

Sparta



Growth and Control

- Needing more land, Sparta conquers its neighbors in the 8th century B.C.;
- Neighboring peoples – Laconians and Messenians reduced to **helots**, a form of serfdom where they were forced to work for the Spartans;
- Helots drastically outnumbered Spartans and to maintain control over this population, the Spartans created **a military state**;



Lycurgan Reforms



- Lycurgos – lawgiver
- lives of Spartans rigidly organized, tightly controlled;
- boys at seven put under control of state;
- lived in military style barracks; subjected to harsh discipline;
- Most highly trained and disciplined soldiers in history
- Education stressed military training and obedience to authority;
- 20 yrs of age – regular military service; until 60;
- Allowed to marry but continued to live in barracks;
- At 30 allowed to vote in the assembly and live at home

Spartan Women

- Husbands lived in barracks until 30; Women lived at home; because of this separation, had greater freedom of movement;
- Upheld Spartan values;
- Permitted to own and inherit land;
- Greater power in household than elsewhere in Greece;
- Sometimes supervised large estates;
- Exercise and fitness important; healthy children; athletic exercises;

Spartan State



- Oligarchy –
- **Resisted political change, maintained inflexible institutions, valued cohesion and stability;**
- 2 kings from different families responsible for military affairs; leaders of the Spartan armies;
- Group of five – ephors, elected each year; responsible for education of youth and conduct of citizens;
- Council of elders – the two kings and 28 male citizens over sixty decided on issues to be presented to the Assembly;
- Assembly voted only on proposals put before it by council of elders;
- Assembly elected council of elders and ephors

Strength or Weakness

- Security demanded they turn their backs on the world;
- foreigners discouraged from visiting;
- did not develop trade and industry on any significant scale; remained agricultural;
- emphasis on militarism caused them to neglect art, literature and science; this is not to say that they did not create or appreciate beauty; they produced some poetry as well as quality jewelry;
- a uniform and unvarying culture;

