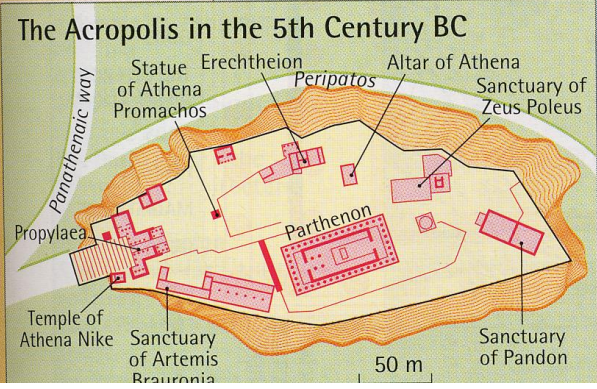


**The Mediterranean in the
Antiquity:**

**Athens's influence on the
Greek world**

INTRODUCTION

WORD BOX
Athens [ˈæθɪnz]
The Acropolis
 [əˈkrɒpəlɪs]
The Parthenon
 [ˈpɑːˈθɛndɒn]
The Panathenaia
 [ˌpænəθeˈnæjə]
The Peloponnese
 [ˈpeləpəniːs]



City of Athens
 Athens' allies
 Persian Empire

First part

In the Antiquity (4000 BC / 500 AD), the Greek World was composed of many « POLISES » / cities.

Each had an autonomous government

In the 5th century BC, Athens was the most powerful Greek city

It also had a new political system because it was a democracy

It was a model in Greece as democracy was unprecedented

Second part

What influence did Athens have in the Greek world at this time?

Athens was also the very first **DEMOCRACY** in history

What is a democracy?

A DEMOCRACY IS A POLITICAL
SYSTEM WHERE THE PEOPLE HAS
THE POWER

It comes from 2 Greek words:
DEMOS and KRATOS

Third part

At first, let's focus on Athens's political influence

Then, let's study its military and economic print.

I/ Athens's political organisation

I/ Athens's political influence

A/ Athenians created a new political system: the democracy

DEFINITION: when the people has the power

1) The founding principles

It was put in place by an aristocrat called **CLISTHENE** in 508 BC

PERICLES, an Athenian magistrate, later improved the democracy between 443 BC and 429 BC

It's based on **ISONOMY**: equality of citizens before the law

THE LAW COURT
HELAIIA

Popular court of justice
6000 judges who take turn

EXECUTIVE POWER
MAGISTRATES AND STRATEGISTS

ELECTED FOR ONE YEAR
Can be re-elected

THE EKKLESIA

Meets 4 times a month on Hill
Pnyx
40 000-22,000 citizens
Assembly of citizens
Vote laws
Vote war
Vote ostracism
(Quorum was 6000)

BOULE

500 members
50 at a time
(Prytanies)
Prepare laws to be
voted

*At the end of their term,
magistrates must account
for their actions and
decisions; Impeachment
was possible*

Sortition : selection for office by lot: to
be sorted by lot/ to be drawn

The legislative power belonged to :

The executive power belonged to :

The judiciary power belonged to :



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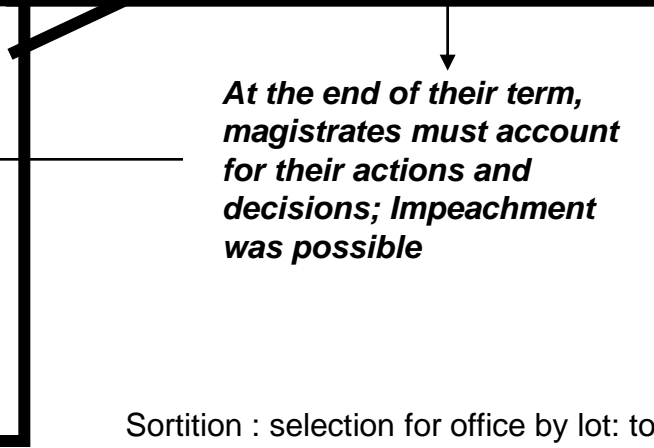
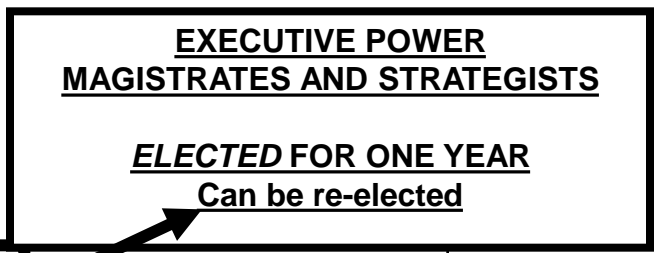
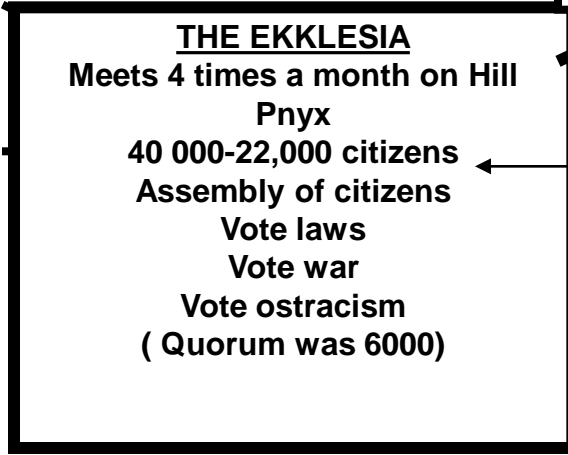
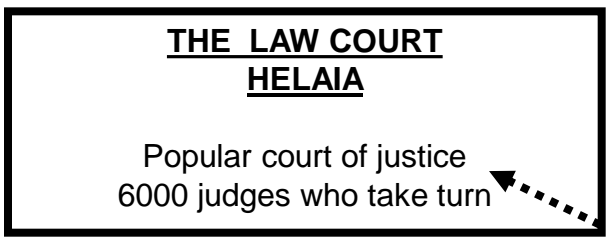
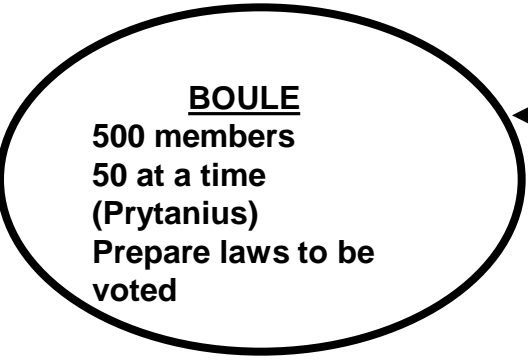
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500 members
50 at a time
(Prytanus)
Prepare laws to be
voted

Weaknesses:

Sortition : selection for office by lot: to
be sorted by lot/ to be drawn



2) Who were the citizens?

Citizens:

There were only 40.000 male citizens and it was then reduced to 22.000 by Pericles (out of a 240,000 population in the **Attica**)

Under Pericles, to be a citizen your father **and mother's father** had to be Athenian and you must be born in the Attica

You inherited from citizenship: the **Right of blood.**

Non citizens:

they were over 200,000 and were **not taken into account** for political decisions.

There were three categories:

- the foreigners : they came either from Greece (the metics) or out from Greece (the Xenoi)

They paid a tax to be accepted.

- Slaves

- Women depended on men: they could not make any political decisions although they were in charge of religious ceremonies

3) How did citizen get organized ?

Let's study a text by a very famous Athenian magistrate called Pericles.

The Greek historian Thucydides recounted the story of the Peloponnesian War during which Pericles pronounced the funeral oration for the Athenian soldiers who fell during the war

Our system of government does not copy the institutions of our neighbours. It's more the case of our being a model to other than of our imitating anyone else.

Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hand not of a minority but of the whole people.

When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law; when it is a question of putting someone before someone else in position of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability that the man possesses. No one as long as he has it in him to be in the service of the state, is kept in political obscurity because of poverty. (...)

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1-Presentation of the document: what elements of the text can be helpful?

TO PRESENT A DOCUMENT YOU NEED TO TELL MORE ABOUT:

- The author
- The nature
- The topic/the/subject: What does it deal with? What is it about?
- The date: When was it made? When did the events mentioned occur.
- The context: what happened at the time?

Let's see what we have here....

THE AUTHOR:

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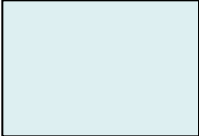
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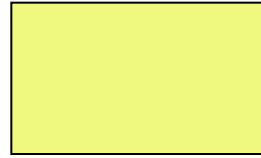
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THE CONTEXT:



**YOU CAN NOW WRITE A PARAGRAPH TO PRESENT
THIS DOCUMENT...ENJOY YOURSELF!**



Let's now work on the content of this text...

2- Was democracy a common political system at this time?

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WE CAN INFER FROM THIS QUOTE:

3-How does Pericles define a democracy?

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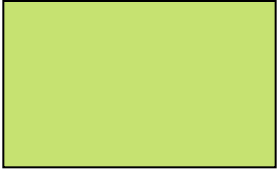
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WE CAN INFER FROM THIS QUOTE:

4-Who was given some power in such a political system?

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WE CAN INFER FROM THIS QUOTE:

5-Don't you think it can be put into perspective? Isn't Pericles 'view biased? Comment on the colored passage.

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Citizens' rights and duties

Rights:

- go into politics
- freedom of speech
- Question magistrates
- isonomy: equality of citizens before laws
- Misthos: they could get a financial support to get full time into politics when they were sorted by lot (3 obols a day: a worker's wage)
- Do the Epheby/ Ephebeia / ephebos (E FE BI A)

Duties

- defend the city in case of a war
- get involved into religious ceremonies: the **Panathenaic festival (Panathénées)** was the most famous of them.

It was (meant) to worship Athena, Athens's **patron Goddess.**

Getting involved into religion was a condition to be a good citizen.

- respect laws or they could be **ostracized**: that's to say the Ecclesia could vote to send someone into exile.(OSTRACISM)

4) Athens's democracy's weaknesses

There was a limited number of citizens (40 000 -22 000)

It was hard to become a citizen (right of blood)

Sometimes politicians abused the system using their power for their own interest or to bribe or dominate the people

It's called **demagoguery**

Periclès was accused of this (Misthos, building of monuments)

Presentation

What in the text shows this judge takes advantage of his position

Why is this possible?

“Then, the moment I’m inside the Court House, I forget all of my promises and let my anger subside from all that begging and I sit and listen to all sorts of voices from those who want to be found innocent. And there you will hear all sorts of excuses. Is there any piece of flattery that does not give a juror sweet pleasure? Some blubber on about their poverty. Talk about exaggerations! They pile on upon what they’ve got all sorts of other dreadful circumstances, so much so that they make their troubles look greater than mine! Some entertain us with myths, others tell us funny stories, perform all sorts of funny acts to make me laugh and forget my anger. And if, after all that, we jurors don’t change our mind, the man will roll out his children, one by one, holding both girl and boy by the arm. Then their father comes and, with trembling knees, he begs me –as if I were a god!- to give him the verdict of innocence. “Please sir, if you love the sound of a lamb, of my young boy here, pity us. Ah, but I’ve forgotten the sweetest benefit of them all! And I get this when I come home with my payment, because everyone welcomes me at the front door and goes after my money. Well, then, isn’t this authority of mine as great as that of Zeus?”

Extracted from Aristophanes' wasps (422 bc). Philocleon who speaks is a judge in the Helaia

“Then, the moment I’m inside the Court House, I forget all of my promises and let my anger subside from all that begging and I sit and listen to all sorts of voices from those who want to be found innocent. And there you will hear all sorts of excuses. **Is there any piece of flattery that does not give a juror sweet pleasure?** Some blubber on about their poverty. Talk about exaggerations! They pile on upon what they’ve got all sorts of other dreadful circumstances, so much so that they make their troubles look greater than mine! Some entertain us with myths, others tell us funny stories , perform all sorts of funny acts to make me laugh and forget **my anger**. And if, after all that, we jurors don’t change our mind, the man will roll out his children, one by one, holding both girl and boy by the arm. Then their father comes and, with trembling knees, he begs me –**as if I were a god!**- to give him the verdict of innocence. “Please sir, if you love the sound of a lamb, of my young boy here, pity us.

Ah, but I’ve forgotten the sweetest benefit of them all! **And I get this when I come home with my payment**, because everyone welcomes me at the front door **and goes after my money**.

Well, then, **isn’t this authority of mine as great as that of Zeus?”**

Extracted from Aristophanes' wasps (422 bc). Philocleon who speaks is a judge in the Helaia

What is here the main criticism towards the Athenian democracy?

Is there any piece of flattery that does not give a juror sweet pleasure?

The judge seems to make fun of the scenes he attends. He's narcissistic, pityless and big-headed/ full of himself.

as if I were a god!-) (isn't this authority of mine as great as that of Zeus?")

He does not seem to take his job seriously. He's big headed

**And I get this when I come home with my payment,
because everyone welcomes me at the front door
and goes after my money.**

He seems to enjoy his « power » and the money it brings.

The money refers to the Misthos

It shows, some abused power in this political system

This was the risk of sortition

This political stability served the economic and military power.

II/ Athens's military and economic print

A/ A military power

From 490 BC Athens fought the huge Persian empire in the MEDIC WARS

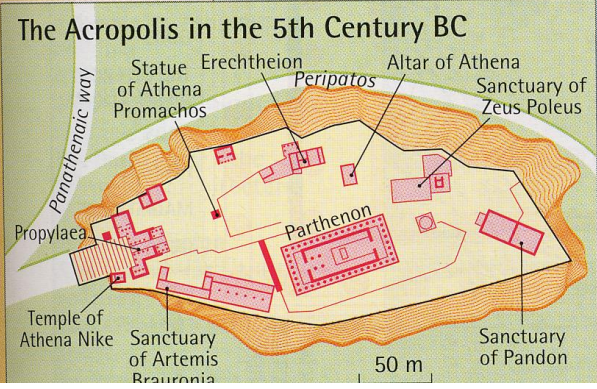
It finally won thanks to its powerful **fleet**

In 478 BC it formed the **DELIAN LEAGUE**

The DELIAN League was a coalition which paid Athens for its protection. (source of income)

Its headquarters were in **DELOS**

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Athens sent many citizens in these allied-cities to found « colonies » called clerouchies.

Some Athenians were send there and they could get a land for free

It spread Athens's political influence

SO ATHENS WAS A REAL THALASSOCRACY

B/ This military power strengthened its economic power

Athens is very big and has many resources

Indeed Athens was the widest city of Greece:2500 sq/km

The Pyrennées Atlantiques are 7000Sq/km

Its port called PIRAEUS was very dynamic

The Delian league brought Athens a lot of money

CONCLUSION:

Athens was a rich and prosperous city in the Mediterranean in the 5th century BC.

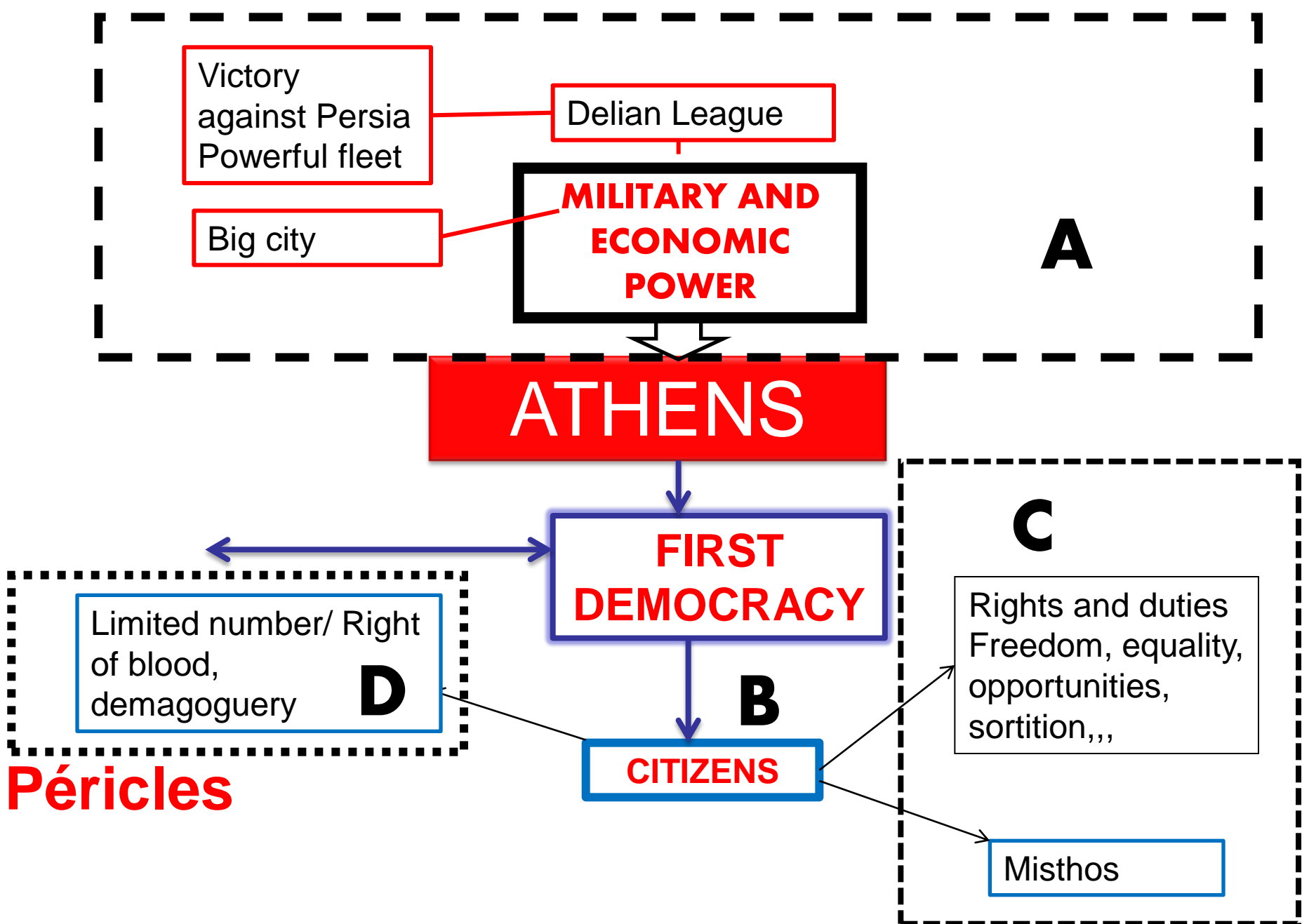
Athenians invented the very first democracy.

It was the first time in history the people was given power.

This is why Athens had a great influence in the Mediterranean: it was a model to follow.

But it was far from being a fair political system and some criticized it.

This is one of the reasons why Athens's democracy did not survive the defeat against Sparta at the end of the 5th Century BC in the Peloponesian war



Victory
against Persia
Medic Wars

Thalassocracy

Delian League



POWER

ATHENS



DEMOCRACY

Péricles
Criticism



CITIZENS

Limited
number

Misthos

Isonomy

Rights and duties