

The Peloponnesian War – Video 24 – The Beginning of the End

Situation report: The Spartans won the Battle of _____. They've reclaimed some of their lost prestige after all the rebellions in the Peloponnesus. This also gives oligarchy _____.

This also saved Tegea, which saved Sparta from being _____ on all sides by enemies within the Peloponnesus.

No real further fighting between Sparta and _____, and no declaration of war. So the peace treaty is still (back?!?!?) in effect.

Tension has moved elsewhere.....

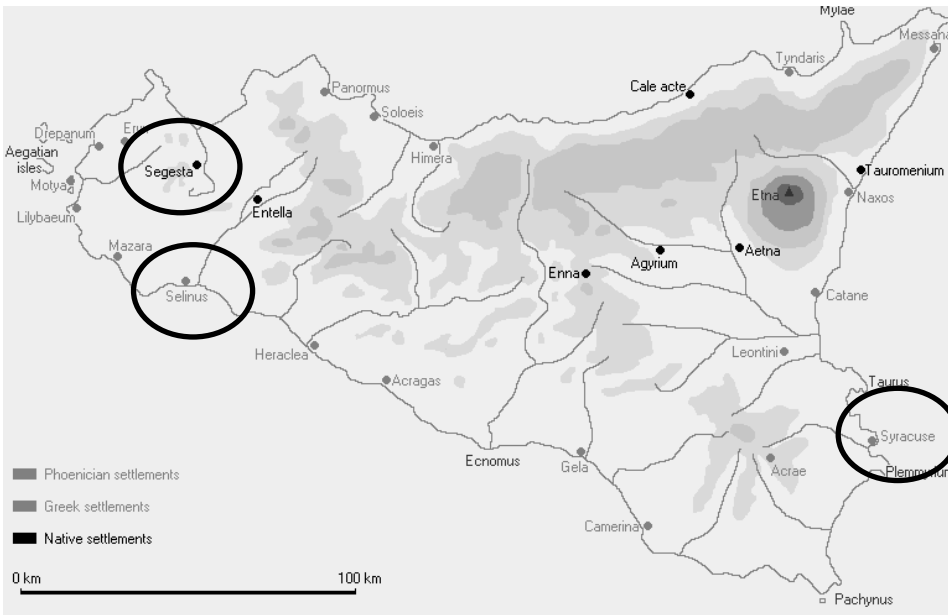
Sicily:



This is one of the most _____ territories in history. If you control Sicily, you control the Western Mediterranean.

The Athenians had sent previous expeditions to Sicily and knew it well.

A town called _____ goes to war with a town called Selinus. Syracuse (the big powerhouse on the island) supports Selinus, and so Segesta is losing.



What does a city do when it is losing and needs help? They turn to a major power. Segesta turns to _____ in 415 BC.

Syracuse wants Athens to stay out of Sicily – Syracuse sees Sicily as its domain.

However, Segesta sweetens the request for help by offering to pay for the entire _____ of the campaign. How could Athens deny that? Plus, if Athens can control the entire island, maybe Athens can control the entire Western Mediterranean and maybe even threaten the naval dominance of _____.

So Athens accepts this offer and allocates a fleet of _____ ships.

Debate at Athens:

BUT Nicias has other ideas and advises against the entire campaign in front of the Assembly.

Nicias speaks first:

- Advises AGAINST entire campaign. He thinks it's too _____ to send Athenian forces to Sicily, when there are currently two closer, more imminent threats: _____ and _____.
- If the Athenians suffer any setback in Sicily at all, it may bring _____ back into the war.
- He is diametrically opposed to the mission, he also _____ Alcibiades in front of the Assembly.
- He is always _____ as opposed to his risk-taking counterparts.

Alcibiades responds:

- He portrays Sicily as an island deeply _____, and Athens can easily convince many city-states to ally against Syracuse. Sicily is just _____ for the taking.
- IF Athens doesn't come to the aid of Segesta, it will suggest to their _____ that Athens will not help in their time of need (bad example to the others).
- If Athens is _____, this is a major possession to add to the empire, and perhaps this will allow Athens to continue the war and take control of all of Greece.
- Alcibiades is a very convincing speaker and the Assembly is leaning toward his viewpoint.

Nicias speaks again:

- Nicias changes tactics to try to convince the Assembly: he uses _____ tactics!
- This campaign will NOT be easy: it will require a _____ navy, much more than 60 ships.
- He also points out that Sicily is not as _____ as Alcibiades portrays. Plus, Sicily and Syracuse have vast wealth to conduct a war.

WELP. That backfires.

The Assembly calls his bluff and _____ the size of the expedition (doubling it). Now Athens is risking even more. PLUS, all that talk of the _____ of Sicily increases the greed of the Athenians and motivates them further for this campaign. Nicias accidentally provided the incentive for the Assembly to side with Alcibiades.



Immediate problems with campaign:

_____ is a very powerful city within its own right; only a few steps below Athens and Sparta in military strength.

If they win, Alcibiades will be a hero. If anything goes wrong, the Athenian forces will be cut off from _____ base.

Bizarre incident: Overnight, statues of _____ are vandalized. Enemies of Alcibiades claim he is responsible for the desecration.

Athenians are very superstitious. Hermes is the god of messages and _____. So this appears to be a very bad _____.

Alcibiades is to be put on trial, but he realizes this might be a sham. Alcibiades demands an immediate trial, but his enemies want him out of _____ before beginning proceedings. (*SHADY! Generals at home are powerful, and generals away on mission are less powerful because they are not there to defend themselves.*)

The situation is not _____ when Alcibiades leaves with the armada to Sicily.

The armada sails:

Athenian navy includes:

- 5100 _____
- 1300 light troops
- 30 cavalry
- 134 _____
- And their newest friends/allies: Mantineans and Argives

More problems: several key cities that had promised _____ change their minds and won't even let the Athenian navy anchor in their ports. AND Segesta did not have the _____ to cover the war. THEY LIED!

Three generals in charge of the campaign, and three different strategies:

1. **Nicias:** Arrange _____ between Segesta and Selinus. Force Segesta to pay some _____ for the expedition, and then sail home. The fight with _____ would be avoided; problems solved, yay.
2. **Alcibiades:** Gain _____ in Sicily, then launch overall attack on Selinus and Syracuse.
3. **Lamachus:** Direct attack on _____ (don't waste any time, go for it.)
Lamachus ends up supporting Alcibiades.

Historians tell us _____ plan may have actually worked the best, because it may have forced a quick surrender and ended the war. _____ would not have had time to organize its defenses.

Syracuse hears _____ of the Athenian invasion and makes preparations. They consider facing the Athenians at sea, but decide against it. They request help from their ally, _____, but the Athenians are already near Sicily.



The Athenians first stop at _____, a long-time enemy of Syracuse; the Athenians are able to port and resupply.

The Athenians attempt to make a run at _____, but are unable to make any headway because that city is an ally of Syracuse. The city refuses to switch sides.

The Athenians send a small contingent to the harbor of Syracuse and find it _____. The sight of the Athenians, however, worries the Syracusans.

The Athenians make a second attempt at _____, and are able to take the city. They now have a critical base to the _____ of Syracuse to operate from.

While at Catana, a trireme arrives with orders that _____ is recalled to stand trial for destroying the statues of Hermes.

Alcibiades agrees to follow if he is allowed to return in his own _____. Alcibiades finds out (how?) he has already been sentenced to _____, and his properties all seized. He has nothing to lose!

He decides to make a run for it and seeks refuge in _____. WHOA. With Alcibiades out of the picture, _____ becomes the leader of the campaign.