

FROM PERICLES TO THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

PERICLES:
MIRACLE WORKER OR MONSTER?

After the Persian War...

- The Greek city-states realized the importance of working together to defend themselves.
- They formed a group called the **Delian League** because it first met on the island of Delos.
- Each city-state contributed money.



Pericles' rise to power in Athens

- By 461 BCE, Pericles was the strongest leader Athens had ever seen.
- He had 3 goals for Athens:
 1. Strengthen democracy
 2. Expand the empire
 3. Beautify Athens



Strengthening democracy

- Supported previous reforms
- Changed balance of power between rich and poor: Everyone is equal before the law...Actual ability [in public service] is more important than social class.
- Created paid positions in public service so poor people could serve.



Expanding the empire

- Pericles used money from the treasury of the Delian League to build up Athens' navy.
- Athens, now the strongest city-state, took over the Delian League and moved its treasury to Athens.
- With the largest navy, Athens treated the other city-states as if they were dominated by Athens, and part of an Athenian empire.



Beautify Athens

- After Persia, Athens in ruins
- Pericles used Delian League funds to rebuild Athens without approval from League members
- Bought gold, ivory, marble
- Paid artists, sculptors, and architects
- Built temples, statues, government buildings, monuments

Examples

Parthenon



Erechtheum



Statue of Athena



Acropolis



So what about Pericles?

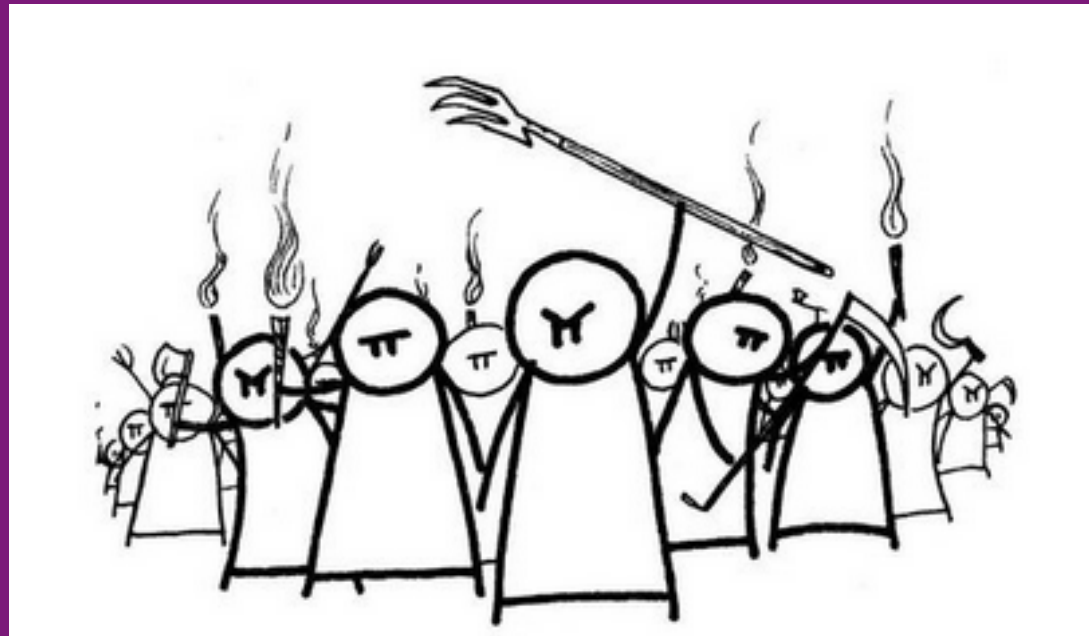
- Amazingly well-rounded (“Jack of all trades, master of none”)
- Public-speaker (with “charisma”)
- Yet, stole from Delian League, dominated others, punished city-states that complained, was involved in scandals



- Was Pericles strong? Was Pericles moral?
- Did Pericles’ strengths make up for his lack of morals?
- Did Pericles’ lack of morals hurt him more than his strengths helped him?
- Is knowing (and doing) right from wrong more important than being good at something?

Results

- How do you imagine the other city-states felt about Athens?
- Who, do you think, was angriest?



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