



An Athenian Grand strategy?

478-431

Why is Athens important?

- ▶ Before the Persian Wars, Athens had some power but was not one of the really important cities in the Greek world.
- ▶ It had few colonies and had internal problems due to tyranny and the emergence of a democratic constitution.
- ▶ The building of the fleet however meant that Athens was now militarily one of the most powerful cities in the Greek world. In terms of naval power, no other polis could rival her.

The last acts of the Hellenic League

- ▶ Meanwhile Pausanias, son of Cleombrotus, was sent out from Lacedaemon as commander-in-chief of the Hellenes, with twenty ships from Peloponnese. With him sailed the Athenians with thirty ships, and a number of the other allies. [2] They made an expedition against **Cyprus** and subdued most of the island, and afterwards against **Byzantium**, which was in the hands of the Medes, and compelled it to surrender. This event took place while the Spartans were still supreme. Thucydides 1.94



The Delian League

- ▶ The Athenians having thus succeeded to the supremacy by the voluntary act of the allies through their hatred of Pausanias, fixed which cities were to contribute money against the barbarian, which ships; their professed object being to retaliate for their sufferings by ravaging the king's country. [2] Now was the time that the office of 'Treasurers for Hellas' was first instituted by the Athenians. These officers received the tribute, as the money contributed was called. The tribute was first fixed at four hundred and sixty talents. The common treasury was at **Delos**, and the congresses were held in the temple.
Thucydides 1.96

The League against Persia and the medisers

- First the Athenians besieged and captured **Eion** on the Strymon from the Medes, and made slaves of the inhabitants, being under the command of Cimon, son of Miltiades. [2] Next they enslaved **Scyros** the island in the Aegean, containing a Dolopian population, and colonized it themselves. [3] This was followed by a war against **Carystus**, in which the rest of Euboea remained neutral, and which was ended by surrender on conditions. Thucydides 1.98.1-3



The First Signs of Athens' Iron Fist

- ▶ After this **Naxos** left the confederacy, and a war ensued, and she had to return after a siege; this was the first instance of the engagement being broken by the subjugation of an allied city, a precedent which was followed by that of the rest in the order which circumstances prescribed. Thucydides 1.98.4



Victory at Eurymedon

- ▶ Next we come to the actions by land and by sea at the river **Eurymedon** in Pamphylia, between the Athenians with their allies, and the Medes, when the Athenians won both battles on the same day under the conduct of Cimon, son of Miltiades, and captured and destroyed the whole Phoenician fleet, consisting of two hundred vessels. Thucydides 1.100.1



The Thasian Revolt

- ▶ Some time afterwards occurred the defection of the **Thasians**, caused by disagreements about the marts on the opposite coast of **Thrace**, and about the **mine** in their possession. Sailing with a fleet to Thasos, the Athenians defeated them at sea and effected a landing on the island. [3] About the same time they sent ten thousand settlers of their own citizens and the allies to settle the place then called **Ennea Hodoi or Nine Ways, now Amphipolis**. They succeeded in gaining possession of Ennea Hodoi from the Edonians, but on advancing into the **interior of Thrace** were cut off in **Drabescus**, a town of the Edonians, by the assembled Thracians, who regarded the settlement of the place Ennea Hodoi as an act of hostility.



A Spartan failure and the great weakness

- ▶ Meanwhile the Thasians being defeated in the field and suffering siege, appealed to Lacedaemon, and desired her to assist them by an invasion of Attica. [2] Without informing Athens she promised and intended to do so, but was prevented by the occurrence of the earthquake, accompanied by the secession of the **Helots** and the Thuriats and Aethaeans of the Perioeci to Ithome. Most of the Helots were the descendants of the old Messenians that were enslaved in the famous war; and so all of them came to be called Messenians. Thucydides 1.101

Athens against Sparta

- ▶ The Lacedaemonians meanwhile finding the war against the rebels in Ithome likely to last, invoked the aid of their allies, and especially of the Athenians, who came in some force under the command of Cimon. [2] The reason for this pressing summons lay in their reputed skill in siege operations; a long siege had taught the Lacedaemonians their own deficiency in this art, else they would have taken the place by assault. [3] The first open quarrel between the Lacedaemonians and Athenians arose out of this expedition...[4] But the Athenians, aware that their dismissal did not proceed from the more honorable reason of the two, but from suspicions which had been conceived, went away deeply offended, and conscious of having done nothing to merit such treatment from the Lacedaemonians; and the instant that they returned home they broke off the alliance which had been made against the Mede, and allied themselves with Sparta's enemy **Argos**; each of the contracting parties taking the same oaths and making the same alliance with the **Thessalians**. Thucydides 1.102



Athens encroaching on Spartan territory

- ▶ Meanwhile the rebels in Ithome, unable to prolong further a ten years' resistance, surrendered to Lacedaemon; the conditions being that they should depart from Peloponnese under safe conduct, and should never set foot in it again: [2] any one who might hereafter be found there was to be the slave of his captor. It must be known that the Lacedaemonians had an old oracle from Delphi, to the effect that they should let go the suppliant of Zeus at Ithome. [3] So they went forth with their children and their wives, and being received by Athens from the hatred that she now felt for the Lacedaemonians, were located at **Naupactus**, which she had lately taken from the Ozolian Locrians. [4] The Athenians received another addition to their confederacy in the **Megarians**; who left the Lacedaemonian alliance, annoyed by a war about boundaries forced on them by Corinth. The Athenians **occupied Megara and Pegae**, and built the Megarians their long walls from the city to **Nisaea**, in which they placed an Athenian garrison. This was the principal cause of the Corinthians conceiving such a deadly hatred against Athens.



The Egyptian Expedition

- ▶ Athens meanwhile did not stop its campaigns against Persia.
- ▶ After an expedition against Cyprus, Athens allied itself with the Egyptian rebels sending a fleet to help them fight against Persia.
- ▶ The fleet was defeated in 454 BCE.

Moving the Treasury

- ▶ The defeat of the Athenian and allied fleet in Egypt in 454 BCE was the perfect excuse for Athens to gain greater power within the League.
- ▶ Until 454 BCE, the treasury of the Delian League was housed in Delos and was under the control of the League council.
- ▶ In 454 BCE, the treasury was moved from Delos to Athens and came under the control of the Athenians.
- ▶ Athens now had even more funds and this time it could use them whichever way she wished, even against the allies.

The First Peloponnesian War

- ▶ Simultaneous with the Egyptian Expedition, the Athenians were in open war with the Peloponnesian War, headed initially by Corinth and then by Sparta herself.
- ▶ Initially, the Athenians were successful in taking over Boiotia and Aigina.
- ▶ When the Spartans entered the fray, the tide of the war turned.
- ▶ By 446, Euboia and Megara had revolted from Athens and Athens had to come to terms with Sparta.

Actions in the First Peloponnesian War

- ▶ Athens Attacked Haliae – defeated
- ▶ Athens Fought Peloponnesian Fleet off Cecryphalia – won
- ▶ Athenian Campaign against Aigina – won
- ▶ Corinthian campaign against Megara – defeated
- ▶ Athens starts building the Long Walls
- ▶ Phocians attack Doris – defeated by Sparta
- ▶ Battle of Tanagra – Sparta wins
- ▶ Athens conquers Boiotia and Phocis
- ▶ Athens raids Laconia, and Sicyon



Actions in the First Peloponnesian War

- ▶ Athens invades Thessaly – does not achieve anything
- ▶ Athens raids Sicyon – wins
- ▶ Athens invades Acarnania – fails
- ▶ Athens invades Cyprus – victory
- ▶ Sparta takes over Delphi – gives it to Delphians
- ▶ Athens takes over Delphi – gives it to Phocians
- ▶ Battle of Coronea – Athens retreats from Boiotia
- ▶ Euboia revolts from Delian League
- ▶ Megara revolts from Delian League
- ▶ Sparta invades Attica, ravages the land, and retreats



Actions in the First Peloponnesian War

- ▶ Athens puts down the Euboian revolt. Takes over Histiaeae
- ▶ 30 Years Peace

The Thirty Years Truce

- ▶ The truce between Athens and Sparta was a return to the old boundaries.
- ▶ Sparta got the mainland and Athens got the north, the islands and Asia Minor.
- ▶ However, the truce also recognised Athens' power over its allies, thus hobbling any Spartan intervention in case of allied revolt.

The Samian Revolt

- ▶ In the sixth year of the truce, war broke out between the Samians and Milesians about Priene. Worsted in the war, the Milesians came to Athens with loud complaints against the Samians. In this they were joined by certain private persons from Samos itself, who wished to revolutionize the government. [3] Accordingly the Athenians sailed to Samos with forty ships and set up a democracy; took hostages from the Samians, fifty boys and as many men, lodged them in Lemnos, and after leaving a garrison in the island returned home. [4] But some of the Samians had not remained in the island, but had fled to the continent. Making an agreement with the most powerful of those in the city, and an alliance with Pissuthnes, son of Hystaspes, the then satrap of Sardis, they got together a force of seven hundred mercenaries, and under cover of night crossed over to Samos. [5] Their first step was to rise on the commons, most of whom they secured, their next to steal their hostages from Lemnos; after which they revolted, gave up the Athenian garrison left with them and its commanders to Pissuthnes, and instantly prepared for an expedition against Miletus. The **Byzantines** also revolted with them. Thucydides 1.115

The Revelation of Samos

- ▶ Both Samos and Byzantium return to the Delian League, in spite of help from Persia.
- ▶ Athens makes a cleruchy in Samos



The Akarnanian Alliance

- ▶ About the same time towards the close of the summer, the **Ambraciot** forces, with a number of barbarians that they had raised, marched against the Amphilochian Argos and the rest of that country. [2] [6] After a time the Ambraciots expelled the Argives and held the city themselves. [7] Upon this the **Amphilochians** gave themselves over to the **Acarnanians**; and the two together called the Athenians, who sent them **Phormio** as general and thirty ships; upon whose arrival they took Argos by storm, and made slaves of the Ambraciots; and the Amphilochians and Acarnanians inhabited the town in common. Thucydides 2.68



Athenian Alliances in the West

- ▶ In the 430s, the Athenians also concluded alliances with Leontinoi and Rhegion against Syracuse.
- ▶ Syracuse was the biggest Corinthian colony and the gateway of Corinth to the west.
- ▶ FURTHER, ATHENS IN 437 SUCCEEDED IN PLANTING A COLONY AT AMPHIPOLIS IN THRACE



Epidamnos

- ▶ Epidamnos was a Corcyraean colony but its oikistes was from Corinth.
- ▶ When Epidamnos was in war with the native populations in the 430s, they asked for help from Corcyra.
- ▶ The Corcyraeans refused. So the Epidamnians turned to Corinth.



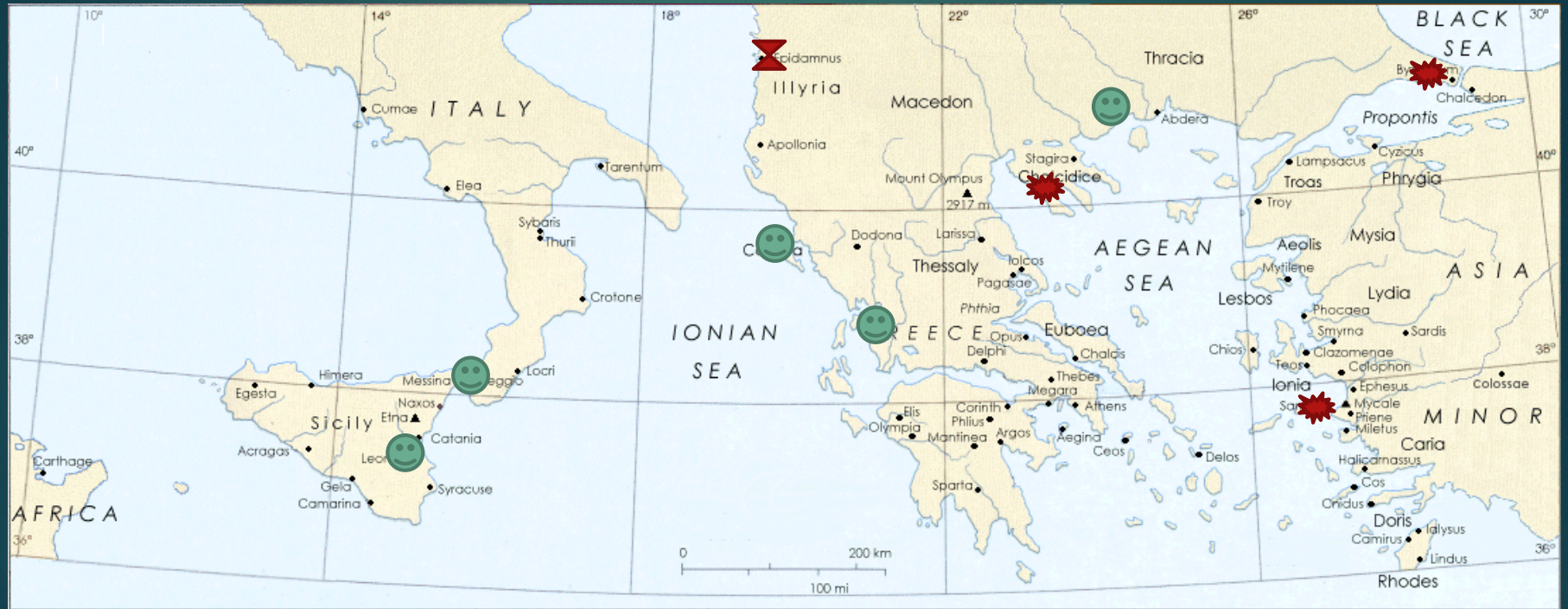
The Athenian Involvement

- ▶ The Corinthians were defeated by the Corcyraeans in Action.
- ▶ In turn, they built a bigger fleet and tried to take the war a step further.
- ▶ Corcyra turned to Athens, who eagerly accepted an alliance although it would immediately mean war with Corinth.



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. LVII. These precautions against the Potidaeans were taken by the Athenians immediately after the battle at Corcyra. [2] Not only was Corinth at length openly hostile, but Perdiccas, son of Alexander, king of the Macedonians, had from an old friend and ally been made an enemy. [3] He had been made an enemy by the Athenians entering into alliance with his brother Philip and Derdas, who were in league against him. [4] In his alarm he had sent to Lacedaemon to try and involve the Athenians in a war with the Peloponnesians, and was endeavoring to win over Corinth in order to bring about the revolt of Potidaea. [5] He also made overtures to the Chalcidians in the direction of Thrace, and to the Bottiaeans, to persuade them to join in the revolt; for he thought that if these places on the border could be made his allies, it would be easier to carry on the war with their co-operation. [6] Alive to all this, and wishing to anticipate the revolt of the cities, the Athenians acted as follows. They were just then sending off thirty ships and a thousand heavy infantry for his country under the command of Archestratus, son of Lycomedes, with four colleagues. They instructed the captains to take hostages of the Potidaeans, to raze the wall, and to be on their guard against the revolt of the neighboring cities. Thucydides 1.56-7



The Megarian Decree

- ▶ When the Athenians voted to exclude the Megarians from both their market and harbors, the Megarians turned to the Spartans for aid. And the Spartans [...] dispatched ambassadors [...], ordering the Athenians to rescind the action against the Megarians and threatening, if they did not accede, to wage war upon them together with the forces of their allies. When the [Athenian] Assembly convened to consider the matter, Pericles, who far excelled all his fellow citizens in skill of oratory, persuaded the Athenians not to rescind the action, saying that for them to accede to the demands of the Spartans, contrary to their own interests, would be the first step toward slavery. Diodoros 12.39.4-5

