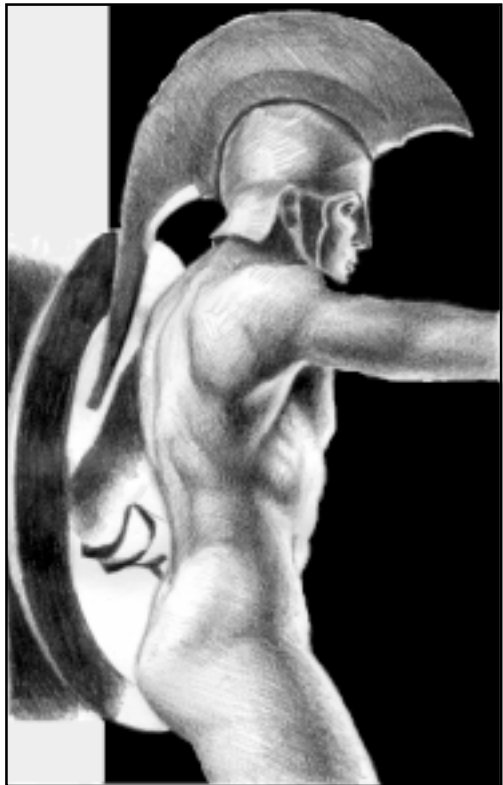
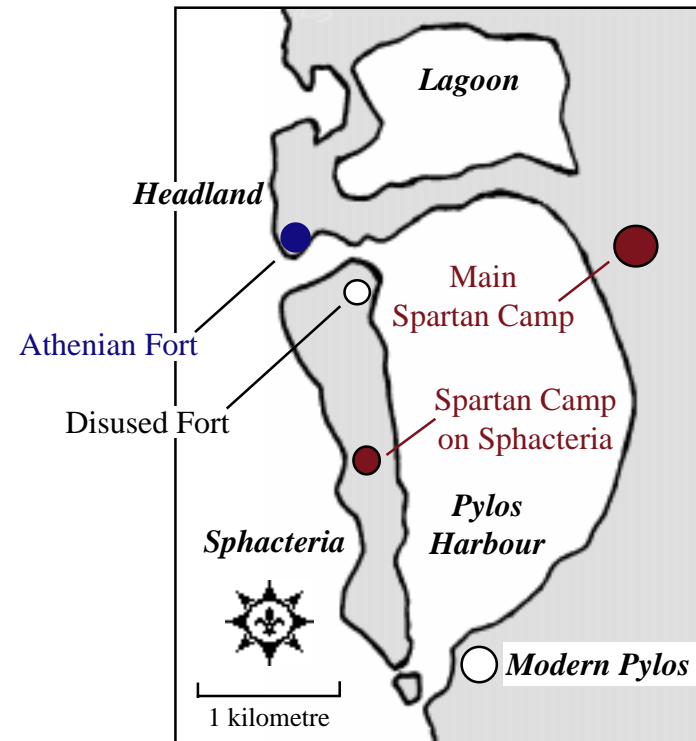


REFERENCE MATERIAL



Map Reference: Pylos South-west Peloponnese, Greece



The pages contained within this pdf file may be photocopied and distributed to students within schools/colleges that have purchased the video, *The Fall of Athens*. The material is intended to give students a geographical, biographical and chronological framework which compliments the narrative of the video.

TIMETABLE OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

433 Athens agrees to an alliance with the island state of **Corcyra**
BC Athenian ships openly fight against **Corinthian** ships at the Battle of the **Sybota Islands**



Athenian leader, **Pericles**, issues the **Megarian Decree**

Athenian and Corinthian armies clash at **Potidaea**

432 Anger at **Corinth** rises
BC Disquiet among members of **The Peloponnesian League**

Sparta forced to call meeting of The Peloponnesian League
Ultimatum of war given to the city of Athens

Athenians refuse to back down
The Peloponnesian League declares war on Athens



431 First phase of the **Peloponnesian war**
BC (The Attic war) begins
First battle at city of **Plataea**



430- Athens ravaged by plague (430 - 428 BC)
425 429 BC - **Pericles** dies
BC **Cleon** is the new leader at Athens



TIMETABLE OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

425 Campaign at **Pylos**
BC Athenian victory - capture of Spartan prisoners



424 Spartan general, **Brasidas**, captures the
BC city of **Amphipolis**



422 Battle of Amphipolis - Spartan victory
BC Both **Cleon** and **Brasidas** killed



421 **Peace of Nicias** agreed to by both **Athens** and
BC **Sparta**. End of first phase of Peloponnesian war

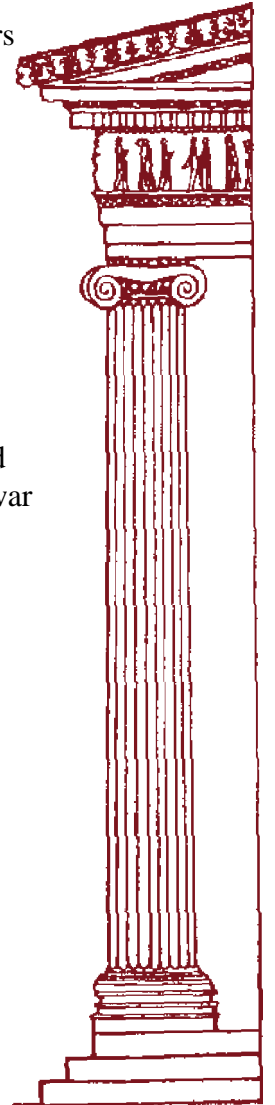


415 **Sicilian Expedition** launched from Athens
BC



Peace of Nicias breaks down
Second phase of Peloponnesian war
(The Ionian war) begins

413 Spartans occupy fort of **Decelea**
BC
Athenians defeated in **Sicily**



TIMETABLE OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

411 BC
 Beginning of **Persian** intervention in Peloponnesian war
Spartan Headquarters at city of **Miletus**
Alcibiades at the court of **Tissaphernes**
Oligarchic coup at Athens
Alcibiades in command of Athenian fleet at **Samos**
Democracy reinstalled at Athens

410 BC
 Alcibiades' great victory over the **Spartans** at **Cyzicus**

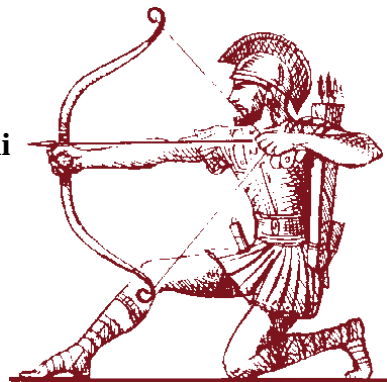
407 BC
Alcibiades returns to Athens. Given supreme command of Athenian forces

406 BC
Athenian fleet defeated at **Notium** during Alcibiades' absence
 Command removed from **Alcibiades**

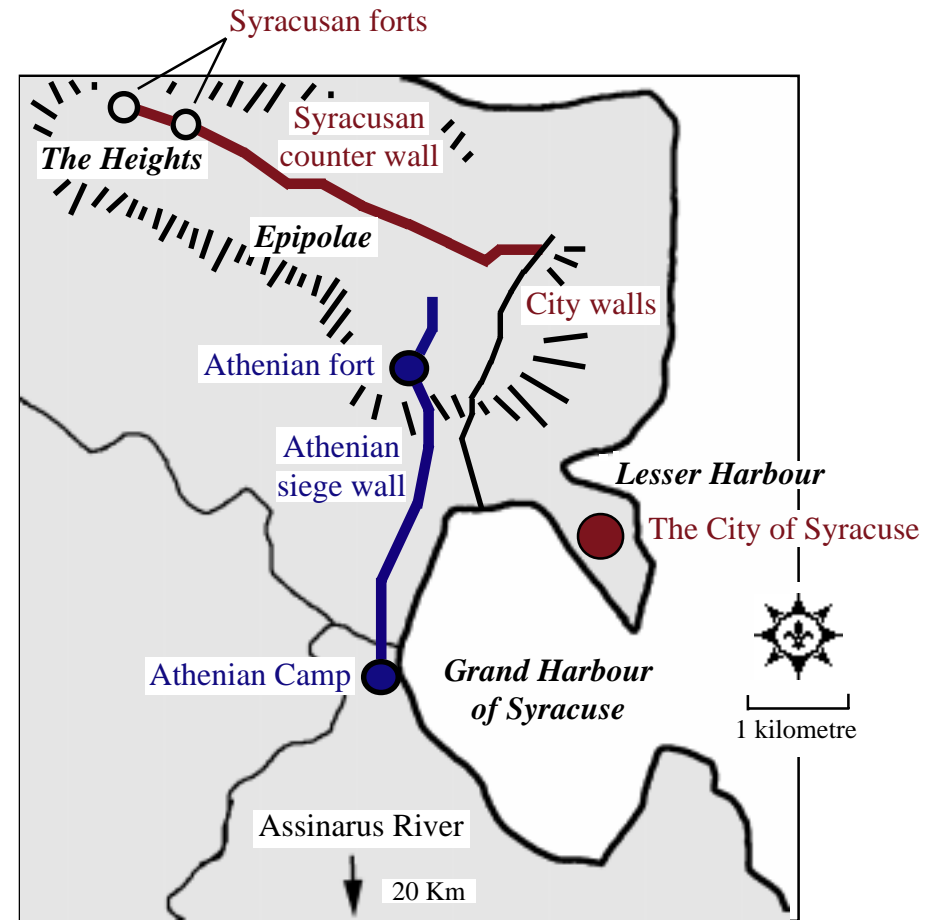
405 BC
 Eight Athenian generals executed after Battle of the **Arginusae Islands**

405 BC
Athenians defeated at **Aegospotami**

404 BC
Athenians surrender to the **Peloponnesian League**



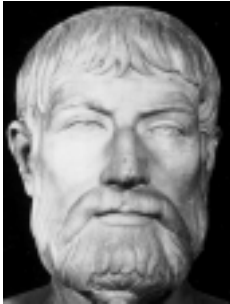
Map Reference: Syracuse Eastern Sicily, Italy



BIOGRAPHICAL FACT FILE

• BRASIDAS •

Spartan general

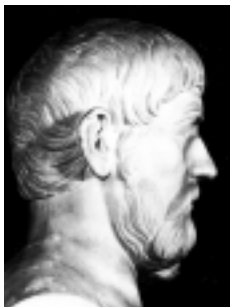


Though holding subordinate commands from 431 BC, in particular as the commander of a Spartan trireme in an unsuccessful attack on the Athenian fort at Pylos in 425 BC, Brasidas did not rise to prominence until 424 BC.

In this year he led a force of Helots and Spartans into northern Greece to damage Athenian interests in the Thraceward region. He rapidly won several important cities including Amphipolis and Torone. Brasidas styled himself as "the Liberator of Greece" and he had the rare gift of combining military might with diplomacy. His actions in the north permanently injured the Athenian cause in this vital area. During the one year armistice between Athens and Sparta in 423 BC, Brasidas continued his operations by organising the revolts of Scione and Mende. In 422 BC, Brasidas ambushed and defeated the Athenian army under the leadership of Cleon which had been sent to recapture Amphipolis but he himself was mortally wounded.

• NICIAS •

Athenian statesman



After the death of Pericles, Nicias became the principal opponent of Cleon. He was a conservative and disagreed with the aggressive imperialism of Cleon and sought to come to an honourable agreement with Sparta. He was largely responsible for the armistice of 423 BC and the peace of 421 BC appropriately bears his name.

Despite his disapproval of the Sicilian expedition, Nicias was appointed with Alcibiades and Lamachus to conduct this enterprise. With the recall of Alcibiades and the death of Lamachus, Nicias came to hold the supreme command of the Athenian forces in Sicily. Plagued with ill health, the arrival of the Spartan commander Gylippus and his own cautious nature, Nicias allowed affairs in Sicily to slip from his grasp. Although Demosthenes brought reinforcements in 413 BC, the Athenian efforts in Sicily were doomed. Nicias, who refused to escape by

sea until it was too late, led the troops in their desperate escape over land. His troops were overwhelmed at the Assinarus river and he was subsequently executed.

• ALCIBIADES •

Athenian statesman



Brought up in the household of his guardian, Pericles, Alcibiades was a pupil and friend of the philosopher Socrates. By 420 BC his brilliance enabled him to control the extreme democrats at Athens and to secure a major diplomatic coup against the Spartans with an alliance with Argos. Although this alliance was only half heartedly supported by the Athenians and became meaningless after the Spartan victory over Argos at Mantinea (418 BC), it established Alcibiades as a skilful politician.

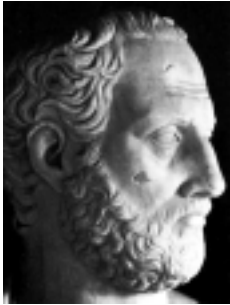
Alcibiades proposed the Sicilian expedition and was given the command of the forces with Nicias and Lamachus. After the fleet had reached Sicily, Alcibiades was recalled to Athens to face charges of mocking certain religious ceremonies but he was to escape to Sparta where he was to give advice which was to doom Athenian efforts in Sicily.

In 412 BC he fled Sparta and joined the Persian court of Tissaphernes. Hoping to secure reinstatement at Athens, Alcibiades organised an oligarchic revolution at Athens in 411 BC but he could not persuade Tissaphernes to desert the Spartan cause. The Athenian fleet at Samos appointed him to the command and for several years he conducted skilful operations against the Peloponnesians in Ionia culminating in his decisive victory at Cyzicus in 410 BC.

In 407 BC he returned to Athens and was given the supreme command of the Athenian forces. When, in his absence, a subordinate suffered a defeat at Notium in 406 BC, his enemies roused popular suspicion against him and the Athenians removed Alcibiades from the command. He then withdrew but after the Spartan victory over Athens in 404 BC, his Spartan enemies organised his murder.

BIOGRAPHICAL FACT FILE

- **THUCYDIDES** • Author of the (incomplete) history of the Peloponnesian War (431 - 404 BC)



Thucydides was born between 460 and 455 BC and died around 400 BC. He would have been in his early twenties when the war broke out. Some time between 430 and 427 BC he caught the plague but recovered and was elected general in 424 BC. In the same year he failed to save the city of Amphipolis from falling to the Spartan Brasidas and was exiled from Athens for twenty years. In 404 BC, Thucydides returned to Athens but was to die shortly afterwards.

Thucydides was probably related to the Athenian statesman Cimon and his family had property and influence in the mining districts of Thrace. Born to conservative political circles, Thucydides attached himself to Pericles' cause with vigour and deeply distrusted the political leaders after Pericles' death.

- **PERICLES** • Athenian statesman



Pericles was born in 495 BC and died in the plague at Athens in 429 BC.

Pericles rose to prominence in 462/1 BC when he joined with Ephialtes in an attack on the Areopagus. After Ephialtes' death and with the ostracism of Cimon, Pericles became the most influential political leader at Athens. Pericles initiated the building of the Long walls of Athens (458 - 456 BC), commissioned the construction of the Parthenon, secured Spartan recognition of the Athenian Empire in the Thirty Years Peace of 446 - 445 BC and was elected general every year from 443 BC.

When war with the Peloponnesians threatened, Pericles urged an uncompromising attitude. He counselled the alliance with Corcyra in 433 BC and was the author of the decree against Megara in 432 BC. When war broke out, it was Pericles' strategy of maintaining the Empire and resisting confrontation with the land forces of the Peloponnesians which was adopted. In 430 BC, the Athenians,

angry at the Peloponnesian invasions of Attica and the outbreak of the plague, removed Pericles from office and charged him with embezzlement. In 429 BC, Pericles returned to the office of general but he was to die shortly afterwards.

- **CLEON** •



Athenian politician

Son of a rich leather tanner, Cleon entered politics by attacking Pericles in 431 and 430 BC and, with the death of Pericles, Cleon became "the leader of the people". Known as a "Demagogue" from the emotive way in which he appealed for the people's support, Cleon received a very bad press from the ancient historians who saw him diverting power away from the traditional aristocratic families of Athens.

Cleon argued for the execution of all the male citizens of Mytilene after their revolt in 427 BC and, with General Demosthenes, he succeeded in forcing the surrender of the Spartans at Pylos in 425 BC. Cleon was a vocal opponent of compromise with the Spartans and was a firm believer in Athens' right to rule her Empire firmly. In 422 BC, in an attempt to regain the city of Amphipolis from the Spartans, Cleon was killed in action.

- **DEMOSTHENES** • Athenian general



In 425 BC, with the occupation of Pylos, Demosthenes was successful in breaking the stalemate initiated by the Periclean policy of not confronting the superior forces of the Peloponnesians on land. After the fall of Sphacteria and the surrender of the Spartans on the island, Athens was in her strongest position since the beginning of the war.

In 413 BC, Demosthenes was in charge of the relief forces sent to Sicily to reinforce Nicias. After an unsuccessful night attack on Epipolae, Demosthenes urged a retreat from Sicily which was delayed until the loss of the Athenian fleet. As the Athenian army escaped by land, Demosthenes' forces surrendered on the sixth day and he was subsequently executed.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. ASSINARUS RIVER | 10. POTIDAEA |
| 2. SYRACUSE | 11. AMPHIPOLIS |
| 3. CORCYRA | 12. EION |
| 4. SYBOTA ISLANDS | 13. AEGOSPOTAMI |
| 5. CORINTH | 14. ISTANBUL |
| 6. MEGARA | 15. ARGINUSAE |
| 7. ATHENS | 16. EPHESUS |
| 8. PYLOS | 17. MILETUS |
| 9. SPARTA | 18. SAMOS ISLAND |



MAJOR SITES OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR