

## Pericles and the Golden Age – Video 15

He leads during the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wars and beginning of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wars (rough estimate of time, Cimon did lead before him).

His name means “\_\_\_\_\_” for goodness sake!

Huge sense of \_\_\_\_\_ in Athens and Greece during the **Golden Age**: from \_\_\_\_\_ BC.

*Mostly peace between Greco-Persian and Peloponnesian Wars*

From the Persian War, Athens had suffered considerable physical damage and the treasury had been depleted.

Period under Pericles: greatest \_\_\_\_\_ projects and contributions to the \_\_\_\_\_. Athens reaches the height of its artistic achievement.

Family background:

- Son of \_\_\_\_\_: a hero from Greco-Persian War (victorious admiral at the Battle of Mycale).
- On his mother's side, from a powerful and influential family (connections!).
- Both parents pushed him to be engaged in politics.
- He grew up surrounded by philosophers, artists, musicians, etc.
- Huge supporter of the arts.

Pericles is an aristocrat who supports the \_\_\_\_\_ class; and he supports Themistocles.

His support of Themistocles causes him to become the bitter \_\_\_\_\_ of Cimon.

Pericles starts his career in the law courts. He becomes the Lead prosecutor of \_\_\_\_\_ (who was Pro-Sparta) who was then exiled.

Pericles and \_\_\_\_\_ become leaders of Athens Ephialtes acts as a mentor to Pericles.

The exit of Cimon ruined relationship between Athens and \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephialtes was SUPER anti-\_\_\_\_\_. But he's murdered.

What if Cimon had remained in power? Would there even be a Peloponnesian War? Pericles and Ephialtes are antagonistic to Sparta. Cimon was more realistic, and not overconfident. Cimon might have been a better leader because he understood Athens' \_\_\_\_\_ in the pecking order in terms of military might. He understood the \_\_\_\_\_ of Sparta; he admired and respected it.

Sure Athens was more powerful after the Persian Wars...but enough to beat Sparta?

(HINT: NO.)

Pericles becomes main political figure – leading statesman – still has to go through the \_\_\_\_\_ and be elected, but he makes reforms and makes democracy stronger.

He is an amazing \_\_\_\_\_ – helps him get anything he wants passed. He also has a reputation for honesty.

Reforms:

- More power to \_\_\_\_\_, Assembly, and courts.
- Anyone can join politics (no criteria to try to eliminate anyone from politics).
- Everything decided by majority \_\_\_\_\_.
- Allow poor to attend \_\_\_\_\_ for free (he subsidized ticket prices).
- \_\_\_\_\_ duty and other civil services are now paid.

Leads a successful campaign against \_\_\_\_\_ (more on this later).

Elected *strategos* (generalship) in 443 BC; a position he holds for the rest of his life (with only one short interruption).

*FYI there's a bunch of events that ALMOST lead to war but the official start year of the war is 431 BC.*

Pericles follows Themistocles' military ideas:

- Maintain \_\_\_\_\_ superiority
  - If Corinth adds 20 ships to their navy, Athens will add 60...
  - He recognizes the near-invincibility of the Peloponnesians on land.
- Rebuild \_\_\_\_\_ around Athens
  - Which REALLY makes \_\_\_\_\_ mad – they asked Athens not to rebuild and Athens totally ignored this.

If Athens is going to act like an empire, Pericles believes it needs to look like one (still looks “tore up” from Persian War). He “collects” the best sculptors, painters, artists, etc. from the Mediterranean.



Pericles raids the \_\_\_\_\_ treasury to pay for his projects.

First on the list: rebuild the \_\_\_\_\_, which the Persians had destroyed.

(Acropolis means 'high city' in Greek. Most city-states in ancient Greece had at their centre a rocky mound or hill where they built their important temples and where the people could retreat to if under attack.)

At the center of the Acropolis: the fabulous and hugely expensive \_\_\_\_\_. Inside was a massive statue of Athena. The Parthenon cost \_\_\_\_\_ talents (for reference, the Peloponnesian War will cost 2,000 talents a year)!

The Parthenon is built with huge blocks of marble and a decorated frieze, and the Romans will copy this later on.

The Parthenon becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the greatness of Athens.

It is expensive and ornate, but also provides \_\_\_\_\_ for Athenians. (Remember, building programs tend to help social-economic movement.)

*(Narrator fanboys over the statue of Athena.)*

Athens' \_\_\_\_\_ and power are on full display.

*(Still fanboying.)*

Pericles is not just interested in building; he is also a patron of education and the \_\_\_\_\_. He maintains close relationships with the major intellects of the time...including Herodotus!

Defining event in his career: Peloponnesian War. According to Thucydides, Sparta feels more and more \_\_\_\_\_ and demands concessions. Pericles refuses.

Conflict between Athens and Sparta's ally, \_\_\_\_\_, is what pushes Sparta to invade Athens. Pericles evacuates the countryside behind the walls and relies on the navy.

PLAGUE.

Pericles and his sons die due to \_\_\_\_\_.

His death was an unmitigated\* \_\_\_\_\_ for Athens. Without his leadership, the new leadership makes serious judgment errors that lead to Athens' undoing.

Pericles death leads to the downfall of the Golden Age in Athens.

Due to his legacy, Thucydides calls Pericles the first \_\_\_\_\_ in Athens.

*\*unmitigated = absolute, downright, complete, total, utter*