

Lesson 1 The Golden Age of Greece

MAIN IDEAS

Government Democracy expanded under the leadership of Pericles.

Economics Pericles expanded the wealth and power of Athens through the Delian League.

Culture Pericles launched a program to make Athens beautiful.

Pericles Leads Athens

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What democratic changes did Pericles bring?

Pericles' Three Goals

- **Pericles** led Athens after Persian Wars
 - was strongest leader from 460 B.C. until death 31 years later
 - this time was later called Age of Pericles
- Three goals: strengthen democracy, expand empire, beautify Athens

Pericles Strengthens Democracy

- Pericles supported democratic reforms
 - wanted to change balance of power between rich and poor
- In 430 B.C., Pericles gave speech honoring soldiers killed in war
 - stated his view of democracy
 - spoke out for equality in the law
 - praised public service and individual ability over class

Paid Public Officials

- Changed rule for holding public office to spread power more evenly
 - paid more public officials so poor could afford to hold office
- Citizen had to be free male, over 18, son of Athenian-born parents

Direct Democracy

- Direct democracy— all citizens participate in running government
 - all could propose, vote on laws
- Modern U.S. has representative democracy, elected representatives

REVIEW QUESTION

How did Pericles strengthen democracy in Athens?

Expanding the Empire

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Athens become more powerful?

Delian League

- To protect themselves, Greek city-states formed **Delian League**
 - mutual protection group had center, treasury on island of Delos
 - Pericles used League money to build navy of at least 300 warships

Athens Dominates the Delian League

- Athens had a superior navy, control of Delian League
 - moved League treasury to Athens in 454 B.C.
 - this move strengthened Athens
- Other city-states eventually became part of Athenian empire

REVIEW QUESTION

How did the power of Athens expand?

Beautifying Athens

ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Pericles beautify Athens?

Rebuilding Athens

- In 480 B.C., Athens was in ruins from the Persian Wars
- Pericles rebuilt, beautified city with funds from Delian League
 - other city-states were angry he did not ask permission to use funds
- Pericles spent money on sculptures, buildings, expensive materials
 - materials included gold, ivory, and marble

The Acropolis

- Athens rebuilt **Acropolis**—“high city” that included **Parthenon**
 - Parthenon housed statue of goddess Athena, city’s protector
 - Parthenon architecture had graceful proportions, harmony, order
- Other Acropolis temple dedicated to Athena Nike, goddess of victory
- Acropolis’ Erechtheum is sacred site with beautiful architecture
 - legendary site where Athena beat Poseidon to be city’s patron

REVIEW QUESTION

How did Pericles finance his program to make Athens beautiful?

Lesson Summary

- Pericles strengthened democracy in Athens by paying public officials.
- Pericles expanded the empire by building a strong naval fleet.
- Pericles rebuilt and beautified Athens.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Athenian democracy, art, and architecture set standards that remain influential in the world today.