

The Peloponnesian War – Video 19

New Leadership in Athens (no one man has overall control like Pericles did)



429 BC: All three agree Athens needs to be more _____ (moving from defensive to offensive).

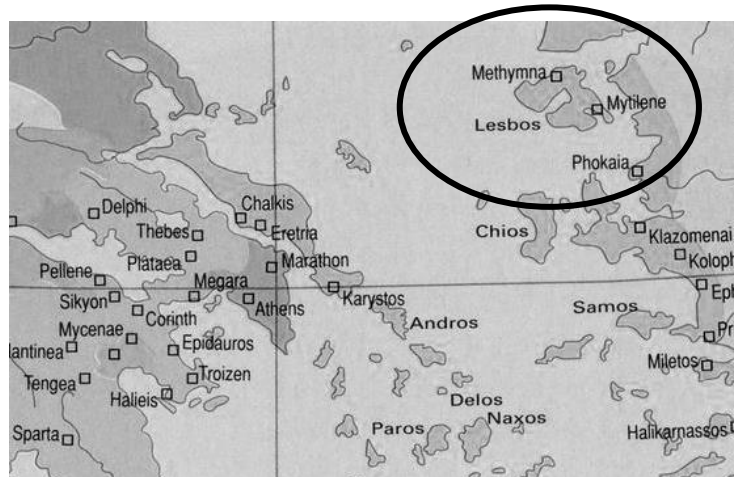
Problems with Lesbos: 428-427 BC:

Ongoing problems within Athenian empire: plague killed thousands, Pericles dead, who's a friend and who's an enemy?

Mytilene, a city on the island of Lesbos, decides it wants to be the "main city" on the island and overrun the other cities. Athens does not want this - what if Mytilene becomes too powerful? Better to have more weak cities than one powerful city.

Athens sends _____ ships to lay the smackdown; Mytilene rebels appeal to Peloponnesians and ask for help.

Athens already has enough to deal with, BUT Athens has to stop this rebellion to as a warning others who might also rebel. Would Pericles have been more cautious? Too bad, he's dead. New leadership in Athens, especially _____, wants to crush the rebellion.



Sensing that Sparta might get involved, Athens sends another _____ ships to raid the coast of the Peloponnese as a warning; Athens may be wounded but the navy is still gon' handle its business, son.

This works! Sparta calls off its planned naval action against Athens...Mytilene is on its own.

Athens lands on Lesbos and builds a _____ around Mytilene (blockading them at sea and land).

This siege takes a toll on Athenian _____ (sieges cost \$\$\$ - build materials, feed troops, ferry supplies across Aegean, etc..).

Athenians have to institute a _____ (OH MY ZEUS this is unthinkable).

Sparta sneaks a general into _____ and promises Sparta will help – which they do; they launch a land and sea attack in _____ BC.

BUT Mytilene had already _____ so Sparta goes home.

Now how to punish Mytilene? _____ wants harsh penalties – but moderates win out and Mytilene is not dealt with too harshly.

Huge turnaround for Athens: aggressive actions crush further _____ in the empire.



Sphacteria and Pylos 425 BC:

Athens is on annual raid against Peloponnesus and hears _____ is in trouble (remember this is who Athens had picked over Corinth).

Of the three generals on this raiding fleet, _____ want to go straight to Corcyra, but Demosthenes decides he wants to stop at Sphacteria and build a _____ on Pylos (an island of the Peloponnesse) before heading to Corcyra.

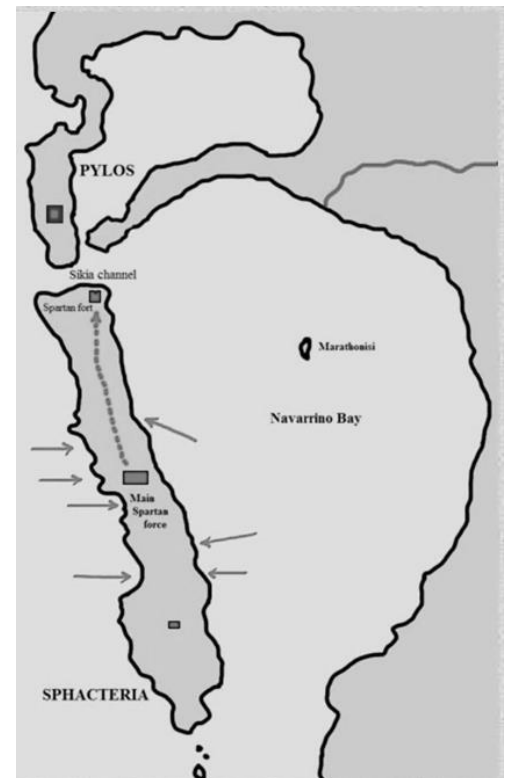
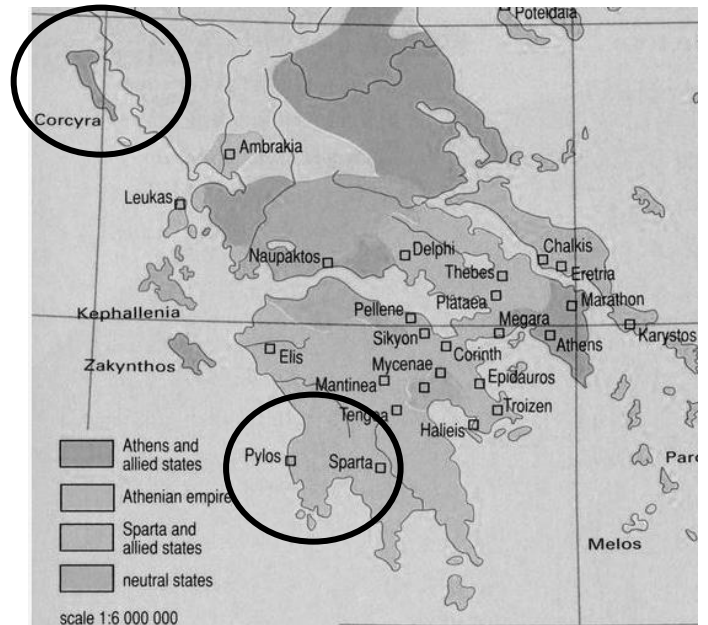
Other two generals think this seems like a misadventure and it's too close to enemies, so they say no.

BUT a _____ pushed Athenian fleet towards Pylos, so Demosthenes had a chance to build the fort anyway since it couldn't head to Corcyra yet (this area is ideally located and controlled two _____).

Weather cleared and two generals and fleet went to _____.

Demosthenes and small fleet and troops stay with fort; _____ send reinforcements to attack fort and block channel (whoa – we can't have an Athenian fort so close!). Sparta places around 400 hoplites on Sphacteria.

Demosthenes asks the fleet to come back and help! Using his fort, he and his crew are able to hold out for _____ days until Athenian navy (50 ships) returns and _____ Spartan navy. This is a disaster for the Spartans stuck on Sphacteria – they are stuck and surrounded.



Spartans ask for _____ and send delegates for a peace treaty to allow _____ Spartans safe passage.

What would Pericles do????

Athenians have upper hand; BUT Cleon _____ the peace treaty and counter proposes, asking for key cities (like _____). Sparta cannot agree to this. Hand over Megara? Oh Hades, no!

Cleon was opposed by _____, who favored peace with Sparta..... Cleon wins.

All talks break off and the _____ prepare to storm Sphacteria.

Cleon sends a task force to help finish job at Sphacteria. The Spartans have most of their troops in the middle of the island, guarding the springs, as well as troops spread to the north and south. The Spartans will face 800 Athenian hoplites, 2,000 lightly arms troops, and 8,000 rowers.

Demosthenes surprise attacks the Spartans on the island and overwhelms the Spartans (surround them); the Spartans retreat to their fort, but the remaining _____ Spartans surrender to the Athenians.

WHOA!!!!!! _____ had to surrender!!!! This is a HUGE BLOW for Sparta....it would be like another city-state losing thousands of men. Athens has a major upper-hand here.

Spartan prisoners are sent to _____; Demosthenes stays in Pylos to secure fort and _____ returns to Athens as a rock star (given front row tickets to the _____).

425 BC: Aristophanes writes *The Archanians*: A play about a man who seeks his own peace with Sparta because the Athenian Assembly won't vote for peace. Keep these events in mind as we read the play, so you understand Aristophanes' criticism of the war.