

# ANCIENT GREECE

## ATHENS AND SPARTA



Map of Greece and the cities of Athens and Sparta

In Ancient Greece there were two different major forms of government, oligarchy and democracy. Oligarchy refers to a small group of people who govern a nation together. Democracy refers to a system of government in which every person has the right to participate. The two **city-states** that best represent each form of government were Sparta (**oligarchy**) and Athens (**democracy**). Athens focused more on culture, while Sparta focused more on war. The oligarchy structure in Sparta **enabled** it to keep war as a top priority.

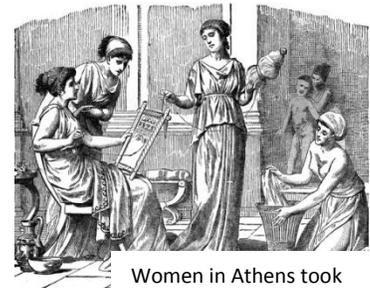
### ATHENS



The Athenian democratic government gave the citizens in Greece more freedom. Ten percent of the total population of Athens had voting rights and all of these citizens were **wealthy** men who were over thirty years old.

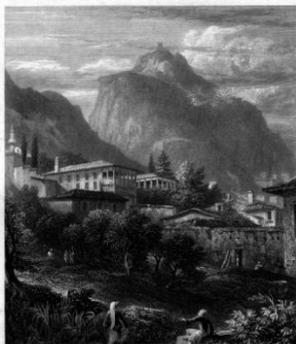
The **Assembly**, which made the laws, was composed by five hundred wealthy men.

Women had no freedoms at all. Fathers **owned** their girls and then women became **property** of their husbands who then gave them the responsibilities of managing the household and educating the children.



Women in Athens took care of their families.

Life was sophisticated and graceful in Athens but the Athenians were often mocked by opposing countries for lacking bravery, patriotism and courage. Athens was repeatedly attacked since Athenians didn't have a war-like reputation. These **conflicts** eventually led to Athens losing power in Ancient Greece.



View of Sparta, around 3000 years ago.

## SPARTA

In the city-state of Sparta, an oligarchy controlled the power. The citizens had little say in the decisions made by the government but, at the time, this was the structure that existed. The Spartans gave up an **emphasis** on comfort and culture for a more disciplined military approach. This approach led to battles which eventually turned Sparta into a deadly war machine.

Over the years, the Spartans' **ruthless** and **brutal** reputation in war grew, so that other nations and city-states chose not to attack Sparta, even though the Spartan army was not larger than eight thousand men. The Spartan men in the army started their military training at the age of seven and were trained to be tough. Every man in the army fought with a great deal of **passion** for his country. Life in Sparta may have been hard but the rest of the Greeks envied the Spartans for their simplicity and fanatical dedication to their country.



Spartan women had more freedoms than the Athenian women.

Unlike other Greek women, Spartan women had equal rights with men, except for voting rights. Since men were in the military and often away from home, the women had full authority over their households.

In 404 B.C. the Spartan army was able to conquer Athens during the Peloponnesian War. After its victory over Athens, the Spartan government was able to **counter** many attacks that were launched by its enemies and maintained power for over 40 years.



Spartan warriors were very brave and brutal.

Picture showing the victory of Sparta over Athens during the Peloponnesian War.

