
  - Focus loyalty on the city by distinguishing between intentional murder and involuntary homicide
  - Families could no longer judge murders, which rid of vendettas
  - Used the death penalty for all sorts of crimes of all extremities and natures
  - The laws just repeated the rights of the aristocrats, and didn’t stop unrest
- In 594 gave archon Solon full authority to deal with the social and economic complaints
  - Lifting of Burdens program
    - Abolished all of Draco’s terrible laws, except for the homicide court
    - Replaced the death penalty for smaller crimes with more reasonable punishments
  - Reforms helped to ease the unrest and helped make Athens a large commercial center that could compete with Corinth
  - Appointed in 592 as Reformer of the Constitution with Full Powers
    - Changed the aristocracy into an oligarchy and divided citizens into four groups
      - 500 bushel men, pentakosiomedimnoi
      - 300-499 bushel men, hippeis
      - 200-399 bushel men, zeugitai
      - 200 or less bushel men, thetes
    - Political participation thus relied on wealth and annual income
    - Treasurers came from the top group, archons came from the top two groups, and legislative issues were overseen by the top three groups
    - The poor had little rights, but were not taxed like the other three groups
    - Introduced a popular court open to all citizens

From Oligarchy to Tyranny
- The large territory meant that it had large regional differences
Sparta, Athens, and the Classical Age

- Relied primarily on land power
  - Athens and empire representing liberalism and democracy
- Relied primarily on sea power
- Persia was on the sidelines not to fight, but to gain back the Ionian cities

The Archidamian War

- First phase, 431-421 BCE, named after Spartan king who led army into Athens to destroy crops and olive trees due to unprecedented land power
  - Pericles, however, just withdrew Athens' forces because Sparta lacked siege technology and had to end up retreating
- Neither side really was into the war, since Sparta was reluctant and Athens was just being defensive
- Athens ended up being hit by a terrible plague from being confined in such a small space
  - One of the victims included Pericles, who was replaced by Cleon
- Sparta stopped attacking Athens for fear of plague and went after its allies
  - Allied with Macedonians, captured Amphipolis, and killed Cleon
- First time Spartans ever surrendered was in 425 BCE when 120 of them were captured
- By 421 BCE, both sides just really wanted peace
  - Athenian farmers worried about destruction of crops
  - Spartans worried about population decline and helot revolts
  - The Peace of Nicias
    - Spartan prisoners returned, Athens lost Plataea but gained a port city from Megara, and basically put things all back to the status quo

The Expedition Against Syracuse

- Athenian Alcibiades made alliances with Peloponnesian cities
  - Spartan Agis II rerouted the Athenians and their allies in the Battle of Mantinea, thus boosting Spartan morale and reputation
- Athens tried to force Melos into the Delian League, but they said no and got destroyed
- Alcibiades was forced out of Athens due to false crime accusations by his enemies, so he fled to Sparta and advised them how to best defeat the Athenians
- Athens still tried to take Syracuse in 414 BCE, but with the help of Sparta, Athens retreated and ended up getting slaughtered in 413 BCE
  - Athens faced loss in war resources and many Delian League members revolted

The Decelean War

- The Decelean War (413-404 BCE) showed uncharacteristic flashes of Spartan imagination
  - Fortified Decelea so they had a permanent military base to harass Athens