

The Peloponnesian War – Video 23 – Alcibiades and Argos

Situation report: Peace Treaty is in TROUBLE!

- _____ is trying to undermine the peace treaty.
- Sparta has failed to restore _____ to Athens, so they refuse to hand over Pylos.
- Athens is mad about the peace treaty with Boeotia and Sparta.
- _____ is stirring up trouble by forming its own alliance that threatens the Peloponnesian League.

Nicias is doing his best to maintain the peace, but he is facing external and internal threats. Who is the internal threat?

Alcibiades:

- Elected general in _____.
- Father from a prestigious family, mother from Pericles' family.
- Raised by Pericles when his father died.
- Two words to describe him: _____ !
- He is a lover of _____, physically handsome and an amazing speaker.
- Extremely polarizing and an antagonist to Nicias.

Argos and the Anti-Spartan Alliance:

Alcibiades wants to join in an alliance with Argos, but _____ does not.

Alcibiades believes that if Argos and Sparta fight, and Sparta loses, Sparta may resume the war, especially since Athens has already returned the 292 Spartans.

Even though Argos and Sparta get close to a new treaty, Alcibiades prods the Argives into alliance with Athens.

Two problems against Nicias' point-of-view:

1. The Assembly is pissed about the Spartan alliance with _____.
2. Argos is a _____, so they should be friends.

Nicias and Alcibiades make their cases before the _____.

The Athenians decide to put the Argive alliance on hold and demand concessions from Sparta: Revoke the pact with _____ and restore _____ properly.

Sparta rejects this...but renews their oath to the Peace of Nicias (BUT restoring Amphipolis was a term of the Peace Treaty.....what the Hades?).



How is this Peace Treaty supposed to work out?

Athens is pretty mad at Sparta so, it accepts an alliance with _____.

_____ leaves the Argive alliance to rejoin Sparta. Surprise, surprise. They HATE Athens!

All this back and forth and agreements is confusing, and if war breaks out amongst allied city-states it may draw Athens and Sparta back into war with each other.

This is a major victory for _____ who loves him some war.



Target - Corinth:

419 BC – Alcibiades decides to attempt to induce _____ to rejoin the Argive alliance, or leave the Peloponnesian League and become neutral.

So Alcibiades heads to the Peloponnesus to pressure the Corinthians by convincing their colonies to leave the Peloponnesian League.

This plan never really stood a chance because the Corinthians _____ Athens. Did we mention hate? Secondly, what if the Corinthians left the Peloponnesian League and Sparta <GASP> fell to Athens? Who would destroy Athens then?

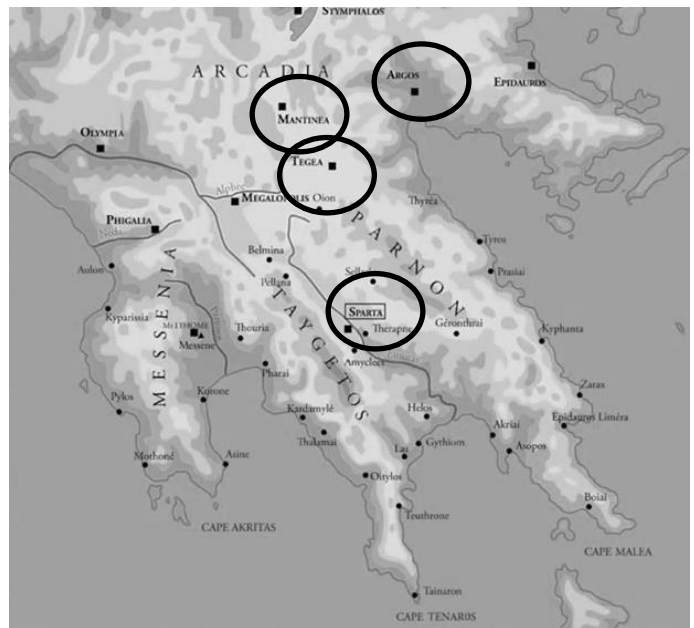
Sparta isn't stupid....she sends reinforcements to Corinthian colonies to help out. Amazingly, with all this, the treaty still holds.

Moving towards battle:

418 BC – The Spartan army, led by King Agis, decides to attack _____ and knock them out of the war. BUT BUT BUT BUT nothing happens. King Agis signs a _____ month treaty with Argos.

When the king returns to Sparta, there is outrage over the treaty. The Spartan Assembly never agreed to this and Argos throws out the treaty!

Argos seizes a key town (Orchomenus) which is a key pass through the mountain ranges, and would block the Corinthians or other allies from the north from reaching the _____ army if needed.



Several armies are on the move toward Mantinea. Tegea is threatened by the Argive alliance and may revolt if the city is not stabilized. Sparta is in danger! Tegea controls the _____ to Sparta.

Spartan King Agis is dispatched to get control of Tegea and he does. In the meanwhile, Sparta requests help from _____ and _____, as well as other Peloponnesian League members. But no place is safe for the allies to head to Sparta, because the Argive alliance is blocking the passes.

King Agis decides he cannot wait in _____ any longer and he takes initiative by marching to Mantinea.

Battle of Mantinea:

The Argive army occupies the heights, but King Agis decides to GO FOR IT anyway and orders a suicide assault against the enemy on the heights. One of his deputies talks him out of this lunatic idea at the last minute and they retreat back down the hill.

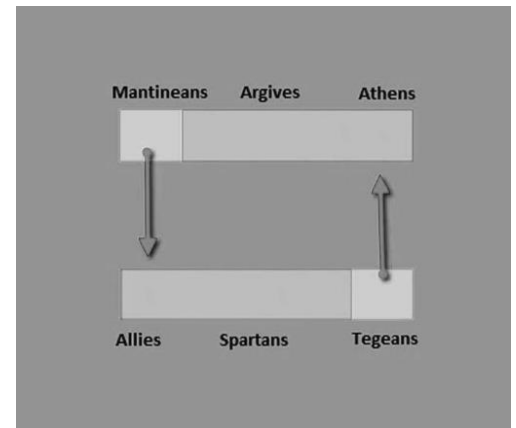
King Agis ravages the _____ in order to lure the enemy down the hill. He floods the plains around Mantinea.

The Allied Argives are annoyed that they didn't attack the Spartan while the Spartans were retreating down the hill. The Argive enemy runs after the Spartan army and catches them by surprise.

Weee, doggy! This is gon' be an old fashion'd classic _____ style battle.

The Spartan army numbers about _____ and includes Spartans, Tegeans, and Allies.

The Argive army numbers about _____ and includes Mantineans, Argives, and Athenians.



The position on the _____ is the position of honor. On the Argive side, the Mantineans are given this position because they are defending their homeland, and also they are accomplished at hoplite warfare. The Athenians on the _____ are expected to hold the line, not win the battle.

On the Spartan side, the Tegeans are given the _____ flank of honor because they are also fighting for their homeland (some Spartans are mixed in), Spartans are in the middle, and allies and some Spartans that fought with Brasidas are on the left.

(Side story about how some generals didn't listen to King Agis and are prosecuted and exiled for dereliction of duty after the battle.)

As battle ensues, the _____ side of both armies are under duress.

The Spartans are winning in the _____.

The Athenians are overcome and _____ the battlefield. The Spartans do not pursue the Athenians, but secure their left flank to outnumber the remaining Argives and Mantineans. The Argives and Mantineans end up fleeing as well, and the _____ win victory!!!!

The Argives and Athenians flee and keep their armies intact, so it wasn't a total annihilation, BUT the Spartans maintain their strength and this boost morale for oligarchy and threatens the democratic states.

_____ switches from democracy to oligarchy.