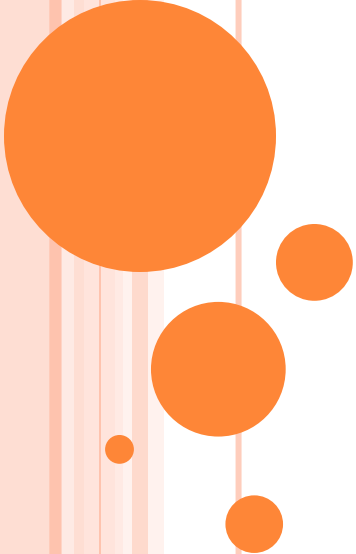




SPARTA: AN EXTRAORDINARY CITY

Lecture 21: Roman Sparta

EARLY ROMAN SPARTA

- After 188, Spartan history becomes essentially the history of the rest of Greece
- 146-88: Peace and Prosperity for Greece
- Restoration of ancestral constitution (146)
- Recreation of the *agoge*



EARLY ROMAN RULE: 146-88

- Local autonomy
- No foreign policy
- Development of ties with Roman elite
- Special building for housing visiting Roman officials
- Cic ad fam.13.28; Pro Flacc. 63; Tusc Disp. V.27.77



SPARTA DURING THE CIVIL WARS

- Support for Rome against Mithradates
- Support for Pompey
 - Contingent of Spartans at Pharsalus
 - According to Appian still fought under their kings
- Support Antony and Octavian against Caesar's assassins
 - 2,000 Spartans killed at the battle of Philippi
- Backs Octavian against Antony



THE GREEK RENAISSANCE (2ND SOPHISTIC)

- Revival of Archaic/Classical practices
- Hadrian visits city in 124/5, 128/9
- 127/8 holds the eponymous magistracy the *patronomos*



ROMAN SPARTA: LAW AND GOVERNMENT

- Gerousia, ephors still exist
- No more dual kingship (since Cleomenes)
- Continue to operate through Rhetrai



ROMAN VIEWS OF SPARTA

- Sparta in the Persian Wars
- Ancestral Religion
- Lycurgan customs



SPARTA IN THE PERSIAN WARS

- Appeal of the battles of Marathon, Thermopylae and Plataea
- Rome versus the “Barbarian”



SPARTA IN THE PERSIAN WARS

- Use of Spartan troops in campaigns against the Persians
 - L. Verus 161
 - Caracalla 214
 - Julian 363



SPARTA IN THE PERSIAN WARS

- Freedom Festival (Eleutheria) at Plataea
- Athens and Sparta have a ceremonial dispute over which city was to lead the procession
- Debate in the form of declamations by orators from both sides



SPARTA IN THE PERSIAN WARS

- Monuments to the Persian war in Sparta
 - Leonidas
 - Pausanias
 - Dead from Thermopylae
- Festival “Leonidea”
 - Memory of Leonidas and Pausanias



ANCESTRAL RELIGION

- Hyacinthia
- Carnea
- Gymnopaediae
- Spartan Eleusinium
- Dioscuri



CULTS THAT END AND NEW CULTS

- Cult of Helen and Menelaus end (Late 2nd-1st C BC)
- Helen seems to be associated now with the cult of her brothers (Dioscuri)
- Imperial Cult



REVIVAL OR RECREATION

- Urania Festival (Founded 97/8) (Zeus Uranius)
- Ino-Pasiphae (Thalamae on the western side of the Taygetus)
 - Oracle consulted by Ephors
 - Lapsed by time of Cicero
 - Revived during Trajan?



SPARTA AND DELPHI

- No longer on the Amphictyonic council after 146 BC
- Still strong relations between the city and the sanctuary
- M. Aurelius Euamerus dispatched as a Spartan ambassador for an oracle sometime after 212/3



LYCURGAN CUSTOMS

- Restoration:
 - 167?
 - 146?
- Idealised frame of reference rather than reality
- Augustan participation in dining with the Spartans (21 BC)
- Replacement of mess with public meals for certain officials



AGOGE

- Civic institution
- Public officials as overseers
 - Ephebic contests
- Training
 - Song, dance, athletic and military exercises
 - Organised in age sets (much older than old system)
- Sports
 - Battle at Platanistas (similar to Pankration?)
 - Sphaireis – ball game
 - Agon tes karterias (Endurance contest)
 - Artemis Orthia festival
 - Fatalities common



FOLLOW-UP READING

- Cartledge, P. and A. Spaworth. 2002. Hellenistic and Roman Sparta: A tale of two cities. 2nd edition. Routledge. 93-211.
- Lytle, E. 2007. “Sparta? No. This is madness” *The Star*. 11 March.
<http://www.thestar.com/article/190493>
- Cartledge, P. 2007. “Another View: Paul Cartledge, professor of Greek history, on 300” *The Guardian*. 02 April.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2007/apr/02/features.arts>

