

The Peloponnesian War – Video 22 – Peace of Nicias

Situation report: _____ and _____ are both dead. Two main antagonists are dead.

The two main negotiators are Nicias for _____ and King Pleistoanax for _____. The Spartan king had negotiated the peace treaty from the First Peloponnesian War with Pericles and was good friends with Pericles. (Interesting sidenote: the Spartans were pissed when this happened because they thought they had the upper hand; they actually exiled King Pleistoanax for 20 years.)

The peace treaty occurs in _____ and will technically last until 414BC, although it will be in serious jeopardy by 418 BC.

The peace treaty is very complicated, will have immediate issues, and nefarious goings on in the background.

Did Sparta and Athens really want to end the war? It seems so.

Reasons for the Peace of Nicias:

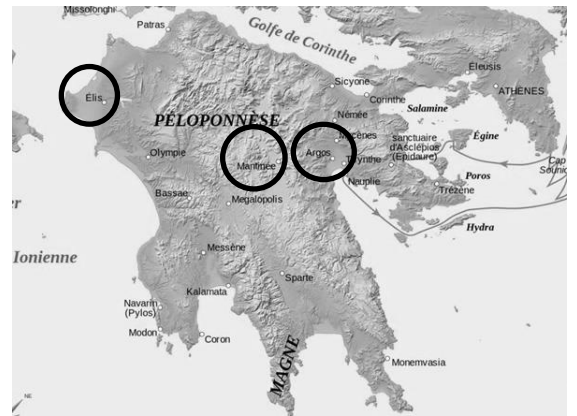
1. Both sides are tired of fighting. The war has been going on for _____ years so far.
2. It has taken a toll on their economies. Athens has depleted _____ talents from its treasury.
3. Brasidas and Cleon are dead, so the two main warhawks are gone.
4. Nicias and Pleistoanax are more peaceful.
5. The Peloponnesian League is _____. Mantinea and Elis are acting independently, and Sparta can't start a war with them while maintaining war with Athens.
6. Athens has lost _____ after the setbacks at Boeotia, Megara, and Amphipolis.

7. Sparta is worried about _____, a long-term enemy.

a. They had signed a 30 year peace treaty back in 451 BC, but it's set to expire in _____. The Spartans don't want Argos to enter the war and sign a treaty with Athens. The Spartans want to renew a new 30 year peace treaty, but Argos rejects it thinking they may have a stronger hand to play.

b. If Elis, Mantinea, AND Argos all cause problems for Sparta, it basically cuts the Peloponnese in half.

c. Argos is a _____, which is threat to Sparta. (Elis and Mantinea have moderate democracies as well). Sparta cannot afford to let democracy spread.



Terms of the Peace of Nicias:

(Exchange of prisoners and cities.)

1. Spartans have to return all Athenian _____ of war, which they do.

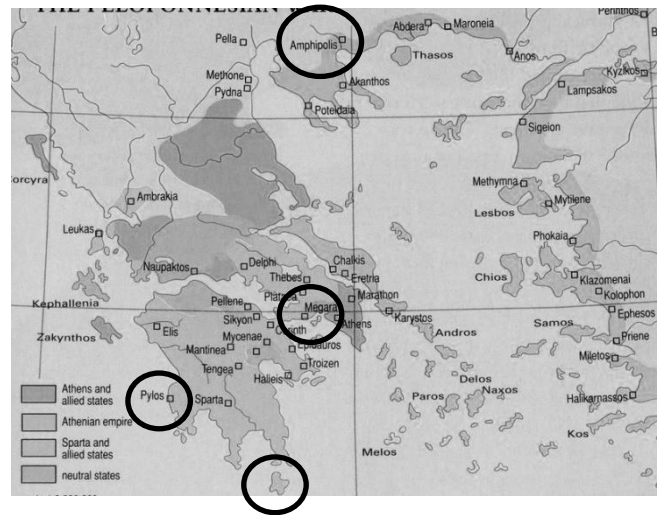
2. _____ is returned to Athens (which was the primary peace objective for Athens).

3. Athens returns the _____ Spartan prisoners they had taken at Sphacteria in 425 BC.

4. Athens gets to keep _____, the port city of Megara. Megara is pissed.

5. Sparta must recognize the Athenian _____, meaning that the Athenians are free to crush the rebellious cities up north within her empire.

6. _____ and _____ (port cities) are returned to Sparta.



This treaty addresses the grievances of Sparta and Athens, NOT their _____. This will lead to the undoing of the peace.

Problems with the Peace of Nicias:

Many of Sparta's leading allies refuse to sign:

1. The Boeotians _____ the entire treaty and refuse to hand over their Athenian prisoners of war. They finally hand over a fortress, but destroy it first. They mainly ignore the treaty because of Thebes (the main city in Boeotia); they benefit during the war between Athens and Sparta.
2. _____ is mad that the Athenians are allowed to keep Nisaea.
3. _____ is mad that Potidaea is returned to Athens and other towns are not returned to Corinth.
4. _____ also rejects the treaty due to a dispute over a town with Sparta.
5. Sparta is supposed to force _____ to restore loyalty to Athens, and they do not enforce it. Due to this, Athens refuses to hand over Pylos and _____ until Amphipolis is restored.
6. Athens and Sparta sign a separate _____ year defensive pact (aimed at Corinth) so that Sparta and Athens are obliged to help each other defensively.

Good news! Athens is able to recapture _____, and follow Cleon's old policy of how to deal with rebels (put men to death and all rest sold to slavery).

Continued Problems with the Peace of Nicias:

421-420 BC: Corinth and _____ meet to discuss a potential alliance. Argos recruits Mantinea and Elis. BUT they have different goals:

- Corinth doesn't want to attack _____, they are hoping that this alliance will scare Sparta enough into breaking its treaty with Athens and start another war with Athens. OR, to convince Argos to attack Athens, with or without Sparta.
- Argos actually wants to attack _____.

- Corinth is really just playing a game to scare Sparta that they are other city-states are leaving the Peloponnesian League, just so Sparta will go to war with Athens again.

This plan does NOT go accordingly, because Tegea, _____, and the Boeotians refuse to join Argos and Corinth.

Why does Corinth hate Athens so much? They've had their _____ annihilated and cities seized by Athens. They ignore the fact that the peace treaty could allow them time to rebuild – they are blinded by a desire to bring Athens down.



_____ comes to a separate peace with Athens for only 10 days. But it was renewable every 10 days. SO MUCH TENSION.

Weird thing.... _____ wants its own 10 day truce with Athens. Athens is like, "Ummmm...no. We have a peace treaty with Sparta already, mmm'kay?"

Sparta goes on the attack against Mantinea and Elis; they destroy a fort in Mantinea and a town Elis wanted.

By 420 BC, the war parties in both Sparta and Athens are itching to gain control again. In Sparta, now that they have their hostages back, they want to attack _____ and hammer _____. (Hmmm isn't this what Cleon warned about? Without the hostages, what is the motivation to maintain the peace treaty?)

_____ does not have enough people leaving the Peloponnesian League to join them, and now they face threat from Sparta, the League, and Athens because of that defensive treaty!

Sparta forms a new alliance with _____ which makes Athens SUPER mad. This paves the way for a new war party to emerge in Athens. Nicias' new rival will be Alcibiades.