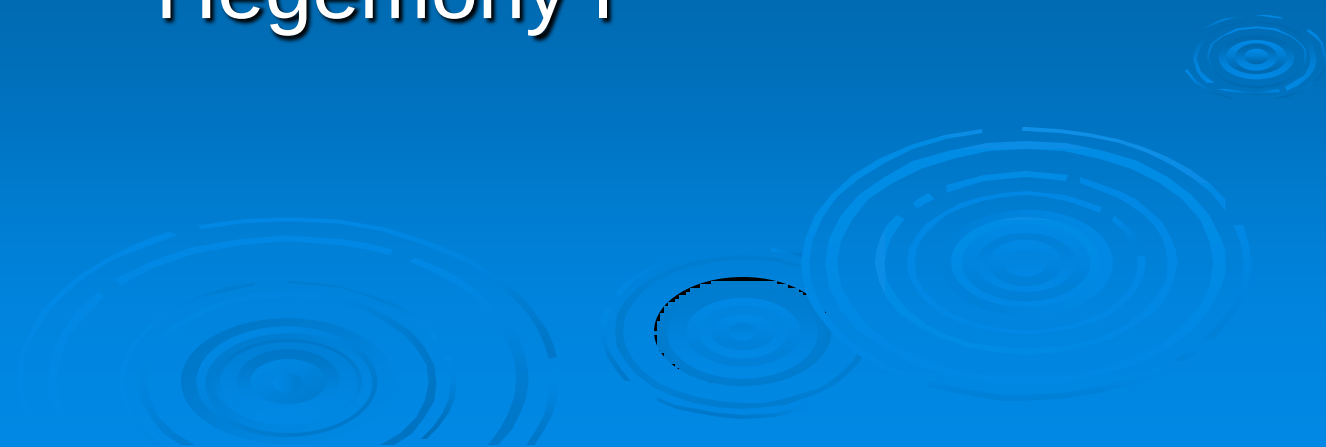


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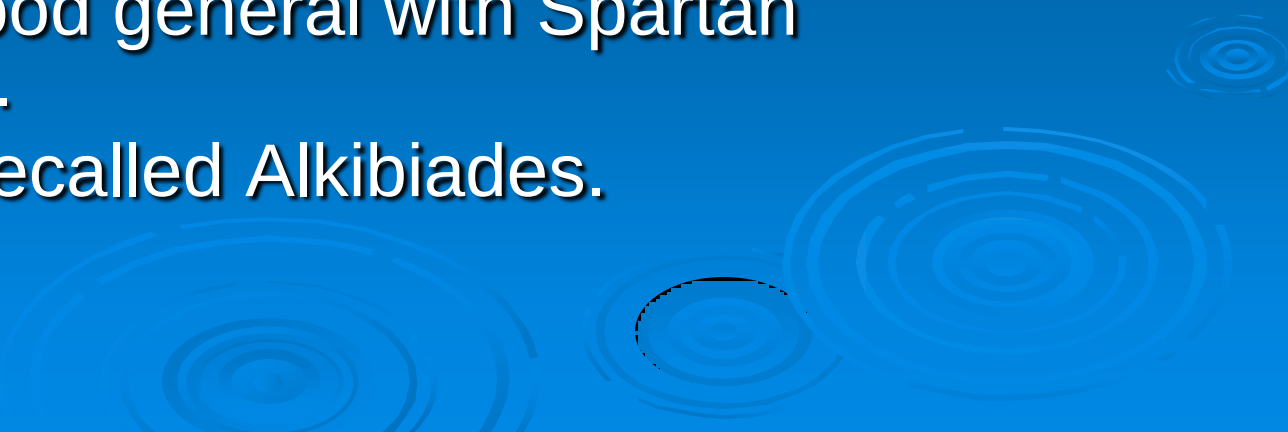
Lecture 12: The Spartan Hegemony I



From Thucydides to Xenophon

- Thucydides lived to see the end of the Peloponnesian War.
- But he did not manage to finish his History before his death.
- His account ends with the revolution of the 400.
- After 410 BCE, the main source is Xenophon's *Hellenika*

The Return of Alkibiades

- From 410 to 407 BCE, Athens managed to keep some dominion over the Aegean.
 - In 410 BCE, the Athenians managed a major victory over the Spartans, destroying the greater part of the Peloponnesian navy.
 - With Persian help, the Spartans managed to rebuild their navy but it took time.
 - The Athenians by 407 realised that they had need of a good general with Spartan connections.
 - Thus, they recalled Alkibiades.
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- The bottom right corner of the slide features several decorative concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, resembling ripples in water.

Notion

- Alkibiades did not stay recalled for long.
- A defeat at the sea-battle of Notion, which was not his fault, meant that he was exiled once again.
- More importantly, the Athenians lost any leverage they had with the Persians.

Arginusai

- In 406 BCE, the Athenians won the battle at Arginousai.
- The aftermath of the battle is one of the most poignant critiques of democracy in world history.



The trial of the Arginousai Generals

- When Euryptolemus had thus spoken, he offered a resolution that the men be tried under the decree of Cannonus, each one separately; whereas the proposal of the Senate was to judge them all by a single vote. The vote being now taken as between these two proposals, they decided at first in favour of the resolution of Euryptolemus; but when Menecles interposed an objection under oath and a second vote was taken, they decided in favour of that of the Senate. After this they condemned the generals who took part in the battle, eight in all; and the six who were in Athens were put to death. [35] And not long afterwards the Athenians repented, and they voted that complaints be brought against any who had deceived the people, that they furnish bondsmen men until such time as they should be brought to trial, and that Callixeinus be included among them. Complaints were brought against four others also, and they were put into confinement by their bondsmen. But when there broke out afterwards a factional disturbance, in the course of which Cleophon was put to death, these men escaped, before being brought to trial; Callixeinus indeed returned, at the time when the Piraeus party returned to the city, but he was hated by everybody and died of starvation. Xenophon *Hellenika* 1.6.34-5

The Aftermath of Arginousai

- Without Alkibiades and having killed most of their best generals,, the Athenians lacked talent.
- In 405 BCE, Lysander, the Spartan vice-admiral, managed to trick them in Aigospotamoi.
- The Athenian fleet was lost and with it control of the Hellespont and the Aegean

The Athenian Surrender

- The loss of the Hellespont meant that Athens could no longer import the necessary foodstuffs it needed.
- The Spartan occupation of Decelea meant that Attica could not provide Athens with foodstuffs.
- Athens was starved into surrender in 404 BC

Sparta's Victory

- Sparta was victorious in the Peloponnesian War.
- However, her victory was gained with Persian support.
- Victory gave Sparta effective dominion over Greece and the Aegean.
- Asia Minor, according to the agreement between Sparta and the Persian King, belonged to the Persian Empire.

Questions?



Follow-up Reading

- C. Falkner 'Sparta and the Elean War, ca 401/400 B. C.: Revenge or Imperialism?' *Phoenix*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (Spring, 1996), pp. 17-25. JSTOR:
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1192678>