

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester II, 1989-90

History 572
Athens: Origins to Empire

Mr. Sacks

Questions for Seminar Discussion

I. Solon and Land Reform

1. Before Solon, was Athenian land alienable?
2. What is hektemorage?
3. What did Solon hope to accomplish?—what did he accomplish?

II. Solon and the Constitution

1. What was the political situation in Athens which Solon hoped to improve?
2. Did he institute a Boule of 400?
3. What other reforms were affected and why?

III. The Tyranny of the Peisistratids

1. What was the socio-economic situation in Athens after Solon that set the state for Peisistratus' rise?
2. What was the nature of the three political parties that struggled for power in post-Solonic Athens?
3. What were the accomplishments and failures of Peisistratus and his sons; and, in general, what was the nature of the "tyranny"?

IV. The Reforms of Cleisthenes

1. What were the circumstances which caused Cleisthenes to institute his tribal reforms?
2. Discuss all his reforms: how much did he owe to Solon and Peisistratus?
3. Is personal political advantage for Cleisthenes detectable in the tribal reforms?

V. Invasion of Scythia

1. What was Darius' reason or reasons for his invasion?
2. What did he accomplish?
3. What role did the Ionians play?
4. Did the invasion, despite its failure, result in posing any threat to Greece?

VI. Ionian Revolt

1. What were the causes of the revolt?
2. Was there any evidence of a pan-Ionic sentiment?
3. What was the role of Histiaeus?
4. What was the role of Aristagoras?

VII. Athenian Politics and the Persian Question: 510-483

1. What does it mean for an Athenian to be pro-Persian?
2. Does such a term change in meaning from 510-483?
3. Can we identify pro- and anti-Persian policies and parties in Athens?

VIII. The Battle of Marathon

1. What tactics did the Greeks employ at Marathon and why?
2. Can we account for the Persian cavalry?
3. Was there any treasonous activity by any Athenians at the battle?

IX. Thermopylae and Artemisium

1. Why did the Greeks decide on the Thermopylae-Artemisium line?
2. What accounts for Greek behavior at Thermopylae?
3. What accounts for Greek behavior at Artemisium?
4. In light of Greek strategy, whom can we call the victors at the two battles?

X. The Themistocles Decree

1. Can the Themistocles decree be defended as genuine?
2. Is it consistent with Herodotus' account; or where inconsistent, is it more plausible?

XI. The Delian League

1. What was the original purpose of the League?
2. How did Athens gain the leadership at the beginning?
3. Can we determine a constitution for the league; if so, what?

XII. Peace of Callias

1. Was there a peace of Epilycus?
2. Was there a peace of Callias?
3. If so, when and how many peaces of Callias were signed?
4. If there was a peace of Callias, what were its provisions and purpose?