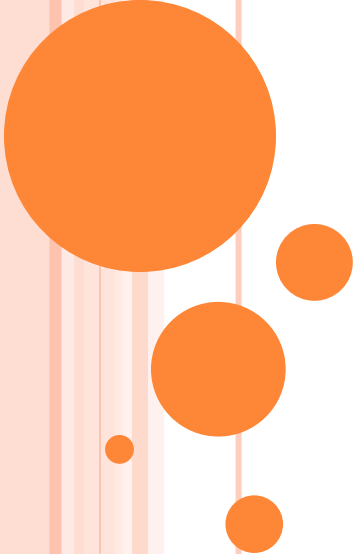
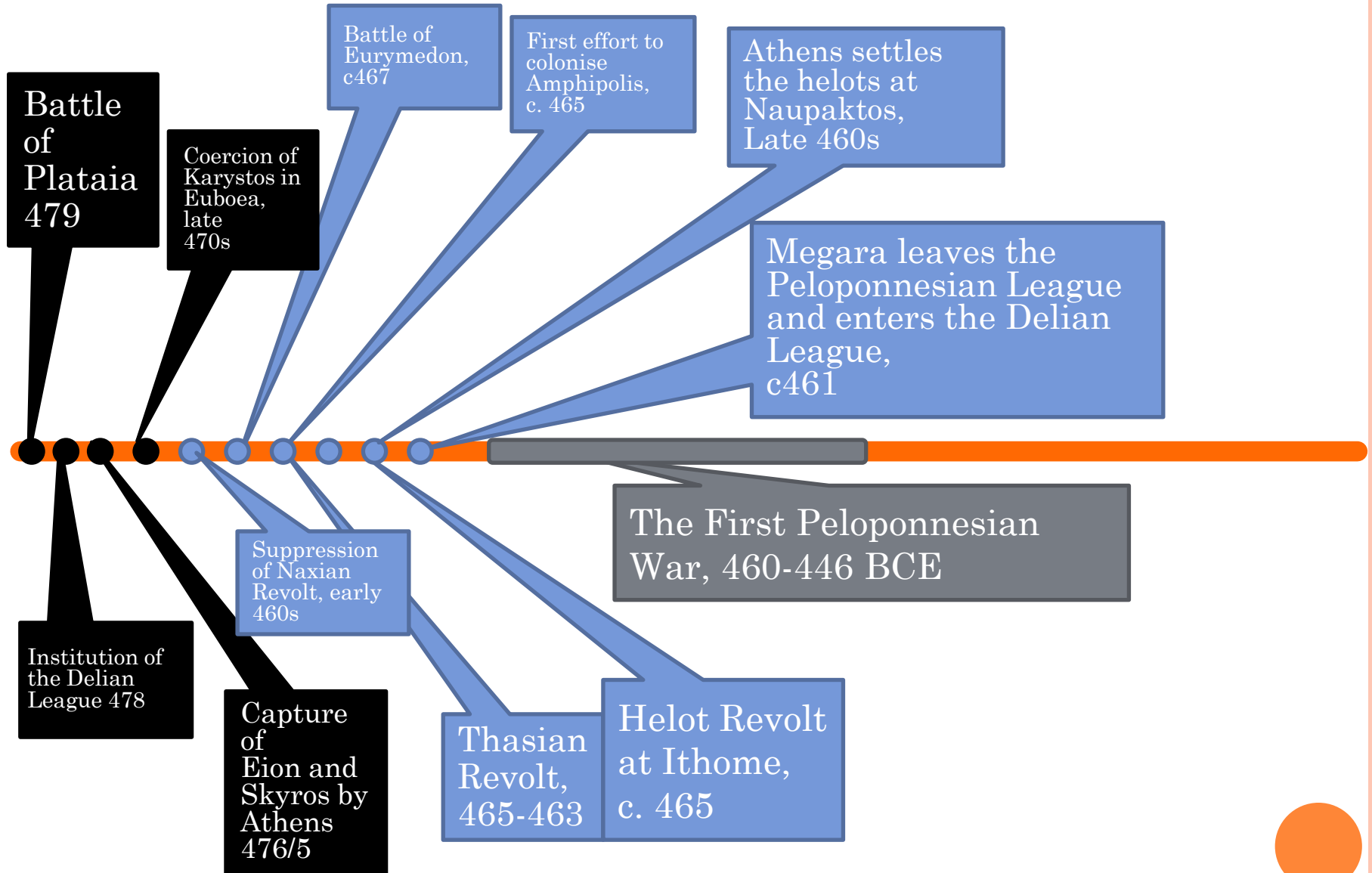




SPARTA: AN EXTRAORDINARY CITY

Lecture 11: Pentekontaetia II

THE PENTEKONTAETIA: TIMELINE

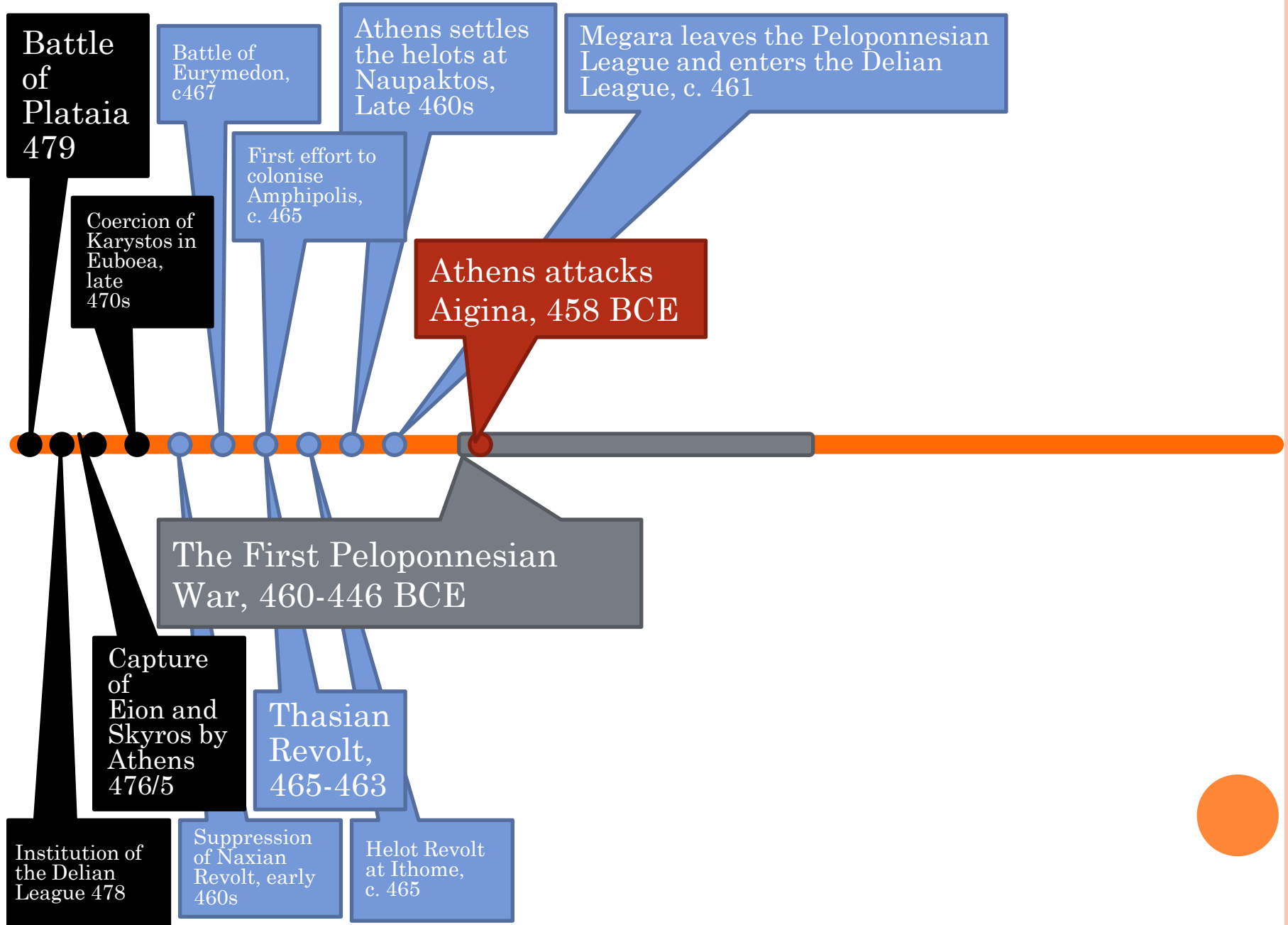


THE FIRST PELOPONNESIAN WAR

- The First Peloponnesian War lasted from c. 460 to 446 BCE
- Most of the fighting in the early years of the war centred on the Megarid and surrounding regions.



THE PENTEKONTAETIA: TIMELINE



AIGINA

- In c. 458, Athens reduced Aigina, detached it from the Peloponnesian League and made it a tribute paying member of the Delian League



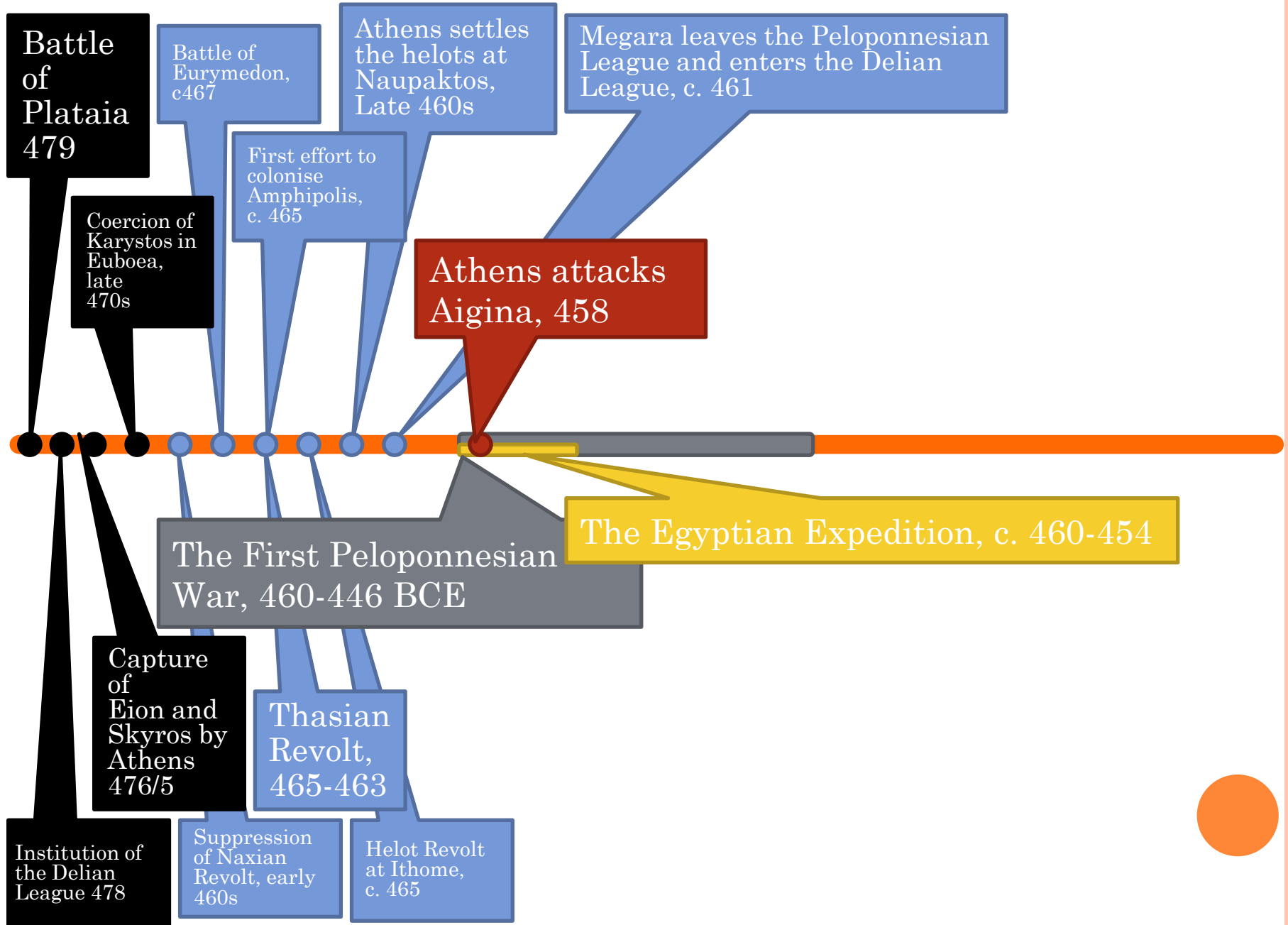
THE AIGINETAN AFFAIR

A war next broke out between the Aeginetans and the Athenians, and a great battle was fought off the coast of Aegina, in which the allies of both parties joined; the Athenians were victorious, and captured seventy of the enemy's ships; they then landed on Aegina and, under the command of Leocrates the son of Stroebus, besieged the town. Thereupon the Peloponnesians sent over to the assistance of the Aeginetans three hundred hoplites who had previously been assisting the Corinthians and Epidaurians.

Thucydides 1.105



THE PENTEKONTAETIA: TIMELINE



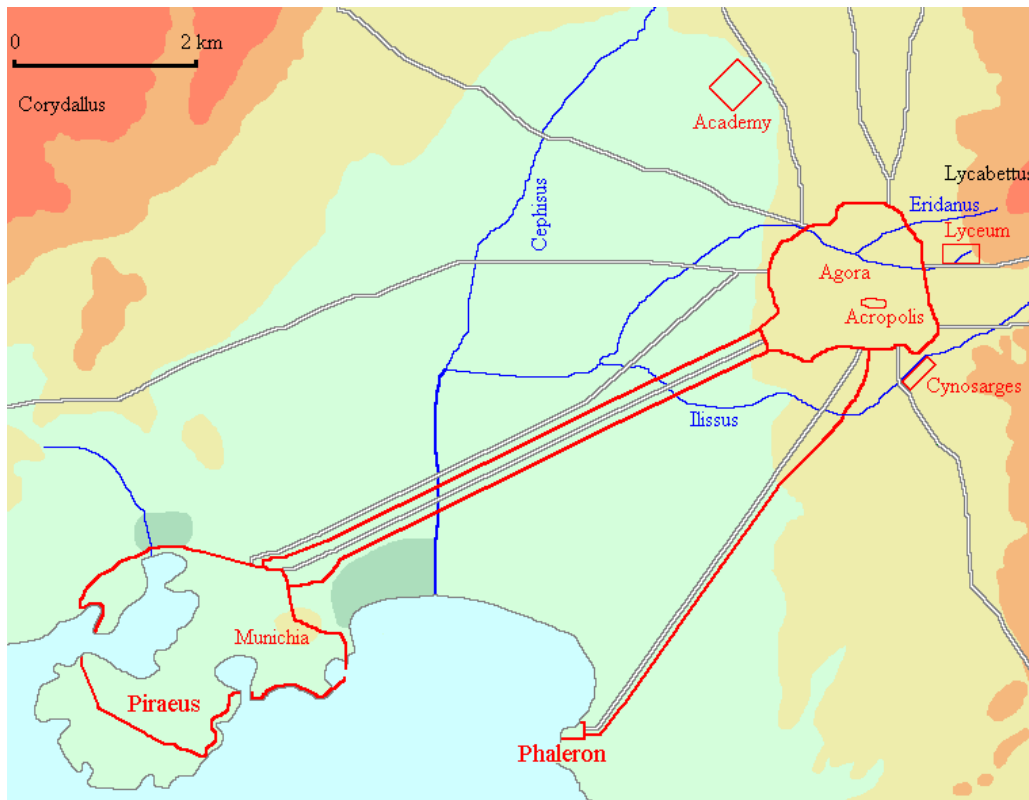
THE EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION

- Simultaneously with the First Peloponnesian War, the Athenians were also fighting a war in Egypt supporting Inaros' rebellion from Persia.
- This expedition lasted from c. 460 to 454 BCE and the Athenians, and their allies, eventually lost a large part of the their fleet at Memphis.



THE LONG WALLS

About this time the Athenians began to build their Long Walls extending to the sea, one to the harbour of Phalerum, and the other to the Piraeus.



Thucydides 1.107



THE LONG WALLS

- Although in the first years of the First Peloponnesian War, the Athenians were more successful than the Peloponnesians (led mainly by Corinth), they still found it necessary to build the Long Walls.
- The Long Walls made certain that if Attika were invaded by land, Athens would not be cut off from its fleet and sea-borne trade.



SPARTA ENTERS THE FIRST PELOPONNESIAN WAR

Meanwhile the Phocians made an expedition against Doris, the old home of the Lacedaemonians, containing the towns of Boeum, Kitinium, and Erineum. They had taken one of these towns, when the Lacedaemonians under Nicomedes, son of Cleombrotus, commanding for King Pleistoanax, son of Pausanias, who was still a minor, came to the aid of the Dorians with fifteen hundred heavy infantry of their own, and ten thousand of their allies. After compelling the Phocians to restore the town on conditions, they began their retreat. **The route by sea, across the Crissaeen gulf, exposed them to the risk of being stopped by the Athenian fleet; that across Geraneia seemed scarcely safe, the Athenians holding Megara and Pegae. For the pass was a difficult one, and was always guarded by the Athenians; and, in the present instance, the Lacedaemonians had information that they meant to dispute their passage. So they resolved to remain in Boeotia, and to consider which would be the safest line of march. They had also another reason for this resolve. Secret encouragement had been given them by a party in Athens, who hoped to put an end to the reign of democracy and the building of the long walls.**

Thucydides 1.107-8



SPARTA ENTERS THE FIRST PELOPONNESIAN WAR

Meanwhile the Athenians marched against them with their whole levy and a thousand Argives and the respective contingents of the rest of their allies. Altogether they were fourteen thousand strong. The march was prompted by the notion that the Lacedaemonians were at a loss how to effect their passage, and also by suspicions of an attempt to overthrow the democracy. Some cavalry also joined the Athenians from their Thessalian allies; but these went over to the Lacedaemonians during the battle. **The battle was fought at Tanagra in Boeotia. After heavy loss on both sides victory declared for the Lacedaemonians and their allies.**

Thucydides 1.107-8



ATHENS IN THE EAST

- Expedition under Kimon to Cyprus
- Cleruchies in Andros and possibly Euboia
- New citizen laws
- Peace of Kallias? (449?)
- Second Sacred War (448 Sparta v Athens)
- Sparta and Argos peace? (Thuc. 5.14.4 for a thirty year peace expiring in 422/1)



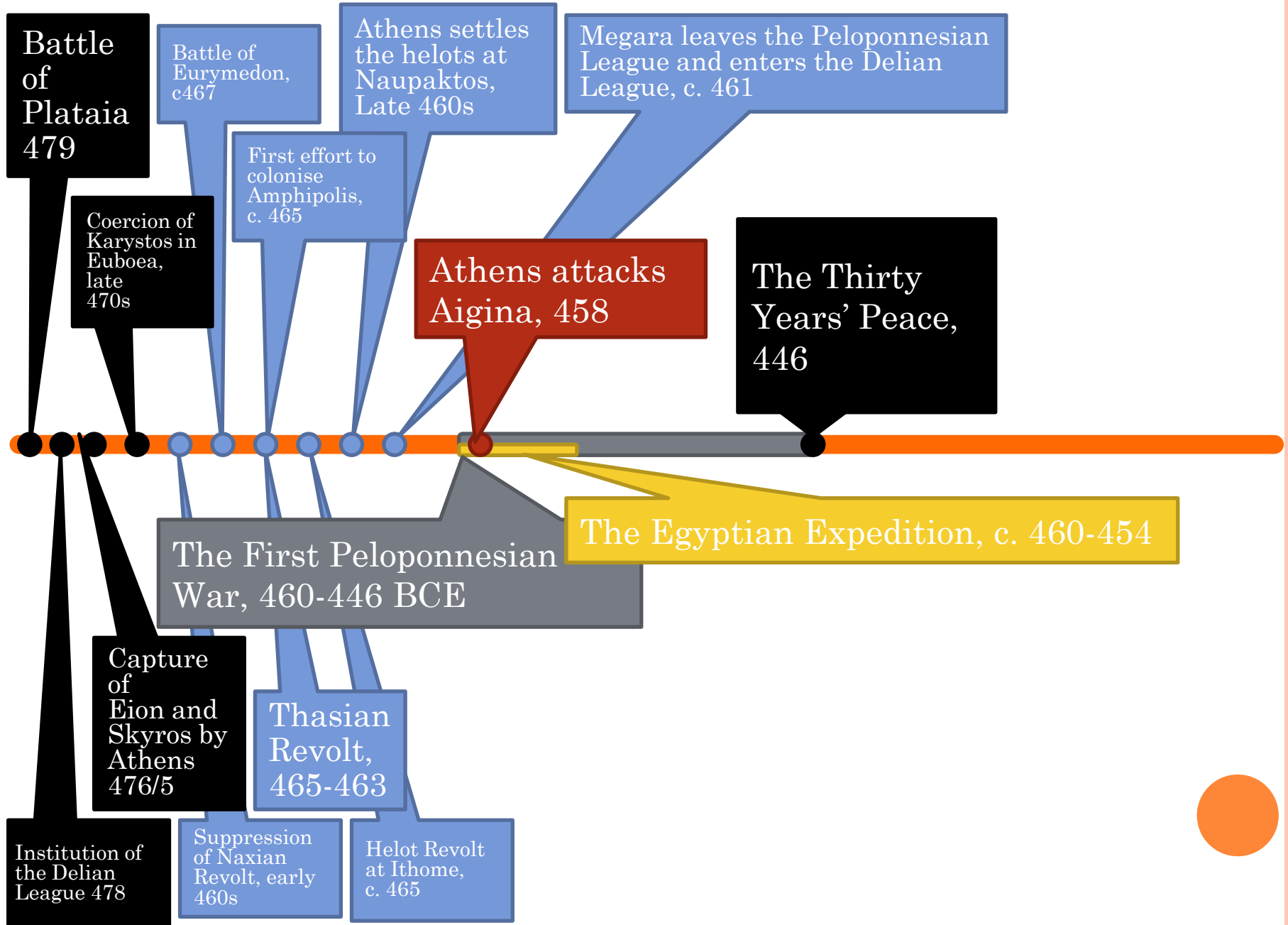
ATHENIAN LOSSES

Although Athens was doing well in the beginning of the First Peloponnesian War, the entrance of Sparta into the war changed the tide.

- The Athenians lost Boeotia (after defeat at Koroneia)
- Euboia revolted and had to be put down
- Megara revolted
- Spartan invasion and retreat (without battle)
- Athens lost a big part of its fleet at Egypt.



THE PENTEKONTAETIA: TIMELINE



THIRTY YEARS' PEACE

Not long after, the Athenians made a peace with the Spartans and their allies for thirty years, giving up Nisaia, Pegai, Troizen and Achaia, their possessions in the Peloponnese.

Thuc. 1.115.1



THE THIRTY YEARS' PEACE

- In 446, the Athenians and the Peloponnesians, headed by Sparta, concluded a peace treaty.
- Athens kept its maritime empire but not any of the land that it tried to get in the First Peloponnesian War.
- Sparta kept control of the Peloponnese and extended it to some extent in central Greece.



THE THIRTY YEARS' PEACE

- The Treaty was both a victory and a defeat for Sparta.
- On the one hand, Sparta's power over the Peloponnese and central Greece was now acknowledged and the Athenian domination threat was gone.
- On the other hand, by the terms of the treaty, Sparta effectively (not explicitly) recognised Athens' power over the Delian League and thus the Athenian Empire.



ATHENIAN ACTIONS AFTER 446

- Athens did not try to take over any part of central Greece or the Peloponnese after 446.
- But it did get greater control over the Aegean.



ATHENIAN ACTIONS AFTER 446

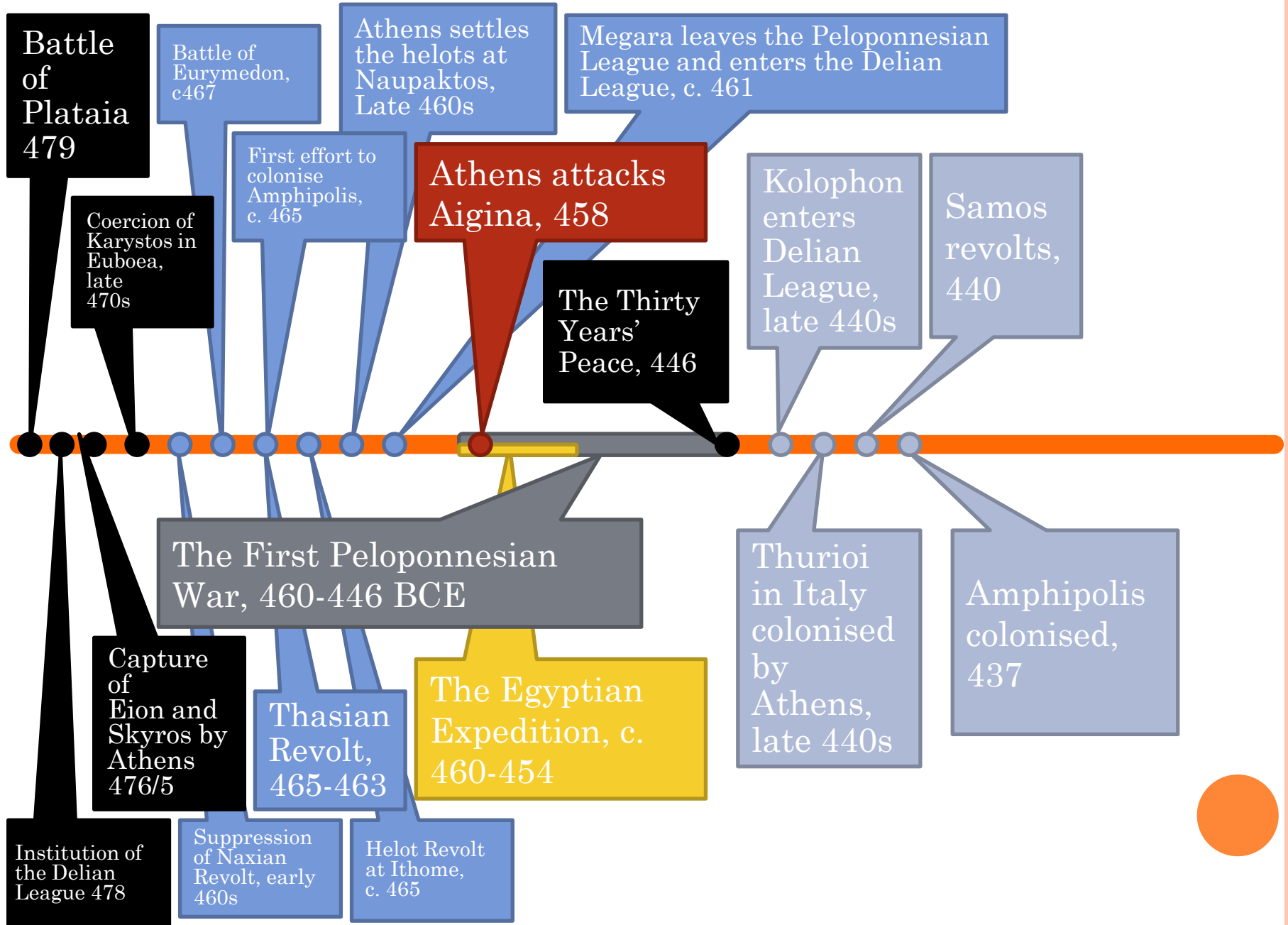


ATHENIAN ACTIONS AFTER 446

- Athens in the decade after 446 expanded its control in the Aegean.
- Kolophon was brought into the Athenian Empire
- Samos revolted and was put down.
- Amphipolis was colonised (where the colony at Ennea Hodoi in 465 had failed).



THE PENTEKONTAETIA: TIMELINE



THE 430S

- From 436/5 onwards, the episodes leading directly to the Great Peloponnesian War happen, i.e. the affairs of Corcyra, Potidaia and Megara.



WHY IS THE PENTEKONTAETIA IMPORTANT?

All these actions of the Hellenes against each other and the barbarian occurred in the fifty years' interval between the retreat of Xerxes and the beginning of the present war. During this interval **the Athenians succeeded in placing their empire on a firmer basis, and advanced their own home power to a very great height. The Lacedaemonians, though fully aware of it, opposed it only for a little while, but remained inactive during most of the period, being of old slow to go to war except under the pressure of necessity, and in the present instance being hampered by wars at home; until the growth of the Athenian power could be no longer ignored, and their own confederacy became the object of its encroachments. They then felt that they could endure it no longer, but that the time had come for them to throw themselves heart and soul upon the hostile power, and break it, if they could, by commencing the present war.**

Thucydides 1.118



WHY IS THE PENTEKONTAETIA IMPORTANT?

- The Pentekontaetia is the period of the Athenian Empire.
- The Athenian Empire became the greatest threat that Sparta ever had to face.
- For the first time another polis threatened Sparta's status as leader of the Greeks.
- More importantly, Athens (as can be seen from the First Peloponnesian War) desired a land as well as a sea empire.



WHY IS THE PENTEKONTAETIA IMPORTANT?

- Sparta in the Pentekontaetia shows both strengths and weaknesses.
- The Helot Revolt is one of the greatest revealed Spartan weaknesses in the period.
- Also the unwillingness of the Spartans to go to war immediately in defence of a League ally.



WHY IS THE PENTEKONTAETIA IMPORTANT?

- On the other hand, in the Pentekontaetia it became obvious that when Sparta decided to react it had the staying power to fight Athens in its own terms.
- Further, Corinth is seen as one of the most important poleis in the Peloponnesian League, and an alternative leader when Sparta is occupied or unwilling.



FOLLOW-UP READING

- Cartledge, P. *Sparta and Lakonia: A Regional History, 1300-362 BCE*, London, 2002, pp. 192-227. (Chapter 12)
- Meiggs, R. *The Athenian Empire*, Oxford, 1972, pp. 175-204
- Talbert, R.J.A. 'The Role of the Helots in the Class Struggle at Sparta' *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (1st Qtr., 1989), pp. 22-40
- Alcock, S.E. 'The Pseudo-History of Messenia Unplugged' *Transactions of the American Philological Association* (1974-), Vol. 129, (1999), pp. 333-341.

