

21H.237
The City of Athens

Response Paper #1

Rise of the Athenian Empire

In the period between the first Persian invasion of Greece in 490 BC and the beginning of the Peloponnesian War in 431 BC, the city-state of Athens rose to become, alongside Sparta, one of the two most powerful states in the Greek world. For this response, you will be reading excerpts from accounts of this period by the two most famous historians of the time: Herodotus, from whose account you will read about Athens' role in the First and Second Persian Wars, and Thucydides, from whose account you will read about Athenian affairs between the end of the Persian Wars and the start of the Peloponnesian War. On the basis of these two sources, what factor or event would you highlight as the most important to an understanding of the rise of Athens to the position of power it enjoyed in the age of Pericles?

You should NOT attempt to be comprehensive in your response. Please choose one factor/event (or perhaps two very closely related factors) on which to elaborate in your paper.

Papers receiving high grades will excel in each of the following:

Argument and Structure

Your paper should seek to convince its reader of an argument, a thesis. The thesis should be clearly stated in the introduction to the paper. The body of the paper should seek to support your thesis by marshaling an abundance of evidence from the text in a clearly structured and coherent argument. Finally, a conclusion should remind your reader of the thesis you have been supporting and show how that thesis is relevant to a wider historical context. Remember throughout that your paper should be a work of critical analysis.

Quality of Writing

Your argument should be expressed in clear, concise, and readable English. There should be no errors of grammar, syntax, or spelling. Precision and elegance of expression will be rewarded.

Referencing

Your paper should be based on close reading of the texts and so should contain careful referencing of the texts throughout. References to Herodotus' *Histories* conventionally take the abbreviated form 'Hdt. 8.21' for Herodotus, *Histories*, Book 8, Section 21. References to Thucydides conventionally take the abbreviated form 'Thuc. 1.89' for Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Book 1, Section 89.

Form:

All papers must comply with the following presentational guidelines:

- Papers must be 750 words in length (\approx 3 pages).
- Papers must be typed in 12-point font, with double spacing.
- Your paper should have a brief title; but there is no need for a title page.
- On the three short response papers, a bibliography is also unnecessary.

Submission:

The paper is due during session 3.

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