

The Greeks:

“The Original Westerners”

- I. Greek geography played a key role
 - A. Relatively confined area on the Balkan [Peninsula](#)
 - B. Divided by mountains (up to 10,000 ft.)
 1. Separated city-states (poleis) developed
 - a. Independence was important to each
 - b. Fiercely competitive & quick to fight
 2. No great rivers = a violent civ. /culture
 - C. Islands to East in Aegean Sea, islands to West in the [Ionian](#) Sea & south in Mediterranean Sea (sailors/colonists)
- II. Minoans (~2800-1500 B.C.E.) on the Island of Crete
 - A. Earliest Aegean civilization
 1. Copper to bronze
 2. Rediscovered by Arthur Evans in 1900
 3. Named for legendary King Minos (“king”)
 4. **Not Greek**, they greatly influenced Greeks
 5. Very advanced civilization
 - a. Had contact with Egypt
 - b. Capital at Knossos was built with a massive labyrinth-like [palace](#)
 - i. *Bright frescoes, vases & sculptures*
 - ii. *Huge storerooms with clay pots*



6. Matriarchal “bully” society
7. Famed for their teens doing bull leaping
8. Wrote in a yet to be “deciphered” Linear A
9. Civilization collapsed suddenly ~1550 B.C.E.



- a. The reason has been debated
- b. Combination of Thera blowing up and the Mycenaeans invading Crete

III. Mycenaeans (~1600-1100 B.C.E.) of mainland Greece

- A. Named for their greatest polis
- B. Of Indo-European origin
- C. Wrote using Linear B which has been translated
- D. Known for cyclopean walled cities & palaces
- E. A violent warrior society
 1. *Bound together in a loose confederacy*
 2. *Headed by King of Mycenae called the **wanax***
- F. Great sailors who traded the central Med. Sea region
 1. Conquered Crete & the remnants of the Minoans
 2. Made famous for their destruction of Troy
- G. By 1190 B.C.E. Mycenae was destroyed
 1. The culture collapsed by 1100 B.C.E.
 2. A Greek speaking people had invaded (Sea Peoples?)

IV. The Greek Dark Age (~1100-750 B.C.E.)

- A. Agriculture had failed until 850 B.C.E.
 1. Colonization increased especially to Ionia (SW Asia Minor)
 2. *Others colonized other parts with the Dorians*

conquering the Peloponnesian Peninsula, Crete & Rhodes

3. Trade increased as well as the use of iron

(24 letters) 4. Phoenicians reignited writing with their alphabet

B. Homer and Homeric Greece

1. Homer = “The Blind Bard”

a. Man or woman?

b. Recounted the Iliad & Odyssey

i. The story begins with Helen being stolen by Prince Paris of Troy

ii. Result: Trojan War & Horse

iii. Troy is destroyed

iv. Iliad is 10 days in the 10th year of the Trojan War

(1) Achilles is the hero

(2) Climax: Achilles kills Prince Hector of Troy

v. Odyssey tells of Troy’s destruction and Odysseus’s 10 year voyage home

(1) Odysseus matures (Gr. male maturation)

(2) Tells of wife Penelope’s excellence

(Exemplified fidelity, courage & honor)

c. Insight into Mycenaeans & Dark Age Greeks

2. Homer’s Enduring Importance

a. Greeks saw Iliad & Odyssey as history

b. The books taught Greeks an aristocratic

life of value and honor

c. To achieve *arête* or excellence thru. contest(s)

d. Homer provided true models to emulate

V. The World of the Greek City-States (c. 750–c. 500 B.C.E.)

A. The Polis (*poleis* pl.)

(Origin of the words politics, police, and policy)

1. Commonalities

a. Small size (30-500 sq. miles)

i. *Athens was smaller than Rhode Island*

ii. *Sparta was the largest geographically*

b. Small population

i. *Usually less than 10,000*

ii. Only free adult males were “citizens”

iii. *At its height, Athens had ~300,000 people*

c. “Acropolis” towards center (Set on a hill usually)

i. Original city-state fort there

ii. Temples & public buildings there

d. “Agora” = marketplace

i. Usually at the base of the acropolis

ii. Business & gossip exchanged there

e. Polis was an independent city-state/nation

i. Greeks identified with their polis

ii. Each had its own laws, customs, calendars, system of weights and measures & so on

iii. Such independence caused Greek disunity

2. A New Military System: The Greek Way of War
- a. Originally, large estate owners, or nobles rode horses into battle
 - b. They dominated pre-8th Century B.C.E. Greece
 - c. Opposition came from wealthier non-nobles who became the main soldiers (hoplites)

- i. Became hoplites = “heavily armored infantry soldier”
- ii. Fought in phalanxes (locked together formation)
- iii. Goal: push an enemy from the field
(Think rugby scrum)

iv. Part-time warriors with few casualties

- Plato → d. Greek warfare was a part of nature for the Greeks
- e. Their military culture and way of fighting became a part of Western Civilization

B. Colonization and the Growth of Trade

1. Mediterranean & Black Seas become “Greek Lakes” from ~750-550 B.C. E.

- a. Due to overpopulation, class tension, & trade
- b. Each new settlement was very independent, esp. from the originating polis or *metropolis*

Byzantium

began as a Greek

colony

- c. Ex. Southern Italy became

Magna Graecia or “Great(er) Greece”

- d. They had trading posts in Egypt

2. The Effects of Colonization

- a. Wide-spreading Greek culture
- b. Contact with Rome
- c. Contact with others created a Greek identity.
- d. Led to increased trade

C. Tyranny in the Greek *Polis*

1. The rise of the aristocrats led to the rise of tyrants during the 7th & 6th centuries B.C.E.

- a. Tyrants took power by force & laws did not apply
 - i. *The rich & peasantry liked tyranny and not abusive aristocrats.*
 - ii. *Supported trade, & big public works projects.*

Good & Bad

b. *Example of Corinth*

- i. *There was an abusive oligarchy in charge called the Bacchiad family*
- ii. *A member & head of the military named Cypselus took over by force in 657 B.C.E.*
 - (1) *Ruled well & with kindness till 627 B.C.E.*
 - (2) *His son ruled cruelly and was ousted*

c. Oligarchies and democracy replaced tyranny

D. Sparta

1. Located in [Laconia](#) on the Peloponnesus

- a. Originated with five villages
- b. Conquered all other Laconians

Spartiates

= citizens

- i. *Perioikoi* = free inhabitants who didn't pay taxes like the *Spartiates* who also served

- ii. Helots = *Laconians* who were forced to work farms or as household servants
- iii. Neighboring Messenia was conquered and the people made helots
- iv. Sparta militarized to keep helots in line according to a legendary Lycurgus

See p.64 for

treatment of boys

2. The Spartan Way

Kopis

Sword

- a. All male citizens had to join
- b. Newborns inspected for imperfections
 - i. Elders did it
 - ii. The imperfect cast off a mountain
- c. At age **6-7**, boys joined a “mess”
 - i. Lived in a military barracks with about **60** others
 - ii. Mess mates always came first
 - iii. Had one wool tunic
 - iv. Given straw for a mattress
 - v. Taught to read & write efficiently
 - vi. Fed watery gruel
 - (1) Stole & foraged to survive
 - (2) Beaten if caught stealing
- d. In charge of helots as a teenager
- e. Army & marriage at age **20**
 - i. Still lived in mess till age **30**
 - ii. At age **30**, a male could move out of the mess

(“laconic”) →

& vote, but couldn't run a business (*a distraction*)

- f. Women trained & were educated separately
- g. Both genders learned to read/write, poetry/music
- h. *Spartiates* owned land and the helots
- i. *Perioikoi* were free but acted as merchants
- j. A secret force hunted helots with state permission & a declaration of war for legality

3. The Spartan State

- a. Two kings from two families
 - i. Headed the military
 - ii. Headed the religion & did foreign policy

b. *Gerousia* = Council of Elders

Created by Lycurgus

9th B.C.E. Century

Lawgiver



Spartan Virtues:

Equality,

Military Fitness,

& Austerity

i. 28 members over age 60

ii. Plus the two kings

iii. *Prepared legislation for the **apella** or assembly of all citizens*

c. *Apella* voted on proposals & elected the *Gerousia* and *Ephors*

d. College of five *Ephors* elected annually

i. Any male over 30 could be elected

ii. Judges of all who oversaw all education

iii. Convened the *gerousia*

e. Isolationists, literate & avoided the study of anything that could lead to a revolt

E. Athens

1. Arose on the Attica Peninsula
2. Ruled first by kings and later aristocrats
3. Council of Nobles called the *Areopagus* controlled life and wealth with **9 Archons**
4. A weak *ecclesia* or assembly of full citizens
5. By ~600 B.C.E. Athens was on the verge of civil war as debt slavery was rampant
6. The Reforms of [Solon](#)
 - a. Elected sole archon in 594 B.C.E.
 - i. Ended all aspects of debt slavery
 - ii. Aristocrats held on to most of the land
 - iii. Divided Athenians by wealth into **4** classes
 - (1) Only top **2** classes held real power
 - (2) *Members of the 3rd group could be elected to the **boule** which prepared items for the assembly*
 - (3) *4th group only voted in the assembly*
 - (4) *All could sit in the **Heliaea** which heard appeals decided by archons*
 - (5) *Any citizen could bring charges against another citizen*
7. The Move to Tyranny
 - a. Peisistratus seizes tyrannical power in 560 B.C.E.
 - i. Aristocrat and relative of Solon
 - ii. Took power from the aristocrats

- iii. Forced land reform & loans to poor farmers
- iv. Expanded trade and did a massive building program for the unemployed
- v. Son Hippias did poorly and was exiled

8. Reforms of Cleisthenes

a. Blocked aristocratic return to power in 508 B.C.E. with the aid of the Athenians

i. Gave power to all people of Attica

(1) All citizens enrolled into 10 tribes

(2) Each tribe had people of the coast, city and farms in it.

ii. Each tribe annually chose 50 by lot to serve in the new Council of 500

(1) Prepared business for the council & financial & foreign affairs

(2) Council then had final authority on laws

b. Thus democracy had been created

demos = people

kratia = power

F. Greek Culture in the Archaic Age (~800-480 B.C.E.)

1. Kouros = stiff life-size nude Egyptian like statues

2. Sappho of Lesbos (~630-570 B.C.E.)

a. Famed poet and music teacher

b. Famous for her love poems to her female students

c. Greeks had no problems with such emotions

3. Hesiod (~700 B.C.E.)

a. Wrote the epic poem Works & Days

(Big on work and anti-aristocrats & injustice)

- b. Hesiod's Theogony is a poem about the birth of the gods

IV. High Point of Greek Civilization: Classical Greece

A. The Challenge of Persia (500-338 B.C.E.)

1. Perceived by Greeks as a threat to their freedom
 - a. In 499 B.C.E., the Ionian Greeks rose against Persia
 - b. Lost but aided with ships from Athens
 - c. Darius decided to punish Athens
2. First Persian Attack
 - a. Failed invasion due to storms in 492 B.C.E.
 - b. Battle of Marathon in 490 B.C.E.
 - i. Persians seize much of Euboea
 - ii. Persians land at Marathon
 - iii. Miltiades leads an Athenian, Plataean army in a charge against the Persians and defeats a much larger force
3. The Invasion of Xerxes
 - a. Themistocles (524–459 B.C.E.) becomes leader
 - b. Athens builds a 200 trireme fleet
 - c. Xerxes comes to power in Persia in 486 B.C.E.
 - d. Invasion in 480 B.C.E.
 - i. ~150,000 troops with over 700 ships
 - ii. Used a pontoon bridge to cross the Hellespont
 - iii. Quickly marched thru. Thrace & Macedonia

- e. Battle of Thermopylae
 - i. Narrow pass held by 300 Spartans under King Leonidas & 6000 to 9000 Greeks
 - ii. After two days the Persians slaughtered the Spartans and the Greeks retreated.
- f. Themistocles abandons Athens for Salamis
 - i. Athens & all left inside are burned by Persia
 - ii. Themistocles outmaneuvers a superior Persian fleet and destroys it on the rocks as King Xerxes looks on
 - iii. Xerxes withdraws his navy fearing an Ionian revolt but it is later destroyed by the Greeks at Mycale 479 B.C.E.
 - iv. Remnants of the Persian army are destroyed at Plataea in 479 B.C.E.
 - (1) 35,000 Corinthians and Spartans
 - (2) Combined with a “scorched earth” policy

B. The Growth of an Athenian Empire

1. Delian League is created (478 B.C.E.) to stop future Persian invasions
 - a. Treasury and headquarters at Delos
 - b. Dominated by Athens and her 300 triremes
 - c. Ended the Persian fleet and army’s power in 469 B.C.E. with a victory in southern Asia Minor
 - d. Islands of Naxos & Thasos were destroyed

when they tried to secede in 470 B.C.E.

e. Delian League became an Athenian Empire

2. The Age of Pericles (~495 – 429 B.C.E.)

a. *Ecclesia* (assembly)

i. 18 years or older

ii. Upwards of 43,000 members at a time

iii. Met on a hillside called the *Pnyx*

(1) No more than 6,000 could meet

(2) Passed all laws and declared war

iv. Council of 500 proposed laws

(1) Divided into tenths called *prytanies*

(2) *Prytanies* administered the laws

v. **6000** votes for ostracism got an official exiled for up to 10 years (some recalls)

b. City magistrates were chosen by lot to serve one year terms

c. **10** generals or *strategoï* were elected publicly (Pericles was elected 15 times to this position)

d. Pericles opened many offices to the lower classes

i. *Many got state salaries*

ii. *Aristocrats still held the power though*

3. Athenian Imperialism

a. She created a powerful naval empire.

b. Tried to extend her empire on land

c. First Peloponnesian War (460-445 B.C.E.)

- i. Lost to Sparta and her allies
- ii. Sparta recognized Athens' naval empire and a 30 year peace ensued
- d. "Fearing Persia", Athens moved its treasury from Delos to Athens in 454 B.C.E.

Funeral

Oration, p. 73

- i. Pericles used the money to rebuild Athens
- ii. Any complaints were heard by an Athenian court

C. The Great Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.E.)

1. Cause

- a. Fear by Sparta & her allies of the Athenian Empire
- b. Fear for Peloponnesian sea trade
- c. Athens threatened two Spartan allies, Megara and Corinth
- d. Athens & Pericles refused to back down from Sparta's ultimatum

2. Course

- a. Athens stayed behind her Long [Walls](#) (41 mi. long)
 - i. Her port of Piraeus fed everyone
 - ii. Avoid direct contact with Spartan forces
 - iii. The navy attacked Peloponnesian ports
- b. Sparta used a scorched earth policy
- c. Plague in 429 B.C.E. kills Pericles & ~ 1/3 of Athens

d. Battle of Amphipolis 422 B.C.E.

i. Both leaders of the armies die

ii. The 50 year peace of Nicias followed

e. Alcibiades (~450-404 B.C.E.)

i. Nephew of Pericles

ii. Elected to a generalship in 420 B.C.E.

iii. Failed Syracuse expedition

(1) Alcibiades flees and goes to Sparta

**(2) Encourages Sparta to ally with
Persia's navy**

**iv. Loss at Syracuse caused an aristocratic
oligarchy to take over in Athens in 411 B.C.E.**

**v. The Athenian fleet was destroyed at
Aegospotami on the Hellespont in 405 B.C.E.**

vi. Without a navy, Athens surrendered (404 B.C.E.)

D. The Decline of the Greek States (404-338 B.C.E.)

1. Weakened Athens & Sparta set the stage

2. "Thirty Tyrants" were est. in Athens by Sparta

a. Executed 1500 democratic opponents

b. Athens reestablished democracy in 403 B.C.E.

i. Athens rebuilt her navy

ii. Sparta tried to rally troops against Persia

iii. Eventually a new peace was negotiated

(1) Persia's "King's Peace" of 386 B.C.E.

(2) Ended fighting between the

Hermes were

desecrated

Greeks and Persia

3. Sparta loses to Thebes at Battle of Leuctra (371 B.C.E.)
 - a. King Epaminondas (~418-362 B.C.E.) takes over most of Greece
 - b. King Epaminondas dies at the Battle of Mantinea in 362 B.C.E.
 - c. The stage is set for Philip II of Macedon

V. Culture and Society of Classical Greece

A. The Writing of History (*historia* = research/investigation)

1. Herodotus (~484-425 B.C.E.) & The Persian Wars
 - a. Somewhat fanciful with gods involved
 - b. Portrayed Greek freedom vs. Persian despotism
2. Thucydides (~460-400 B.C.E.) & The History of the Peloponnesian War
 - a. A defeated general sent into exile
 - b. Accurate, objective, and precise
 - c. He did well in studying & portraying the human condition

“Father
of History”

B. Greek Drama

1. Developed by the Greeks
 - a. Performed in outdoor theaters
 - b. Tied to religious festival
2. Aeschylus (~525-456 B.C.E.)
 - a. Wrote 90 tragedies with seven surviving
 - b. Orestia is the only complete trilogy left

- i. About the killing of Clytemnestra by her son Orestes for her killing dad
- ii. Orestes is set upon by the Furies
- iii. Tried in Athens, Orestes is acquitted by Athena

3. Sophocles (~485-406 B.C.E.)

- a. Greatest of the playwrights
- b. His Oedipus the King is the most famous Greek tragedy
- c. In Antigone he praises the “miracle of man”

4. Euripides (~485-406 B.C.E.)

- a. More realistic plots and characters
- b. The Bacchae & Medea are his most famous works
- c. Hated war and supported women’s rights
- d. Questioned moral and religious values

5. Greek Comedy

C. The Arts: The Classical Ideal

- 1. The human form was the best
- 2. Big on reason, moderation, symmetry, balance & harmony
- 3. Sculptors didn’t go for realism, but idealized beauty
- 4. Sculptors used ideal proportions based upon mathematical ratios
- 5. In architecture the Parthenon best represented these ideals
- 6. 3 types of columns used for support & decoration

- a. Doric – simplest capital
- b. Ionic – scroll/ram's horns capital
- c. Corinthian – more slender & an ornate capital

D. The Greek Love of Wisdom

1. Philosophy (“Love of Wisdom”)

a. [Thales](#) of Miletus (~600 B.C.E.)

- i. Postulated the unity of the Universe
- ii. All was linked by water

b. Pythagoras (~580-490 B.C.E.)

- i. Essence of the universe could be found in music and mathematics
- ii. The divine is an underlying force

2. Sophists (paid wandering scholars)

- a. Were paid which was bad
- b. Stressed rhetoric to win debates & sway audiences
- c. There was no absolute right or wrong
- d. They emphasized memorization
- e. They were eventually perceived as evil, especially in teaching the young to trick

3. [Socrates](#) (469–399 B.C.E.)

- a. Stonemason & philosopher who left no writings
- b. Taught using Socratic method
 - i. Teaching thru. questioning & answering
 - ii. Questioning got him sentenced to death

4. [Plato](#) (~429–347 B.C.E.)

- a. Concerned with what is real
 - i. World is made of unchanging Ideas or Forms
 - ii. All is reflection of the ideal and is only understood by the trained mind
- b. The Republic
 - i. Society is divided into 3 groups
 - (1) Philosopher-kings at the top
 - (2) Courageous warriors
 - (3) Those driven by desires at the bottom – the masses
 - ii. A harmonious state working for the benefit of all with women rulers as well
- c. The Academy was Plato's outdoor school

5. Aristotle (384–322 B.C.E.)

- a. Pupil of Plato & tutor of Alexander the Great
- b. Believed in understanding object's form by studying it
- c. Studied ethics, logic, poetry, astronomy, geology, biology & physics
- d. In Politics he studied 158 states
 - i. Three forms of government
 - (1) Monarchy
 - (2) Aristocracy
 - (3) Constitutional government
 - ii. All three can be corrupted but the latter

Democracy

= anarchy

was best

- e. Marriage was important for the community
 - i. For the mutual comfort of both sexes
 - ii. He believed women were inferior and therefore should be subordinate

E. Greek Religion

1. *Part of every aspect of Greek life*
2. *The basic [12](#) Olympians became the universal base of Greek religion*
 - a. *Each polis had a patron god to whom offerings were made*
 - b. *There were local and pan-Greek festivals such example were the Olympics*
3. *Oracles or mouthpieces of the gods divined the future (Ex. Delphi & [King](#) Croesus who was told by the priestess a great empire would fall if he attacked Persia, and it was true for his empire fell)*
4. *Mystery religions*
 - a. *A secret initiation of some sort*
 - b. *Some greater hope of immortality*
 - c. *Ex. Eleusinian [cult](#) of Demeter was one*

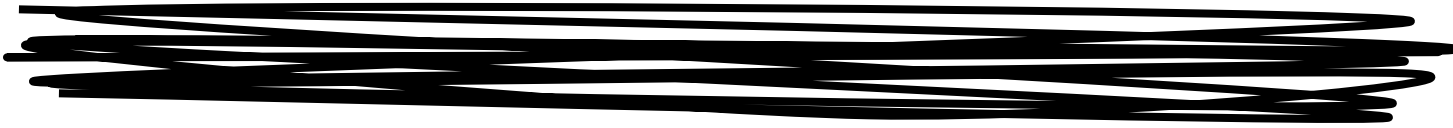
F. Daily Life in Classical Athens

1. *Male citizens dominated (~15% of pop.)*
 - a. *43,000 citizens at its height*
 - b. *35,000 resident foreign **metics***

- i. Metics had to serve in the army
 - ii. Had to pay for festivals as well
- 2. Slavery (Up to 100,000 slaves at one time)
 - a. An economic necessity for many
 - b. Soldiers needed at least one on campaign
 - c. Slaves worked domestic jobs or in public construction or in industry—most earned wages
- 3. Athens was a main trade center
 - a. Painted pottery was a chief product
 - b. Factory production was big with slaves
- 4. A Simple Lifestyle
 - a. Simple home with artisan made furniture
 - b. Basic food items
 - c. Slave or homemade clothing
 - d. Meat usually only consumed after festivals
- 3. Family and Relationships
 - a. Basic family with 2 citizens producing citizens
 - b. Citizen women participated in religious events
 - i. Always had to have a male guardian
 - ii. Women took care of the family, supervised slaves & had sons
 - iii. Women married at age 14 0 15
 - iv. Left home rarely and was usually accompanied and covered their faces
 - v. Prostitution was rampant

- (1) Lower slave prostitutes
- (2) High class courtesans called *hetairai*
 - (a) Played music, danced & sex
 - (b) Worked the male only *Symposia*
 - (c) Aspasia of Miletus, girlfriend of Pericles was one

vi. Homosexuality was common

- (1) Homosexual prostitutes had to be foreigners, as it was illegal for Athenians
 - (2) Not uncommon for older males to instruct younger males, esp. aristocrats
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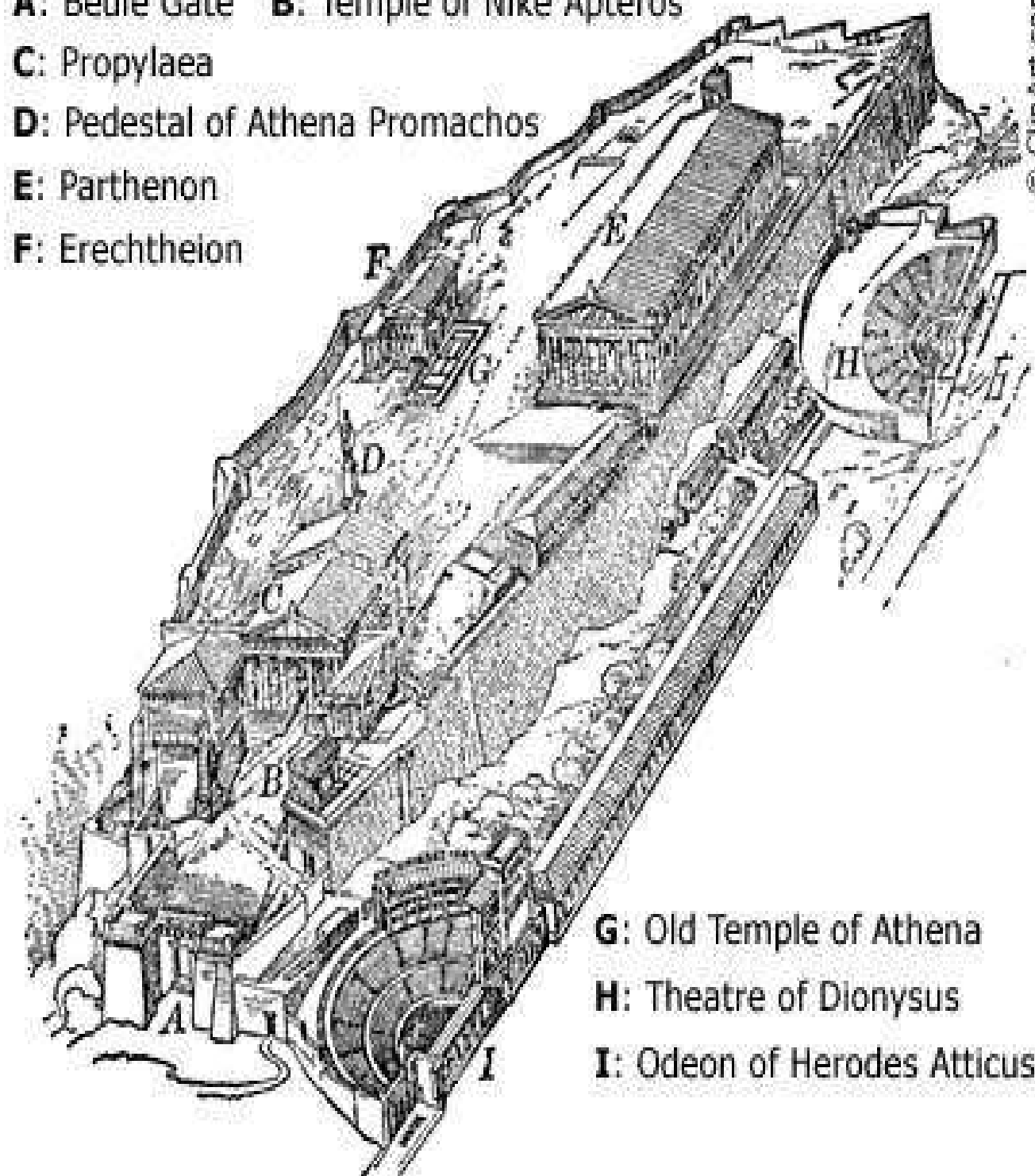
A: Beule Gate **B:** Temple of Nike Apteros

C: Propylaea

D: Pedestal of Athena Promachos

E: Parthenon

F: Erechtheion



G: Old Temple of Athena

H: Theatre of Dionysus

I: Odeon of Herodes Atticus