

WORLD HISTORY-1
MODULE III-IRON AGE CIVILIZATIONS-POLITY
AND STATE IN THE GREECO-ROMAN WORLD



**TOPIC- LEGACY OF GREEK
CIVILIZATION
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LITERATURE



- The civilization of the Greek city-states has been called classical civilization
- The achievements of ancient Greece in literature, art and philosophy had been so brilliant that the Greek civilization deserved the name “Classical”
- The development of literature depends upon the development of writing
- The alphabet was introduced into Greece by the Phoenicians in the 14th century B.C
- The Greeks were the first to invent vowel sounds
- Poetry developed in Greece even before the development of the art of writing
- First great poet-Homer
- The Iliad and the Odyssey were poems of supreme literary merit and their style and language inspired the emotional poetry of the 6th century B.C



- Developed new forms of literature –Elegy
- Theme-Lamentations or melancholy reflection on the disillusionments of life
- The most prominent among the authors of Elegies-Solon the legislator, Mimnermus and Theognis
- The age of Pericles was the golden age of Greek literature
- Greatest among the lyric poets was Pindar of Thebes who wrote during the first half of the 5th BC.
- The most sublime literary achievement of the Greek was the tragic drama
- Public choral singings and presentation of dramas were a feature of some of the public religious festivals of Greece
- Developed Drama in the beginning of 5th century
- The founder of Greek tragedy was Aeschylus (525-456 B.C)
- The popular theme of his dramas was guilt and punishment



- Sophocles(496-406 B.C) is considered the greatest of the Greek dramatists- more than 100 plays which reflect his love of harmony, respect for democracy and sympathy for human weakness
- The greatest Greek comedian was Aristophanes (444-380 BC)
- In prose literature, History held the first place in the age of Pericles.
- Herodotus(484-425 B C) known as “the father of History” was a foreigner who came from Asia minor and lived in Athens
- His famous account of the war between the Greeks and the Persians was a masterpiece of History
- Another great historian was Thucydides who was a native of Athens- called the founder of Scientific History
- He wrote the history of war between Sparta and Athens-dispassionately and scientifically



- The best writer of scientific literature was the great philosopher Aristotle
- The Greeks specialized in oratory or the art of public speaking
- The greatest orator was Demosthenes who lived in the 4th century

ART



- Greek Art symbolized humanism, the glorification of man as the most important being in the universe
- Simplicity and were characteristics of Greek Art
- The purpose of Greek art was not only aesthetic but also political and ethical
- Art was an expression of national life and bore the hallmark of patriotism and unity
- Three important periods are noticed in the History of Greek Art
- The first period covered 7th and 6th centuries B.C-The sculpture of this period bears the imprint of distinctive Egyptian influence
- The second period which covered the 5th century B.C-Perfection of both architecture and sculpture. Idealism was the hall mark
- The 4th century marked the last period when sculpture assumed



- new characteristics and architecture declined
- During this period, Greek art came to reflect more of realism than idealism

ARCHITECTURE



- There was remarkable development of architecture, Sculpture and painting
- Architecture-The finest products were temples
- The early Greek temples were small in size and simple in design
- The finest temple was the Parthenon, the temple of Athena built on the Acropolis in the Periclean Age
- In the larger hall inside this temple was erected a statue of the ‘Virgin Goddess Athena’
- This temple is famous as ‘ the supreme effort of genius in pursuit of beauty’
- Greek Architecture was remarkable for its artistic excellence and even in modern times the style of the Greek columns has persisted in its influence

SCULPTURE



- Many life-like statues representing types of masculine and feminine beauty were made by famous sculptors
- PHIDIAS(500-432BC)- was the greatest of all Greek sculptors and one of the finest products of the Periclean age.
- -His most exquisite works were the statue of Athena in the Parthenon and the statue of Zeus in the temple of Olympian Zeus
- The latter work is listed among the seven wonders of the world
- FEATURES-Idealised representations of Greek Gods in human form
- -Grandeur of conception, dignity, proportion and restraint
- His great achievement was the attainment of the classic style
- MYRON-whose statues were glorious representations of athletic types
- 3 renowned sculptors-Praxiteles, Scopas and Lysippus

GREATNESS OF GREEK ART



- In the words of Will Durant “The essence of that style is order and form; moderation in design, expression and decoration, proportion in the parts and unity in the whole, supremacy of reason without the extinction of feeling, a quiet perfection that is content with simplicity, and a sublimity that owes nothing to science

science



- The age of Hellenic civilization was not a great age of science as is popularity thought of
- Great achievements of Greece in science were to come only in the later period where Greek culture was a mixture of Hellenic and oriental
- No great scientific progress during this period
- There were some important developments in Mathematics, Astronomy, Botany and medicine
- Thales of Miletus is supposed to be the founder of Greek Mathematics
- Pythagoras discovered many facts which are taught in elementary geometry
- Greeks were said to be as excellent in geometry
- The science of Astronomy had also great development



- The Greatest Astronomer was Anaxagoras who lived in the 5thcy BC
- He is credited with the foundation of meteorology, the correct explanation of eclipse, rational theory of planetary formation, the discovery of the borrowed light of the moon and evolutionary theory of animal and human life
- These achievements have deserved him the title of the Copernicus and Darwin of his age
- Philosopher Anaximander who developed a theory of organic evolution
- The real founder of the science of biology was Aristotle
- The Greeks made remarkable contribution to the science of medicine
- The Periclean Age in Greece saw the rise of rational medicine



- It was the Liberation of medicine from both religion and philosophy
- The Pioneers in Greek medicine were Empedocles, Alcmeon, and Hippocrates of Cos.
- Empedocles expounded the theory of four elements(earth, air,fire and water) and discovered that blood flows to and from the heart
- Alcmeon discovered that brains is the centre of the nervous system and originated the practice of dissecting animal bodies
- Hippocrates of Cos(460-377 BC) is called the father of Medicine
- His great doctrine was that every disease has a natural cause and that without natural cause, nothing ever happens
- Women physicians were numerous

PHILOSOPHY



- Greek Philosophy had its origin in the 6th century B.C in the work of the Milesian school of Philosophers-natives of the city of Miletus
- The philosophy of this school was monistic, materialistic and scientific
- It attempted to give a rational explanation of the origin of the world and denounced the mythological beliefs of the Greeks
- By the end of the 6th cy BC another school of Philosophers arose, known as the Pythagoreans.
- Their leader was Pythagoras, a native of the Island of Samos who migrated to Southern Italy and established a religious community
- He and his followers gave a metaphysical turn to Greek Philosophy
- Besides the Pythagoreans, there were the great thinkers during this period...viz., Parmenides and Heracleitus



- The next great school of Greek philosophers were the sophists
- The Sophists were so called because they claimed to be teachers of wisdom(Sophia)
- The greatest among them was Protagoras-famous dictum “ Man is the measure of all things”
- He was the first to distinguish the three genders of nouns and certain cases and moods of verbs
- Another distinguished philosopher of the school of Sophists was Gorgias in whom philosophy and statesmanship were united
- As a reaction against Sophism there arose a new philosophic movement in Greece based upon the theory that truth is real and that absolute standards actually exist.
- The three great leaders of this movement were Socrates, Plato and Aristotle



- Socrates(469-399)-not a professional teacher
- Knowledge is the highest virtue and all ignorance is vice
- Socrates rejected tradition and subjected every rule to the test of reason
- In 399 BC he was charged with “corrupting the youth and introducing new gods” and was condemned to death
- He emphasis on conscience as above law became one of the fundamental tenets of Christianity
- PLATO(427-347)- was the most distinguished of Socrates ‘s Pupils
- His real name was Aristocles
- ‘Plato was a nickname given by one of his teachers because of his broad frame



- He excelled in the study of music, mathematics, rhetoric and poetry
- His writings were voluminous, the most famous of them being the ‘Republic’
- In his ideal society, the rulers shall be philosophers. Kings and the rulers as well as soldiers shall form a communistic aristocracy with no property, no money, no families
- ARISTOTLE:
- Great and vast was his knowledge that he has been called ‘a walking university’
- Wrote and taught on a wide range of subjects which included astronomy, medicine, mechanics, ethics, rhetoric, oratory, logic, politics, poetry, psychology and art



- He worked out the rules of logic, the science of correct thinking, so that he can be called the ‘Father of Logic’
- Aristotle’s ethical philosophy is contained in his famous work called ‘Ethics’
- Aristotle’s political philosophy which finds expression in his ‘politics’
- It is Aristotle who remarked that ‘Man is by nature a political animal’



- The best civilization of the Greeks was the Athenian civilization
- The exploitation of the slaves, the disabilities imposed on women, the policy of racial exclusiveness, which denied political rights to those whose parents were not Athenians, the Athenian imperialism, the intolerant attitude of the citizens towards freedom of opinion-features of Athenian civilization
- Greek culture had a most profound influence on the history of the world
- Founded upon the ideals of freedom,optimism,secularism,rationalism,the glorification of both body and mind and a high regard for the dignity and worth of the individual man
- The culture of the Greeks was the first to be based upon the primacy of intellect-upon the supremacy of the spirit of free enquiry

