

# The Democratic Revolution



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# Plutarch, *Cimon* 13

‘These victories of Cimon’s humbled the king’s pride so much that he undertook, in the terms of the famous peace, always to keep at least a day’s ride away from the Greek Sea.’

From *Greek Lives* by Plutarch. Translated by Robin Waterfield. © 2009 Oxford University Press.



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# Pericles

## 495-429 B.C.



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# Solon's Economic Reform

The *seisachtheia* – 'shaking off of burdens:

1. Cancellation of debt

2. Abolition of debt-bondage

# Solon's Constitutional Reforms

1. Creation of property classes
2. Creation of Council of 400 (*Boulé*)
3. Changes to eligibility and election of archons

# Solon's Property Classes

Pentekosiomedimnoi	500 bushel men
Hippeis	300 to 500 bushels
Zeugetai	200 to 300 bushels
Thetes	less than 200 bushels

# Solon's Legal Reforms

1. New code of laws
2. The *ho boulomenos* reform
3. Creation of a public court (*eliaia*)

# The Tyranny of the Pisistratids

561/0                      First coup of Pisistratus

546/5 – 528/7            Tyranny of Pisistratus

528/7 – 511/0            Tyranny of Hippias

# Ostraka



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# *Athenian Constitution 25*

- The supremacy of the Areopagus lasted for about seventeen years after the Persian wars, although gradually declining. But as the strength of the masses increased, Ephialtes, son of Sophonides, a man with a reputation for incorruptibility and public virtue, who had become the leader of the people, made an attack upon that Council. First of all he ruined many of its members by bringing actions against them with reference to their administration. Then, in the archonship of Conon, he stripped the Council of all the acquired prerogatives from which it derived its guardianship of the constitution, and assigned some of them to the Council of Five Hundred, and others to the Assembly and the law-courts.

# Powers removed from the Areopagus in 462 BC

- *Eisangelia* – (roughly) impeachment
- *Dokimasia* – Scrutiny of candidates for office
- *Euthyna* – ‘straightening’, examination of accounts



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# Pericles

## 495-429 B.C.

# *Athenian Constitution 27*

- Pericles was also the first to institute pay for service in the law-courts, as a bid for popular favour to counterbalance the wealth of Cimon.

From the Athenian Constitution by Aristototele. Translated by Frederic G. Kenyon.  
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