

Greek and Persian Influence on Each Other



The Persian Empire

- The Persian Empire under Cyrus expanded into modern Turkey, his son Cambyses added Egypt, and then his son Darius added areas in Europe, including northern Greece.



The Ionian Revolt

The cities in the Ionian region had been Greek but ruled by the Persians for fifty years. In 499 B.C.E. the Ionians revolted against the Persians with Greek help. According to Herodotus, Darius punished the Greeks who helped in the revolt.



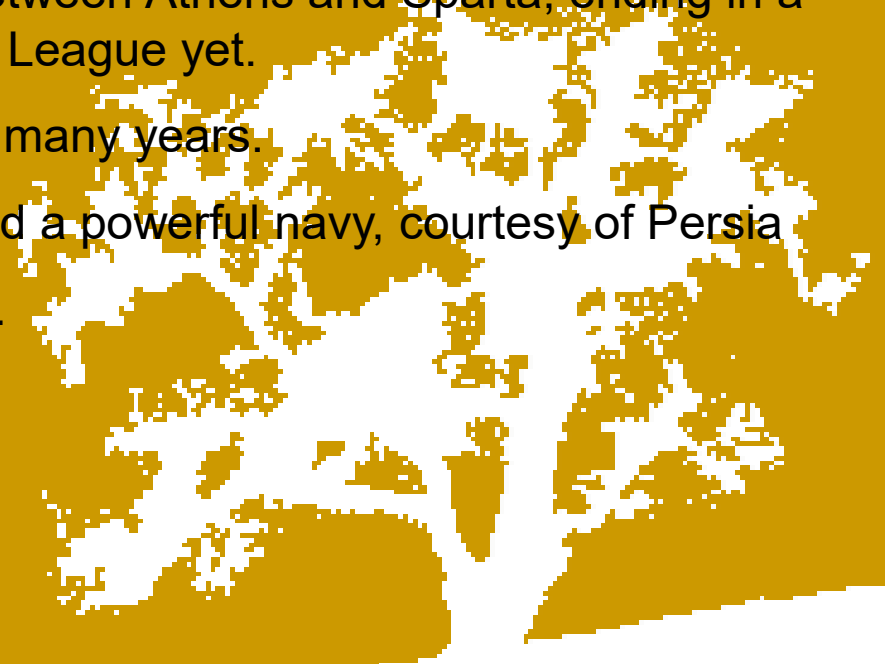
Do Marathons Kill People?

After the Ionian revolt, Persia started attacking other Greek cities and islands, including Athens, which ended in a major battle and Athenian victory in the city of Marathon, about 25 miles from Athens. The legend is that a messenger ran from Marathon to Athens to proclaim the victory, but was so exhausted when he arrived, he said, “We are victorious!” and died on the spot. The modern marathon in the Olympics began in Greece in 1896, from Marathon to Athens.



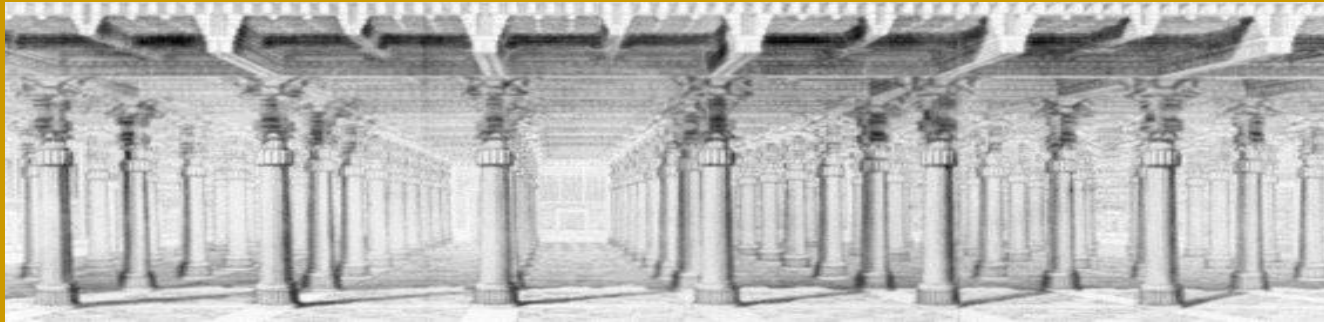
The Delian League

- Ionian cities and any cities on the mainland who wanted to continue the fight with Persia formed this alliance.
- Athens became the leader of this alliance, while it had formerly been an equal
- Sparta did not join, and became afraid
- Two wars (Peloponnesian Wars) ensued between Athens and Sparta, ending in a treaty, but Athens did not dissolve the Delian League yet.
- Persia played on this division in Greece for many years.
- The League dissolved when Sparta received a powerful navy, courtesy of Persia
- The greatest success of Greece? The polis.
- The greatest weakness? The polis.



Influence on Architecture

- The Odeon of Pericles: Pericles had his great music room built as an exact replica of the Hall of the Hundred Columns located in Persia's capital.



- The Apadana in Persepolis (Persian capital) and the Parthenon in Athens: Both were centers of religion, politics, and finance, and the artwork is similar



Parthenon



Apadana



Influence in Politics

- **Was the Delian League inspired by Persian government?**

- * The Delian League was a maritime organization

- * previous Greek confederations had been land-based

- * the Persians had an active navy

- **The tribute system**

- After the Greeks defeated Persia they took over the Asian cities and let them keep their old system of tribute (like taxes) to the rulers.

- both Greeks and Persians let the people negotiate the tribute every 4 years, which gave an illusion of equality which probably did not really exist.

- **The Episcopus and the “eye”**

- * The Greeks had an episcopus who was the overseer of a region, usually elected by the local assembly and controlled payments of tributes

- * The Persians had the “eye”, who reported only to the king and kept watch over a specific region, including monitoring the satrap, or governor

- * the practice of allowing locals to rule even after they were conquered, keeping a semblance of consistency was practiced by both