

CLAH4005

Lecture 13: The Spartan Hegemony II



Sparta and the allies

- He also suppressed the democratic, and the other forms of government, and left one Lacedaemonian harmost in each city, and ten rulers chosen from the political clubs which he had organized throughout the cities. [4] This he did alike in the cities which had been hostile, and in those which had become his allies, and sailed along in leisurely fashion, in a manner establishing for himself the supremacy over Hellas. For in his appointments of the rulers he had regard neither to birth nor wealth, but put control of affairs into the hands of his comrades and partisans, and made them masters of rewards and punishments. He also took part himself in many massacres, and assisted in driving out the enemies of his friends. Thus he gave the Greeks no worthy specimen of Lacedaemonian rule, [5] nay, even the comic poet Theopompus was thought absurd in likening the Lacedaemonians to tavern-women, because they gave the Greeks a very pleasant sip of freedom, and then dashed the wine with vinegar; for from the very first the taste was harsh and bitter, since Lysander not only would not suffer the people to be masters of their affairs, but actually put the cities into the hands of the boldest and most contentious of the oligarchs. Plutarch Lysander 13

The 30 Tyrants

- When, however, the Thirty began to consider how they might become free to do just as they pleased with the state, their first act was to send Aeschines and Aristoteles to Lacedaemon and persuade Lysander to help them to secure the sending of a Lacedaemonian garrison, to remain until, as they said, they could put “the scoundrels” out of the way and establish their government; and they promised to maintain this garrison at their own charges. [14] Lysander consented, and helped them to secure the dispatch of the troops and of Callibius as governor. But when they had got the garrison, they paid court to Callibius in every way, in order that he might approve of everything they did, and as he detailed guardsmen to go with them, they arrested the people whom they wished to reach,--not now “the scoundrels” and persons of little account, but from this time forth the men who, they thought, were least likely to submit to being ignored, and who, if they undertook to offer any opposition, would obtain supporters in the greatest numbers. Xenophon *Hellenika* 2.3.13-4

Sparta and the allies

- Sparta's conduct towards her allies distanced many of her allies and friendly states.
- Her support for close oligarchies went against the grain both in the cities that had belonged to the Delian League and to her own Peloponnesian and Greek allies that had more open oligarchies.

Sparta turning against Persia

- Sparta needed to show to the Greeks that she was not a tyrant and that she was not pro-Persian.
- She also needed to consolidate her rule over the allies.
- The easiest way to do that was through a war.
- The easiest enemy to unite the Greeks was as usual Persia.

The Liberation of the Greeks of Asia Minor

- Now when Tissaphernes, who was thought to have proved himself very valuable to the King in the war against his brother, was sent down as satrap both of the provinces which he himself had previously ruled and of those which Cyrus had ruled, he straightway demanded that all the Ionian cities should be subject to him. But they, both because they wanted to be free and because they feared Tissaphernes, inasmuch as they had chosen Cyrus, while he was living, instead of him, refused to admit him into their cities and sent ambassadors to Lacedaemon asking that the Lacedaemonians, since they were the leaders of all Hellas, should undertake to protect them also, the Greeks in Asia, in order that their land might not be laid waste and that they themselves might be free. [4] Accordingly, the Lacedaemonians sent them Thibron as governor, giving him an army made up of a thousand emancipated Helots and four thousand of the other Peloponnesians. Xenophon *Hellenika* 3.1.3-4

War on Two Fronts

- While the Spartans were concentrating on Asia Minor, the rouse did not work in mainland Greece.
- The powerful cities of the mainland, Thebes, Argos, Corinth and Athens, entered into an alliance against Sparta.
- The war they fought against Sparta is called the Corinthian War.

The Athenian alliance with Persia

- Pharnabazus, after the truce had been made with the Lacedaemonians, went back to the King and won him over to the plan of preparing a fleet and appointing Conon the Athenian as its admiral; for Conon was experienced in the encounters of war and especially in combat with the present enemy, and although he excelled in warfare, he was at the time in Cyprus at the court of Evagoras the king. Diodoros 14.39

Persian money against Sparta

- But now Tithraustes, who thought he had found out that Agesilaus despised the power of the King and did not in the least intend to depart from Asia, but rather had great hopes that he would overcome the King, being perplexed to know how to deal with the situation, sent Timocrates the Rhodian to Greece, giving him gold to the value of fifty talents of silver, and bade him undertake, on receipt of the surest pledges, to give this money to the leaders in the various states on condition that they should make war upon the Lacedaemonians. So Timocrates went and gave his money, at Thebes to Androcleidas, Ismenias, and Galaxidorus; at Corinth to Timolaus and Polyanthes; and at Argos to Cylon and his followers. [2] And the Athenians, even though they did not receive a share of this gold, were nevertheless eager for the war, thinking that theirs was the right to rule. Then those who had taken the money set to work in their own states to defame the Lacedaemonians; and when they had brought their people to a feeling of hatred toward them, they undertook, further, to unite the largest states with one another Xenophon *Hellenika* 3.5.1-2

Sparta retreating

- With enemies on both sides of the Aegean, Sparta was hard-pressed to succeed.
- An Atheno-Persian naval victory at Knidos meant the end of Sparta's Asia Minor ambitions at that stage.
- More importantly, the anti-Spartan alliance was gaining ground in mainland Greece and the Peloponnese.
- Thus, Agesilaos had to return from Asia Minor in order to fight the alliance in Greece.

Changes in Persia

- The Athenians, therefore, seeing that the enemy's ships were many, fearing that they might be completely subdued, as they had been before, now that the King had become an ally of the Lacedaemonians, and being beset by the raiding parties from Aegina, for these reasons were exceedingly desirous of peace. On the other hand the Lacedaemonians, what with maintaining a garrison of one regiment at Lechaenum and another at Orchomenus, keeping watch upon their allied states -- those which they trusted, to prevent their being destroyed, and those which they distrusted, to prevent their revolting -- and suffering and causing trouble around Corinth, were out of patience with the war. As for the Argives, knowing that the Lacedaemonian ban had been called out against them, and being aware that their plea of the sacred months would no longer be of any help to them, they also were eager for peace. [30] So that when Tiribazus ordered those to be present who desired to give ear to the peace which the King had sent down, all speedily presented themselves. Xenophon *Hellenika* 5.1.29-30

Why did Persia change tack?

- The Athenians had turned against Persia in Asia Minor and Cyprus.
- While Sparta was a fearful enemy, she had no real ties with Asia Minor and was not a naval power.
- Thus, Sparta was a better bet for Persia than Athens, who always looked towards Asia Minor with hungry eyes.

The King's Peace

- With Persian support, Sparta concluded a Peace guaranteed by the Persian King with the other Greeks.
- The treaty put Sparta in a position of power and with Persian support it was almost impossible to dispute her power in Greece.

The King's Seal and the Autonomy Clause

- “King Artaxerxes thinks it just that the cities in Asia should belong to him, as well as Clazomenae and Cyprus among the islands, **and that the other Greek cities, both small and great, should be left independent**, except Lemnos, Imbros, and Scyros; and these should belong, as of old, to the Athenians. But whichever of the two parties does not accept this peace, upon them I will make war, in company with those who desire this arrangement, both by land and by sea, with ships and with money.”
Xenophon *Hellenika* 5.1.31

What does the Autonomy clause mean?

- The autonomy clause of the King's Peace meant that Sparta could break up any alliance against her in Greece.
- Also it meant that she could interfere in the internal affairs of her enemies with a ready pretext in the autonomy clause.



The Example of Mantinea

- Since in all this matters had proceeded as they desired, the Lacedaemonians resolved, in the case of all among their allies who had been hostile during the war and more favourably inclined toward the enemy than toward Lacedaemon, to chastise them and put them in such a situation that they could not be disloyal. Firstly, therefore, they sent to the Mantineans and ordered them to tear down their wall, saying that they could not trust them in any other way not to take sides with their enemies. [2] For they said they had noted not only that the Mantineans had been sending corn to the Argives when they themselves were making war upon that people, but also that sometimes, on the pretext of a holy truce, they had not served in the Lacedaemonian armies at all, and when they had fallen into line, had served badly. Furthermore, the Lacedaemonians said they were aware that they were envious if any good fortune came to them, and delighted if any disaster befel them. It was also common talk that the thirty years' truce, concluded after the battle of Mantinea, had expired this year, so far as the Mantineans were concerned. [3] When, accordingly, they now refused to tear down their walls, the Lacedaemonians called out the ban against them. Xenophon *Hellenika* 5.2.1-3

Questions?



Follow-up Reading

- Cartledge, P. *Sparta and Lakonia: A Regional History*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge, 2002. Chapter 13.
- Link available on Moodle and from the Library catalogue