



The Expanding Greek World

Messenia and Colonisation

- ▶ The 8th and 7th centuries BCE were the time of great Greek expansion overseas.
- ▶ Most poleis looked towards new territories to relieve pressures at home.
- ▶ But conquest of a nearby region was an alternative to settlement overseas.

Overseas Settlements

- ▶ There were various reasons for the establishment of overseas settlements in the archaic period.
 1. Land-hunger / overpopulation
 2. Lack of resources, mainly metals
 3. Political and/or social unrestSometimes all three...

The vast majority of overseas settlements were **NOT** official state enterprises.

On the contrary, colonisation in many cases depended on individuals who wanted a better/different life.

Changes, Crisis and Settlement Abroad

- ▶ The change in social and economic circumstances during the 8th century was translated in social crisis that often found its release in the settlement abroad movement.



The case of Taras

Aka the only Spartan settlement abroad



Taras

- ▶ Taras is a somewhat exceptional case for a Greek settlement abroad:
 1. It was established purely for reasons of political/social unrest
 2. It was a state-sponsored enterprise.

Taras: The Tradition

- 2] In speaking of the founding of Taras, Antiochus says: After the Messenian war broke out, those of the Lacedaemonians who did not take part in the expedition were adjudged slaves and were named Helots, and all children who were born in the time of the expedition were called Partheniae and judicially deprived of the rights of citizenship, but they would not tolerate this, and since they were numerous formed a plot against the free citizens; and when the latter learned of the plot they sent secretly certain men who, through a pretence of friendship, were to report what manner of plot it was; among these was Phalanthus, who was reputed to be their champion, but he was not pleased, in general, with those who had been named to take part in the council. It was agreed, however, that the attack should be made at the Hyacinthian festival in the Amyclaeum when the games were being celebrated, at the moment when Phalanthus should put on his leather cap (the free citizens were recognizable by their hair); but when Phalanthus and his men had secretly reported the agreement, and when the games were in progress, the herald came forward and forbade Phalanthus to put on a leather cap; and when the plotters perceived that the plot had been revealed, some of them began to run away and others to beg for mercy; but they were bidden to be of good cheer and were given over to custody; Phalanthus, however, was sent to the temple of the god to consult with reference to founding a colony; and the god responded, "I give to thee Satyrium, both to take up thine abode in the rich land of Taras and to become a bane to the Iapygians." Accordingly, the Partheniae went thither with Phalanthus, and they were welcomed by both the barbarians and the Cretans who had previously taken possession of the place. Strabo 6.3.2

Taras: Stories and Possibilities

- ▶ Both stories have to do with political and social unrest.
- ▶ Possibly both stories are later invention trying to explain the name Partheniai (=maiden's sons).
- ▶ Possibly Ephoros' claim that if the colony was unsuccessful the Partheniai would get 1/5th of Messenia reflects some original quarrel in Sparta about the distribution of land in Messenia



A critical time

A story of Crisis?

- ▶ The expansion towards the west and the Partheniai affair soon after suggest very strongly that Sparta was going through a crisis in the late 8th / early 7th centuries BCE.
- ▶ This crisis was paralleled in other poleis.
- ▶ This crisis, in Sparta and elsewhere, was social, economic and, consequently, political.
- ▶ The resumption and increase of long-distance trade along with renewed prosperity created inequality and a class of newly rich and influential men that were outside or on the fringes of the traditional elites.
- ▶ This new prosperity is seen not only in the increased number of grave-goods but also in the beginning of hoplite-style warfare.

Hoplites and New Men

- ▶ The evolution of the hoplite is a vastly debated subject.
- ▶ In the most basic level, the ability of more people to bear good iron arms and have heavy armour shows that they were more prosperous than before.

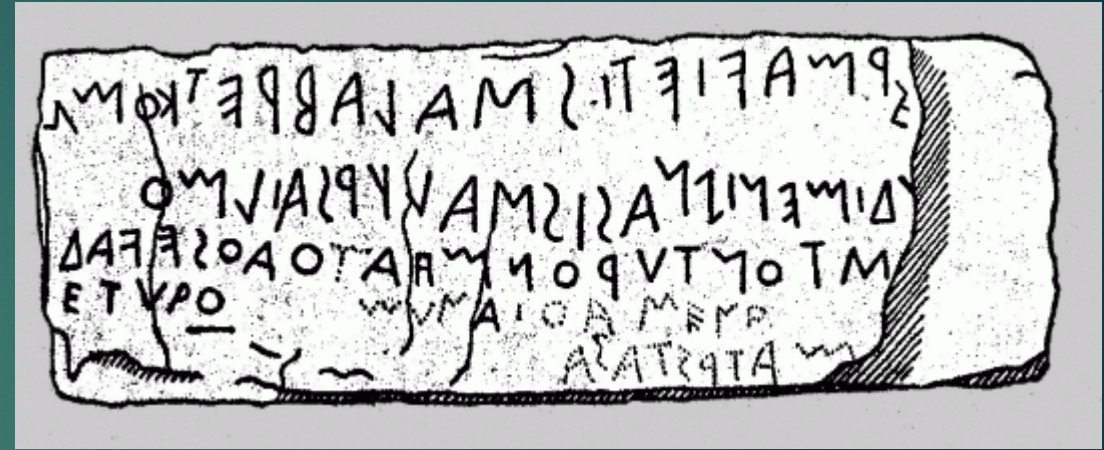


Crisis, Law and Political Reform

- ▶ In the course of the 7th century, the crisis started having consequences in the old poleis as well. This crisis and the efforts to alleviate it then found release in legislation and the writing of such legislation and, eventually, in political reform, often after a period of tyranny.

The Emergence of Written Law

- "May God be kind (?). The city has thus decided; when a man has been *kosmos*, the same man shall not be *kosmos* again for ten years. If he does act as *kosmos*, whatever judgements he gives, he shall owe double, and he shall lose his rights to office, as long as he lives, and whatever he does as *kosmos* shall be nothing. The swearers shall be the *kosmos* (.e. the body of *kosmoi*) and the *damioi*, and twenty of the city." Law of Dreros



Settlement Abroad – Connections: ~Potidaea

Almost immediately after this, fresh differences arose between the Athenians and Peloponnesians, and contributed their share to the war. [2] Corinth was forming schemes for retaliation, and Athens suspected her hostility. The Potidaeans, who inhabit the isthmus of Pallene, being a Corinthian colony, but tributary allies of Athens, were ordered to raze the wall looking towards Pallene, to give hostages, to dismiss the Corinthian magistrates, and in future not to receive the persons sent from Corinth annually to succeed them. It was feared that they might be persuaded by Perdiccas and the Corinthians to revolt, and might draw the rest of the allies in the direction of Thrace to revolt with them. Thuc. 1.56



Silver Tetradrachm Potidaea

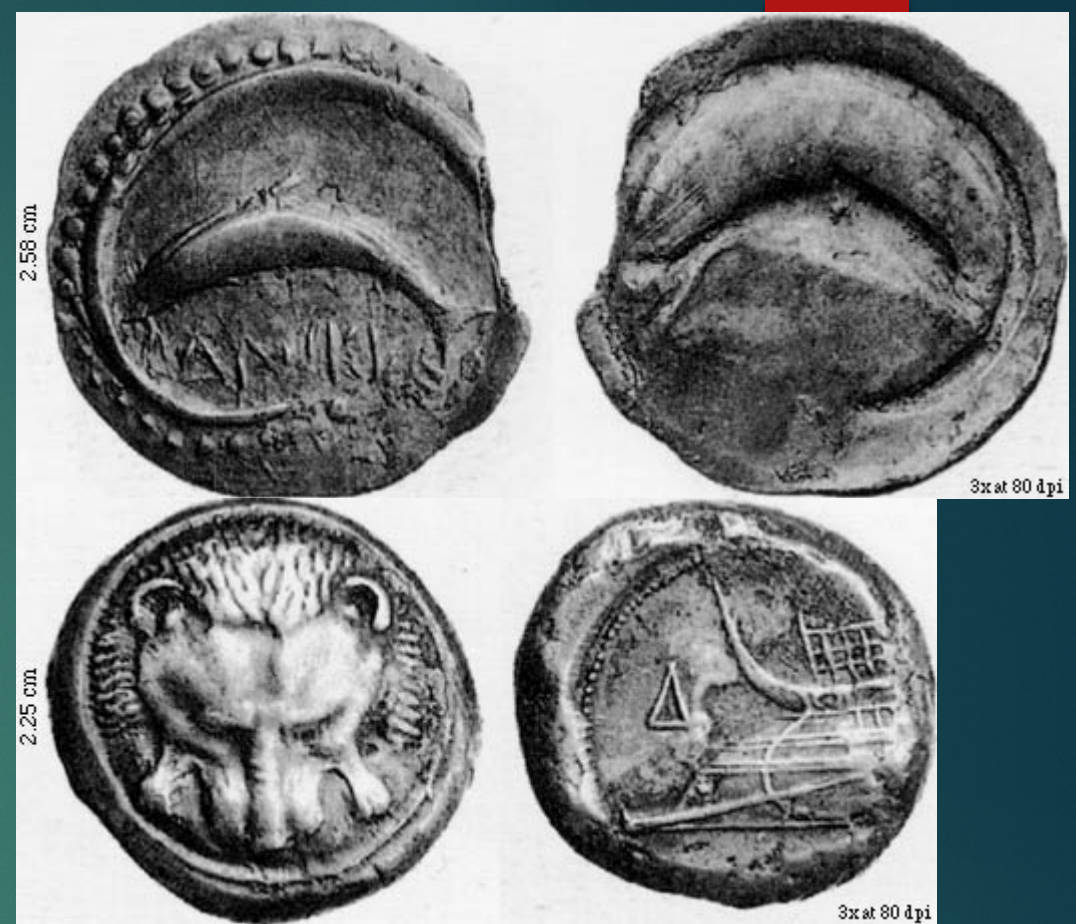


Silver stater Corinth

Settlement Abroad – Connections: Zankle

Zankle

Zankle was originally founded by pirates from Cuma, the Chalcidian town in the country of the Opicans: afterwards, however, large numbers came from Chalcis and the rest of Euboea, and helped to people the place; the founders being Perieres and Crataemenes from Cuma and Chalcis respectively. It first had the name of Zankle given it by the Sicels, because the place is shaped like a sickle, which the Sicels call Zancion; but upon the original settlers being afterwards expelled by some Samians and other Ionians who landed in Sicily flying from the Medes, [6] and the Samians in their turn not long afterwards by Anaxilas, tyrant of Rhegium, the town was by him colonised with a mixed population, and its name changed to Messina, after his old country. Thuc. 6.4



Samians at Zankle



Samos