

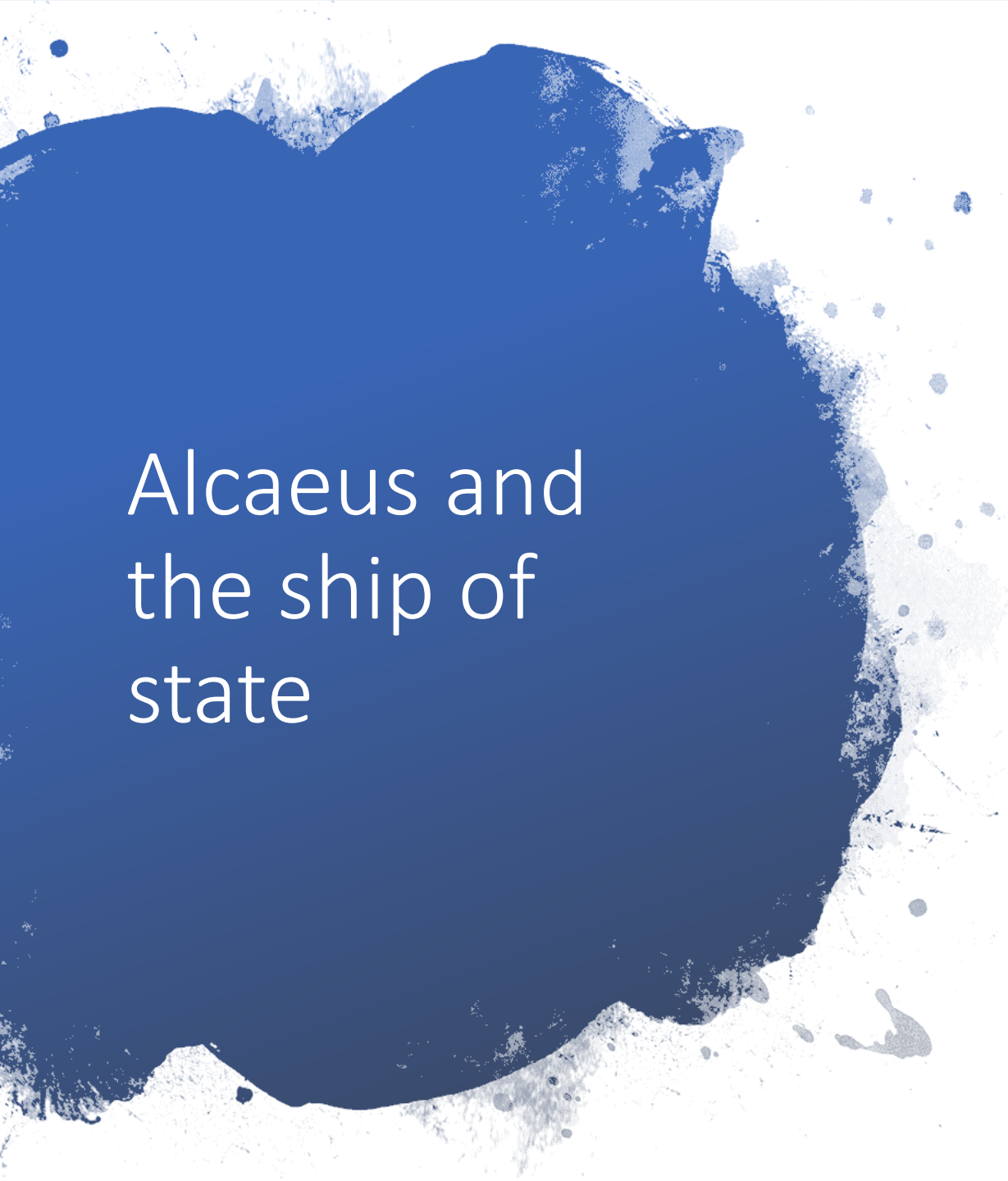


# Classical Greek Ships

# Trade in Homer



- Then the goddess, flashing-eyed Athena, answered him: “Therefore of a truth will I frankly tell thee all. [180] I declare that I am Mentès, the son of wise Anchialus, and I am lord over the **oar-loving Taphians**. And now have I put in here, as thou seest, **with ship and crew**, while **sailing over the wine-dark sea to men of strange speech, on my way to Temese for copper; and I bear with me shining iron**. [185] My ship lies yonder beside the fields away from the city, in the harbor of Rheithron, under woody Neion. Friends of one another do we declare ourselves to be, even as our fathers were, friends from of old. Hom. Ody. 1.178-190



# Alcaeus and the ship of state

- This wave in turn comes (like?) the previous one, and it will give us much trouble to bale out when it enters the ship's . . . Let us strengthen (the ship's sides) as quickly as possible, and let us race into a secure harbour; and let soft fear not seize any of us; for a great (ordeal) stands clear before us. Remember the previous (hardship): now let every man show himself steadfast. And let us not disgrace (by cowardice) our noble fathers lying beneath the earth, who . . . the city . . . being
- Alcaeus F6



Black figure kylix  
C525 BCE  
Attic  
Found in Vulci in  
Italy



# The power of the Pentekonter

- But the Phocaeans, very indignant at the thought of slavery, said they wanted to deliberate for a day, and then they would answer; but while they were deliberating, Harpagus must withdraw his army from the walls, they said. Harpagus said that he well knew what they intended to do, but that nevertheless he would allow them to deliberate. [3] So when Harpagus withdrew his army from the walls, **the Phocaeans launched their fifty-oared ships, embarked their children and women and all their movable goods, besides the statues from the temples and everything dedicated in them except bronze or stonework or painting,** and then embarked themselves and set sail for Chios; and the Persians took Phocaea, left thus uninhabited. Hdt 1.164



# Dedicated merchant vessels

- This was like that other saying of Xerxes when he was at Abydos and saw ships laden with corn sailing out of the Pontus through the Hellespont on their way to Aegina and the Peloponnese. His counsellors, perceiving that they were enemy ships, were for taking them, and looked to the king for orders to do so. [3] Xerxes, however, asked them where the ships were sailing, and they answered: “To your enemies, Sire, carrying corn.” Xerxes then answered, “And are not we too sailing to the same places as they, with corn among all our other provisions? What wrong are they doing us in carrying food there?” Hdt 7.147

# Convoys

- I need not remind you, I imagine, **how you received news that no grain was to be exported to Athens from Cyprus.** Now I was able to handle the situation with such effect that the persons who had formed the plot and put it into execution were frustrated. [21] It is of no importance that you should know how this was done; **what I do wish you to know is that the ships on the point of putting in to the Peiraeus at this moment with a cargo of grain number no less than fourteen; while the remainder of the convoy which sailed from Cyprus will arrive in a body shortly after them.** Andoc. 2.20-1

A large, textured orange watercolor splash occupies the left side of the slide, with various shades of orange and some darker spots. The text 'Trade and taxes' is written in white, sans-serif font over this splash.

# Trade and taxes

- Last year and the year before our honest Agyrrhius here was chief contractor for the **two per cent customs duties**. He farmed them for thirty talents, and the friends he meets under the poplar all took shares with him. You know what they are like; it is my belief that they meet there for a double purpose: **to be paid for not raising the bidding, and to take shares in taxes which have been knocked down cheap**. [134] After making a profit of six talents, they saw what a gold-mine the business was; so they combined, gave rival bidders a percentage, and again offered **thirty talents**. There was no competition; so I went before the Council and outbid them, until I purchased the rights for **thirty-six talents**. I had ousted them. I then furnished you with sureties, collected the tax, and settled with the state. I did not lose by it, as my partners and I actually made a small profit. At the same time I stopped Agyrrhius and his friends from sharing six talents which belonged to you. Andoc. 1.133-4

# Trade and taxes

- 2% tax
- 30 talents means a minimum entry of 1500 talents of goods in the harbour that year (not including grain shipments).
- 1 Talent = 6000 drachmas (1 drachma = 6 obols; 1 obol = 8 chalkeis)
  - So, 1500T = 9 million drachmas. Tax received by the state: 180,000 drachmas
- Payment of a sculptor = 1.5 drachmas per day
- 40kg of wheat = 6 drachmas
- 3L of wine = 4 obols
- 1 live cow = 51 drachmas
- 1 woollen cloak = 16 drachmas