

# Aim #15: How did war with invaders and conflict among Greeks affect the city-states?

## Conflict in the Greek World

NYS SS Framework: 9.3



### Mini Lecture

- After 522 B.C., the Persians extended their empire to include the Greek city-states of **Ionia** in Asia Minor.
- Although under Persian rule, these Ionian city-states were largely self-governing, they resented Persian control.
- In 499 B.C., Athens sent ships to help these city-states fight the Persians. This decision led to the **Persian Wars**.
- Eventually, the Greeks were victorious against the Persians. This victory increased the Greeks' sense of uniqueness. Athens emerged from the wars as the most powerful city-state in Greece.
- Athens formed an alliance, called the **Delian League**, with other Greek city-states. An **alliance** is a formal agreement to cooperate between two or more nations or powers.
- After the Persian Wars ended, a golden age began in Athens under the leadership of Pericles.
- Many Greeks outside Athens resented Athenian domination. Soon, the Greek world was divided by new rivalries.
- In 431 B.C., warfare broke out between Athens and Sparta. This conflict, known as the **Peloponnesian War**, soon engulfed all of Greece. Sparta defeated Athens with the help of Persia.
- The defeat ended Athenian domination of the Greek world. However, the Athenian economy revived and Athens later regained its place as the cultural center of Greece.
- At around 340 BCE, due to conflict between the Greek city-states, all of Greece was conquered by their neighbor, **Macedonia**.

### CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

**QUICK FACTS**

#### Causes

- After the Persian Wars, Athens used its influence with other city-states to establish the Delian League. Athens took advantage of its position as the head of the Delian League to create what amounted to an Athenian Empire.
- Sparta and its allies, the Peloponnesian League, resented the growing influence of Athens in Greece.
- Over decades, tensions built up between the two leagues.

#### Effects

- Athens lost its entire navy, most of its army, and most of its allies. For a short time, the city's government was replaced by an oligarchy chosen by Sparta, though democracy was soon reinstated.
- Sparta became the supreme power in Greece. However, the Spartan army was weakened and was defeated by Thebes in 371 BC.
- In the 340s BC, after years of bitter squabbling among city-states, all of Greece was conquered by Macedonia.

### Review Questions:

1. How did action by Athens bring about the Persian Wars?
2. How did victory in the Persian Wars strengthen Athens?
3. What were the causes & effects of the Peloponnesian War?

**Further Reading:** Chapter 4, Section 3

### Persian Wars, 490 B.C. – 479 B.C.

Athens fights Persia. Other Greek city-states fight on Athenian side.

Persians burn city of Athens.

Greeks defeat Persians.

Greeks believe gods protect them. Athens becomes most powerful city-state.

Great wars and many battles affected the history of Greek city-states.



