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Chapter 5
Classical Greece, 2000 B.C.–300 B.C.

The history and culture of classical Greece has a significant impact on the modern world.

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Section 1: Cultures of the Mountains and the Sea
Section 2: Warring City-States
Section 3: Democracy and Greece's Golden Age
Section 4: Alexander's Empire
Section 5: The Spread of the Hellenistic Culture

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Section 1: Cultures of the Mountains and the Sea

The roots of Greek culture are based on interaction of the Mycenaean, Minoan, and Dorian cultures.

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Section 1: Cultures of the Mountains and the Sea

Geography Shapes Greek Life

Ancient Greece

- Collection of separate lands where Greek-speaking people live
- Includes mainland and about 2,000 islands

The Sea

- The sea shapes Greek civilization
- Proximity to sea, lack of resources encourage sea travel and trade

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***Continued* Geography Shapes Greek Life**

The Land

- Mountains slow travel, divide land into regions
- Lack of fertile land leads to small populations, need for colonies

The Climate

- Moderate climate promotes outdoor life

- Greek men, especially, spend much of their time outside

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Mycenaean Civilization Develops

Origins

- **Mycenaeans**—Indo-Europeans who settled on Greek mainland in 2000 B.C.
- Took their name from their leading city, Mycenae
- Mycenaean warrior-kings dominate Greece from 1600–1100 B.C.

Contact with Minoans

- After 1500 B.C., Mycenaeans adopt Minoan sea trade and culture

The Trojan War

- **Trojan War**—fought by Mycenaeans against city of Troy in 1200s B.C.
- Once thought to be fictional, archaeological evidence has been found

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Greek Culture Declines Under the Dorians

Dorians Replace Mycenaeans

- Mycenaean civilization collapses around 1200 B.C.
- **Dorians**—possibly relatives of Bronze Age Greeks—move into Greece
- Less advanced than Mycenaeans, Dorians leave no written records

Epics of Homer

- Oral tradition grows, especially epics of **Homer**—a blind storyteller
- **Epic**—a narrative poem about heroic deeds
- Homer's epic the *Iliad*, about Trojan War, shows Greek heroic ideal

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***Continued* Greek Culture Declines Under the Dorians**

Greeks Create Myths

- Greeks develop their own **myths**—traditional stories about gods
- Greeks seek to understand mysteries of life through myths
- Greeks attribute human qualities—love, hate, jealousy—to their gods
- Zeus, ruler of Gods, lives on Mount Olympus with his wife, Hera
- Zeus's daughter Athena is goddess of wisdom and guardian of cities

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Section 2: Warring City-States

The growth of city-states in Greece lead to the development of several political systems, including democracy.

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Section 2: Warring City-States

Rule and Order in Greek City-States

The City-State

- By 750 B.C. the Greek city-state, or polis, is the formal government
- A **polis** is a city and its surrounding villages; 50 to 500 square miles
- Population of a city-state is often less than 10,000
- Citizens gather in the marketplace and **acropolis**—a fortified hilltop

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Continued Rule and Order in Greek City-States

Greek Political Structures

- City-states have different forms of government
- **Monarchy**—rule by a king; **aristocracy**—rule by nobility
- **Oligarchy**—rule by small group of powerful merchants and artisans

Tyrants Seize Power

- Rulers and common people clash in many city-states
- **Tyrants**—nobles and wealthy citizens win support of common people
- They seize control and rule in the interests of ordinary people

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Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

Building Democracy

- About 621 B.C., **democracy**—rule by the people—develops in Athens
- Nobleman, Draco, develops legal code based on equality of citizens
- Ruler Solon abolishes debt slavery; Cleisthenes has citizens make laws
- Only native-born, property-owning males are citizens

Athenian Education

- Schooling only for sons of wealthy families
- Girls learn from mothers and other female members of household

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Sparta Builds a Military State

A Unique City-State

- Sparta, isolated from much of Greece, builds military state

Sparta Dominates Messenians

- Around 725 B.C., Sparta conquers Messenia
- Messenians become **helots**—peasants forced to farm the land
- Harsh rule leads to Messenian revolt; Spartans build stronger state

Sparta's Government and Society

- Sparta government has four branches; citizens elect officials
- Three social classes: citizens, free noncitizens, helots—slaves

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***Continued* Sparta Builds a Military State**

Spartan Daily Life

- Spartan values: duty, strength, individuality, discipline over freedom
- Sparta has the most powerful army in Greece
- Males move into barracks at age 7, train until 30, serve until 60
- Girls receive some military training and live hardy lives
- Girls also taught to value service to Sparta above all else

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The Persian Wars

A New Kind of Army Emerges

- Cheaper iron replaces bronze, making arms and armor cheaper
- Leads to new kind of army; includes soldiers from all classes
- **Phalanx**—feared by all, formation of soldiers with spears, shields

Battle at Marathon

- **Persian Wars**—between Greece and Persian Empire—begin in Ionia
- Persian army attacks Athens, is defeated at Marathon in 490 B.C.

Pheidippides Brings News

- Runner Pheidippides races to Athens to announce Greek victory

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***Continued* The Persian Wars**

Thermopylae and Salamis

- In 480 B.C., Persians launch new invasion of Greece
- Greeks are divided; many stay neutral or side with Persians

- Greek forces hold Thermopylae for three days before retreating
- Athenians defeat Persians at sea, near island of Salamis
- Victories at Salamis and Plataea force Persian retreat
- Many city-states form Delian League and continue to fight Persians

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***Continued* The Persian Wars**

Consequences of the Persian Wars

- New self-confidence in Greece due to victory
- Athens emerges as leader of Delian League
- Athens controls the league by using force against opponents
- League members essentially become provinces of Athenian empire
- Stage is set for a dazzling burst of creativity in Athens

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Section 3: Democracy and Greece's Golden Age

Democratic principles and classical culture flourish during Greece's golden age.

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Section 3: Democracy and Greece's Golden Age

Pericles' Plan for Athens

Pericles as Leader

- Skillful politician, inspiring speaker, respected general
- Dominates life in Athens from 461 to 429 B.C.

Stronger Democracy

- Pericles hires more public officials; creates direct democracy
- **Direct democracy**—citizens rule directly, not through representatives

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Athenian Empire

- Takes over Delian League; uses money to strengthen Athenian fleet
- Sparta and other cities resent Athenian power

Pericles' Plan for Athens

Glorifying Athens

- Pericles buys gold, ivory, marble; hires artisans to beautify Athens

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Glorious Art and Architecture

Architecture and Sculpture

- Pericles builds the Parthenon—a large temple to honor goddess Athena
- Within temple, sculptor Phidias crafts 30-foot statue of Athena
- Sculptors create graceful, strong, perfectly formed figures
- **Classical art**—values harmony, order, balance, proportion, beauty

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Drama and History

Tragedy and Comedy

- Greeks invent drama as an art form; includes chorus, dance, poetry
- Two forms of drama: tragedy and comedy
- **Tragedy**—tells story of heroes' downfall; themes of love, hate, war
- **Comedy**—makes fun of politics and respected people; slapstick humor
- Greek dramatists include Aeschylus, Euripides, Aristophanes

History

- Historians Herodotus and Thucydides record and study past events

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Athenians and Spartans Go to War

War Begins

- 431 B.C. city-states Sparta and Athens at war—**Peloponnesian War**

Peloponnesian War

- Sparta has better army, Athens has better navy
- Plague strikes Athens in 430 B.C., kills many—including Pericles
- Sparta and Athens sign truce in 421 B.C.

Sparta Gains Victory

- 415 B.C. Athens renews war, attacks Syracuse; is defeated in 413 B.C.
- Athens and allies surrender to Sparta in 404 B.C.

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Philosophers Search for Truth

Rise of Great Philosophers

- After the war, rise of **philosophers**—thinkers, "lovers of wisdom"
- Believe universe is subject to absolute and unchanging laws
- People could understand these laws through logic, reason
- Sophist philosopher Protagoras questions the existence of Greek gods

Socrates

- **Socrates**—believes in questioning, self-examination of values, actions
- Convicted of corrupting young people; sentenced to death in 399 B.C.

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Continued Philosophers Search for Truth

Plato

- **Plato**—student of Socrates; writes *The Republic*—an ideal society
- In 387 B.C., establishes Athens school, the Academy; lasts 900 years
- His writings dominate European philosophy for 1,500 years

Aristotle

- **Aristotle**—student of Plato; uses rules of logic for argument
- His work provides the basis for scientific method, still used today
- Tutors 13-year-old prince who becomes Alexander the Great

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Section 4: Alexander's Empire

Alexander the Great conquers Persia and Egypt and extends his empire to the Indus River in northwest India.

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Section 4: Alexander's Empire

Philip Builds Macedonian Power

Macedonia

- **Macedonia**—kingdom of mountain villages north of Greece
- **King Philip II**—ruler, brilliant general; dreams of controlling Greece
- Macedonians call themselves Greek; rest of Greece does not

Philip's Army

- Philip creates well-trained professional army; plans to invade Greece

Conquest of Greece

- 338 B.C. Macedonians defeat Greece; 336 B.C. King Philip murdered

- His son named king of Macedonia—becomes **Alexander the Great**

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Alexander Defeats Persia

Alexander's Early Life

- Tutored by Aristotle; inspired by the *Iliad*; has military training
- Becomes king when 20 years old; destroys Thebes to curb rebellion

Invasion of Persia

- 334 B.C. Alexander invades Persia; quick victory at Granicus River
- **Darius III**—king of Persia, assembles army of 50,000–75,000 men
- Alexander defeats Persians again, forces King of Persia to flee

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Continued Alexander Defeats Persia

Conquering the Persian Empire

- Alexander marches into Egypt, crowned pharaoh in 332 B.C.
- At Gaugamela in Mesopotamia, Alexander defeats Persians again
- Alexander captures cities of Babylon, Susa, and Persepolis
- Persepolis, the Persian capital, burned to the ground
- Ashes of Persepolis signal total destruction of Persian Empire

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Alexander's Other Conquests

Alexander in India

- Alexander fights his way across the deserts of Central Asia to India
- Alexander conquers Indus Valley area in 326 B.C.
- Reluctantly returns to Babylon, dies in 323 B.C.

Alexander's Legacy

- Alexander melds Greek and Persian cultures; wife is Persian
- Empire becomes three kingdoms: (1) Macedonia, Greek city-states;
- (2) Egypt; (3) old Persia, also known as Seleucid kingdom

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Section 5: The Spread of Hellenistic Culture

Hellenistic culture, a blend of Greek and other influences, flourishes throughout Greece, Egypt, and Asia.

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Section 5: The Spread of Hellenistic Culture

Hellenistic Culture in Alexandria

- Result of Alexander's policies—a new vibrant culture
- **Hellenistic culture**—Greek blended with Egyptian, Persian, Indian

Trade and Cultural Diversity

- **Alexandria**—Egyptian city becomes center of Hellenistic civilization

Alexandria's Attractions

- Lighthouse, called the Pharos, stands over 350 feet tall
- Museum contains art galleries, a zoo, botanical gardens, dining hall
- Library holds masterpieces of ancient literature; supports scholars

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Science and Technology

Alexandria's Scholars

- Scholars preserve Greek and Egyptian learning in the sciences

Astronomy

- Astronomer Aristarchus proves sun is larger than Earth
- Proposes planets revolve around sun; not accepted for 14 centuries
- Eratosthenes uses geometry to calculate Earth's circumference

Mathematics and Physics

- **Euclid**—mathematician; *Elements* the basis for courses in geometry
- **Archimedes**—scientist; ideas help build force pump and steam engine

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Philosophy and Art

Stoicism and Epicureanism

- Zeno founds Stoic school; promoted virtuous, simple lives
- Epicurus believes people should focus on what senses perceive

Realism in Sculpture

- **Colossus of Rhodes**—Hellenistic bronze sculpture over 100 feet tall
- Sculptors move to non-classical, natural forms; real people