

### Athens takes Megara

Megara was of high importance to the Athenians to take, as it would have allowed them to cut off easy contact between Boeotia and the rest of the Peloponnesian League. Taking Megara was also of high importance to the Athenians as they would have made it much more difficult for the Spartans to lay siege to Athens itself.<sup>1</sup> The invasion of Megara would begin in 431 BCE. The initial invasion in 431 BCE would be a full-scale invasion by the Athenians. It is also said that due to the tension between Athens and Megara that it could have been the ultimate deciding factor that began the second Peloponnesian war in 432 BCE. Megara could have been extremely important to the Athenian strategy due to its strategic location and its importance to block the advance of the Spartans to Athens. The Athenians would later send an expedition to Megara in order to take the city for Athens. Two expeditions would be sent every year to take the city in an attempt to win the strategic location for Athens.<sup>2</sup> However, the expedition in 424 BCE would end in Athenian Victory. This would have been a large blow to the Spartans as their easy access to the Polis of Attica would have been cut off. Meaning they would have had to find a new route into Attica. This would have also been a huge victory for Athens as they would not need to rely on the walls of Athens for defence from Spartan siege.

Ref.

No Megarian decree?  
No Boeotia?  
No recapture?

<sup>1</sup> Megara, Athens, and the West in the Archidamian War: A Study in Thucydides - T. E. Wick and T. T. Wick, pg 1

<sup>2</sup> Megara, Athens, and the West in the Archidamian War: A Study in Thucydides - T. E. Wick and T. T. Wick, pg2

Bibliography

→ correct incorrect

Megara, Athens, and the West in the Archidamian War: A Study in Thucydides - T. E. Wick  
and T. T. Wick

You have made a good effort

To improve

- ① Accuracy work with the ancient sources
- ② Read more to avoid mistakes
- ③ Read more recent scholarship
- ④ Provide analysis and discussion. This is rather short.

## The Spartan Siege of Athens 431-30 BCE

Incorrect
End?
 The first Spartan siege on Athens during the second Peloponnesian war began in 431 BCE and these sieges would continue through the next 30 years on a regular basis during the period of the second Peloponnesian war. In these sieges the Spartan strategy would be to destroy crops and homes in order to force the Athenians to leave Athens and face them in an open pitch battle.<sup>1</sup> However during the time of the siege the land would go un-farmed and would lead to low food amounts for the people who could not afford the imports from the harbour or lived off of the land that they used to grow and produce food. This may have been a useful tactic for the Spartans however, the Athenians had built along with the exterior wall of Athens a wall which lead down to the harbour where their power would not be questioned by the Spartans due to the superiority of the Athenian navy. This would be a major part of the Periclean strategy and would be vital in the war against the Peloponnesian League.<sup>2</sup> This strategy would work in the short term as the Athenian people were able to hide safely behind the walls of Athens in order to protect them from the Spartans and making it impossible for the Spartans to engage in an open field battle where they would have defeated the Athenians. The First siege would only last until 430 BCE as there was a limited amount of time where the Spartan army was able to lay siege to the city.

Good effort.

→ Not even that long.

To improve:

① Close the free wordcount

② Work with the ancient sources. You cannot study the ancient world without accessing what survives from then.

③ You must research more carefully to avoid mistakes.

<sup>1</sup> The Peloponnesian War 431-404 BC - Philip de Souza, Chapter name - The First Twenty Years

<sup>2</sup> THUCYDIDES 2.13.6-7: OLDEST, YOUNGEST, HOPLITES, METICS - Richard Winton, pg 298

Incorrect ref. style

David

## Bibliography

*The Peloponnesian War 431–404 BC* by Philip de Souza

*THUCYDIDES 2.13.6-7: OLDEST, YOUNGEST, HOPLITES, METICS* by Richard Winton

Socrates

No

which is the important one?

Socrates was an ancient Athenian philosopher who was known to wander the streets of Athens questioning all types of people about many different topics ranging from politics to philosophy. Despite this as an Athenian citizen Socrates would have been subject to the same regulations regarding military service as any other Athenian citizen. Therefor during the second Peloponnesian war Socrates was called upon to be a hoptile for the Athenian army. In his time as a hoptile for the Athenian he fought in the battles of Amphipolis, Delium and Potidaea.<sup>1</sup> These campaigns would take up many years of Socrates life two of which were politically important to Athens and were defeats in both cases. Amphipolis in a sense is significant to Socrates as an Athenian citizen as it is regarded as the point were the two main supporters Brasidas and Cleon were killed during the battle of Amphipolis which would allow for the peace party of Nicias to gain more political influence.<sup>2</sup> This would have been significant for Socrates as he was considered to be anti-military thinker despite his clear participation in the hoptile culture.<sup>3</sup> However, this did not affect Socrates search for what he called the good life. This was what he believed to be the best possible life that could be lived by a person. He attempted to achieve this thought his life until his death at the hands of the Athenian courts who judged him to be corrupting the youth of Athens.

hoptile

main supporters of what?

No, he was not!

You have made some effort.

To improve

- ① Work with the ancient sources
- ② Read more to avoid mistakes
- ③ You must pay more attention to your work.

(41)

2nd style incorrect

<sup>1</sup> Ancient Philosophy 25 (2005) – Mark Anderson, pg 273

<sup>2</sup> Socrates at Amphipolis - William M. Calder, pg 34

<sup>3</sup> Ancient Philosophy 25 (2005) – Mark Anderson, pg 274

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## **Bibliography**

Ancient Philosophy 25 (2005) – Mark Anderson

Socrates at Amphipolis - William M. Calder

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/4181688?seq=2#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/4181688?seq=2#metadata_info_tab_contents)

No There were 10 Generals

### The Death of Cleon

Cleon was the Athenian General after the death of his predecessor Pericles. It is worth noting that Cleon was one of the opponents to Pericles. Cleon would later die in the battle of Amphipolis in 422 BCE along with his Spartan opposite Brasidas. The death of Cleon would come to be a large factor that the increasing popularity in the peace party of Nicias. This would later lead to the peace treaty signed by Athens and Sparta that would be a non-aggression defensive alliance between Athens and Sparta for fifty years. However, this peace would not last.<sup>1,2</sup> The death of Cleon came at Amphipolis which would also be his final campaign in the Peloponnesian War. Cleon would be awaiting reinforcements in Amphipolis. When the Spartans would attack them in the battle it is thought that Cleon could take the city without any reinforcements however the only obstacle to this was that the Athenians had no ladders to take the cities walls. Cleon would engage in combat with the Spartan forces while still awaiting his reinforcements and in the resulting battle Cleon would lose his life marking the defeat of Athens in Amphipolis.<sup>3</sup> Cleon would be written about later by Thucydides. In Thucydides writing Cleon is portrayed as an incompetent coward who would cause the loss at Amphipolis by not expecting battle so soon and taking too small of a force to take Amphipolis.<sup>4</sup> The death of Cleon marks a major point in the Peloponnesian War and also shows some of the failures of Athens in the war as a whole. → Like what?

Inc. format.  
One  
in only  
needed

Ask

Ask

Let to source?

Good effort.

To improve:

- ① Research more carefully to avoid mistakes
- ② Engage with the ancient sources
- ③ Proofread more carefully

Incorrect ref. style

<sup>1</sup> History of Greece from the Beginnings to the Byzantine Era – Hermann Bengtson, pg 143

<sup>2</sup> The Peace of Nicias – Ronald P. Leon, Introduction

<sup>3</sup> Cleon Awaits Reinforcements? – M. H. B. Marshall

<sup>4</sup> Cleon Awaits Reinforcements? – M. H. B. Marshall

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## Bibliography

*History of Greece from the Beginnings to the Byzantine Era* – Hermann Bengtson

*The Peace of Nicias* – Ronald P. Legon

*Cleon Awaits Reinforcements?* - M. H. B. Marshall - [https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/stable/4431381?seq=1#metadata info tab contents](https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/stable/4431381?seq=1#metadata%20info%20tab%20contents)