

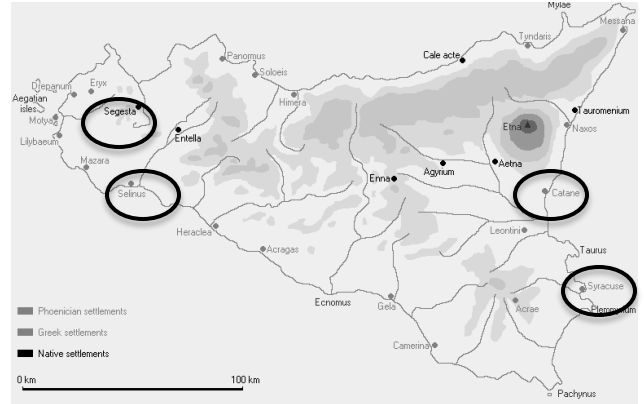
The Peloponnesian War – Video 25 – Trouble with Nicias

Situation report: Alcibiades convinces Athens to invade _____. An armada of 134 _____ sets up in Catana, but Alcibiades is recalled to Athens leaving _____ and _____ in charge. Nicias is the more senior general. Oh, and Alcibiades ran away to _____.

Nicias is not really the right man for the job. He is too conservative and cautious for such a risky campaign.

Nicias does not attack Syracuse:

Nicias really wants to head _____, but he knows anything short of a victory will not be accepted in Athens. If he goes home empty-handed, he might end up like Alcibiades.



What to do? What to do? Follow his original plan and collect _____ from Segesta, and try to settle the dispute between Segesta and Selinus.

He's only able to collect _____ talents from Segesta. UGH – that's not going to work! The whole operation cost around _____ talents. That's not enough to please Athens.

He also tries to follow Alcibiades' original plan: convince some of the Sicilian cities to join Athens in an _____. UTTER FAILURE. Many of the towns believe Athens is there to _____ all of Sicily, so they won't assist Athens. The devil you know (Syracuse) is better than the devil you don't (Athens).

All of this gave _____ time to organize the defense of their city and plan for an attack.

Nicias is being way too _____. He's not looking to _____; he's trying to figure out how not to _____.

(Too bad nobody used General Lamachus' original plan: use the element of surprise to just straight up attack Syracuse and force a quick surrender.)

What makes a great general? Nicias only liked campaigns he knew he'd win. Bold campaigns need a bold leader. (In fairness this whole plan was not Nicias' idea!)

Back in Catana, Nicias comes up with a strategy:

Draw the Syracusan army _____ from the city. He tricks them into attacking Catana, but while the Syracusans are headed towards Catana at night, the Athenians board their ships and head toward _____.

The Athenians head right into the great harbor, giving them a good _____ position. They have a marsh and two rivers to use as natural defense barriers, and if things got too bad, they can always sail back to _____.

They prepare to launch an attack on Syracuse and camp for the night. The Syracusans rapidly march back and set up camp.

First Battle of Syracuse 415 BC:

Next day, the Athenians break camp, head across _____, and set up across from the Syracusans.

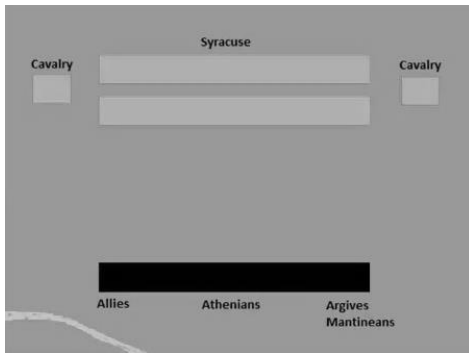
The Athenian set-up includes the Argives and Mantineans on the right, the

Athenians in the _____, and other allies on the left. The formation is _____ ranks deep.



The Syracusans have _____ the number; and also have _____ cavalry.

The Athenians forgot cavalry??? At least the river to their back protects the Athenians from being outflanked.



Thucydides tells us that Nicias marched up and down the lines, speaking words of _____ before battle.

The battle lasts for a long time; there is even a _____ during the fighting which leads to further confusion during battle.

After a long, difficult fight the Argives drive back the _____ wing of the Syracusans. The outnumbered Athenian hoplites push back the Syracusans and the Syracusans begin to flee the battlefield.

The Syracusan _____ saves the retreating Syracusan army from being pursued. They return to their city.

The Athenians place a victory _____ on the battlefield and collect their dead. Since winter is approaching, they return to _____.

At Catana, the Athenians request more _____ from Athens to bribe other Sicilian cities to join with Athens.

Syracuse and Sparta plot 415/414 BC:

Syracuse makes reforms, reducing its _____ from fifteen to three, in order to unify its command. They also request help from _____.

In Sparta, Alcibiades is a disaster for Athens. He tries to convince the Spartans to enter the war on behalf of Syracuse. He tells Sparta once the Athenians are done conquering _____, they will launch an assault on the _____, leading to total domination of Greece.

He also provides a VITAL strategic secret. In the Spartans occupy _____ in Attica, they can cut the Athenians off from a major source of revenue: _____ mines.

The Spartans choose to send a _____ fleet to Syracuse.

