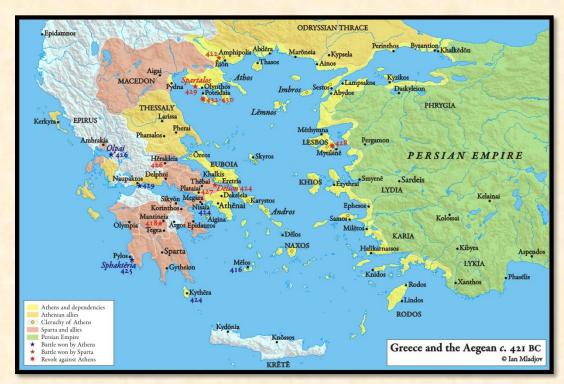
The Origins of Democracy: Who Are 'The People'?

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The Greek world at the time of the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BCE)

The Ancient Sources

Kylon the would-be tyrant: Herodotos 5.71; Thucydides 1.126.

The Law Code of Drakon:

This explains why Demades later became famous for commenting that Drakon had written his laws in blood rather than ink. The story goes that Drakon himself was once asked why he had made most crimes carry the death penalty; he replied that petty crimes deserved it, in his opinion, and he could not find a heavier penalty to impose on serious crimes. (Plutarch *Life of Solon* 17).

Solon: Herodotos 1.29-33 (almost certainly fictitious); Plutarch *Life of Solon*; Aristotelian *Constitution of Athens* 5-12.

Peisistratos and his sons: Herodotos 1.19-64; 5.55-65; 6.121-124; Thucydides 1.20; 6.53-59; Aristotelian *Constitution of Athens* 14-19.

Kleisthenes: Herodotos 5.66; 5.69-73; Aristotelian Constitution of Athens 20-22.

Kleon:

It was after the death of Perikles that the people first took a champion who was not of good repute among the better sort, whereas previously it was always men of the better sort [i.e., the upper classes] who were popular leaders... Kleon, it seems, more than anyone else corrupted the people by his wild impulses, and was the first man who, when on the platform, shouted, uttered abuse and made speeches with his clothes hitched up, while everyone else spoke in an orderly manner. (Aristotelian *Constitution of Athens* 28).

Kleon stripped the speaker's platform of its decorum, since he was the first to raise his voice to raucous levels during his public speeches, pull his cloak open, slap his thigh, and pace around while speaking. In other words, he conditioned Athens' politicians to regard proper behaviour with indifference and disdain – and it was this that before long threw all the city's affairs into chaos. (Plutarch *Life of Nikias* 8).

The Mytilene debate: Thucydides 3.36-50.

Kleon and the Spartan envoys: Thucydides 4.16-22.

The debate over the Sicilian Expedition: Thucydides 6.8-26.

The end of the Sicilian expedition (the remnants of the Athenian army try to escape):

When day came Nikias led his army on, and the Syracusans and their allies pressed them hard in the same way as before, showering missiles and hurling javelins in upon them from every side. The Athenians hurried on towards the river Assinaros, partly because they were under pressure from the attacks made upon them from every side by the numbers of cavalry and the masses of other troops, and thought that things would not be so bad if they got to the river, partly because they were exhausted and were longing for water to drink. Once they reached the river, they rushed down into it, and now all discipline was at an end. Every man wanted to be the first to get across, and, as the enemy persisted in his attacks, the crossing now became a difficult matter. Forced to crowd in close together, they fell upon each other and trampled each other underfoot; some were killed immediately by their own spears, others got entangled among themselves and among the baggage and were swept away by the river. Syracusan troops were stationed on the opposite bank, which was a steep one. They hurled down their weapons from above on the Athenians, most of whom, in a disordered mass, were greedily drinking in the deep riverbed. And the Peloponnesians came down and slaughtered them, especially those who were in the river. The water immediately became foul, but nevertheless they went on drinking it, all muddy as it was and stained with blood; indeed, most of them were fighting among themselves to have it. (Thucydides 7.84).

The trial of the generals: Xenophon *Hellenika* 1.7.1-1.7.35.

Socrates on trial: Plato's Apology.

The ship of state: Plato Republic 488-489 (Socrates is the speaker).