

# **Roots of European Civilisations**

**Lectures 2 – 3**

**Classic Greece and Hellenistic Era**

# Grecja klasyczna

- Around 1100 B.C. - Doric invasion
- Destruction of Mycenae Greece
- Beginning of Dark Age in Greece
- Since around VIII c. B.C.
  - resurrection of Greek culture
- Greek expansion in Mediterranean:
  - Coasts of Black Sea,
  - Sicily
  - Southern Italy (Magna Graecia - Megalê Hellas)
  - Southern Gaul – Massalia

# Greek world before Persian Wars



# Main achievements of Classical Period Greece

- Polis
- Concept of democracy
- Concept of barbarism
- Philosophy
- Historiography





# Polis

- Mainland Greece was divided into many little states called polis (poleis)
- This term, at the beginning referring to city, later meant body of citizens.



Acropolis in Athens

# Characteristic of a polis

- All adult citizens (only males) were supposed to participate in *agora* – a meeting that decided about all public matters of a polis
- Forigners were not citizens even after many years – they were so called *metoikos*.
- All citizens were suppose to serve in the polis' army

# Democracy



- The best known example of polis is Athens.
- Athens' political system in its “golden age” was democracy.
- However ancient Greek's understanding of democracy was different than today, main differences were:
  - Direct rules of citizens
  - Lack of distinction between public and private life.

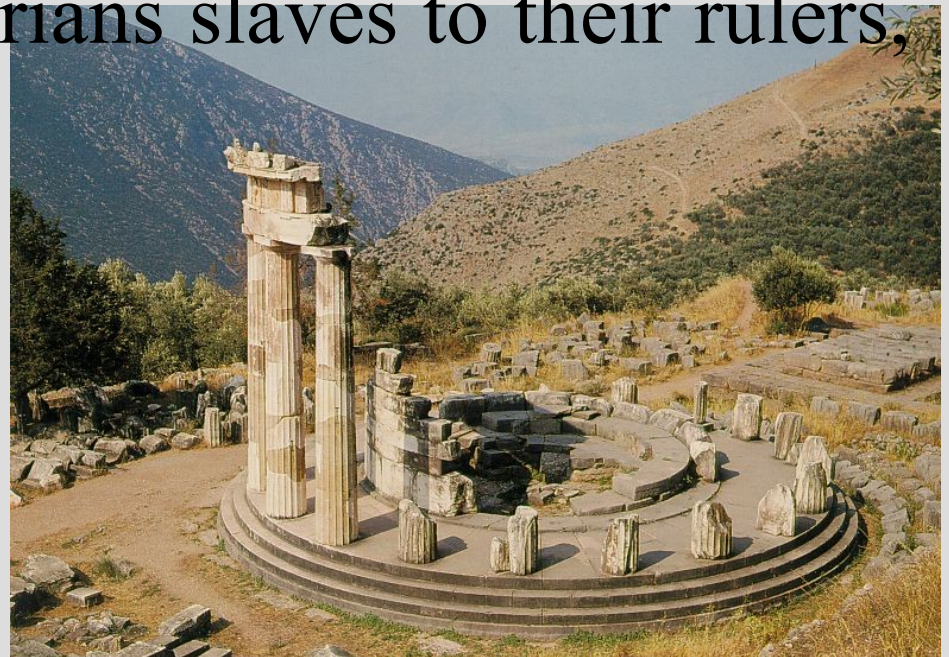
Pericles - Athenian politician



# Greeks and Barbarians

- Word barbarians (*barbaroi*) originates from onomatopoeia „bar bar” - meaning non understandable speech.
- For Greeks all non Greeks were barbarians.
- In spite of their bond with particular polises Greeks were aware of their common culture.
- Greeks considered barbarians slaves to their rulers, unlike their own race.

Sanctuary in Delphi





# Greeks and Barbarians

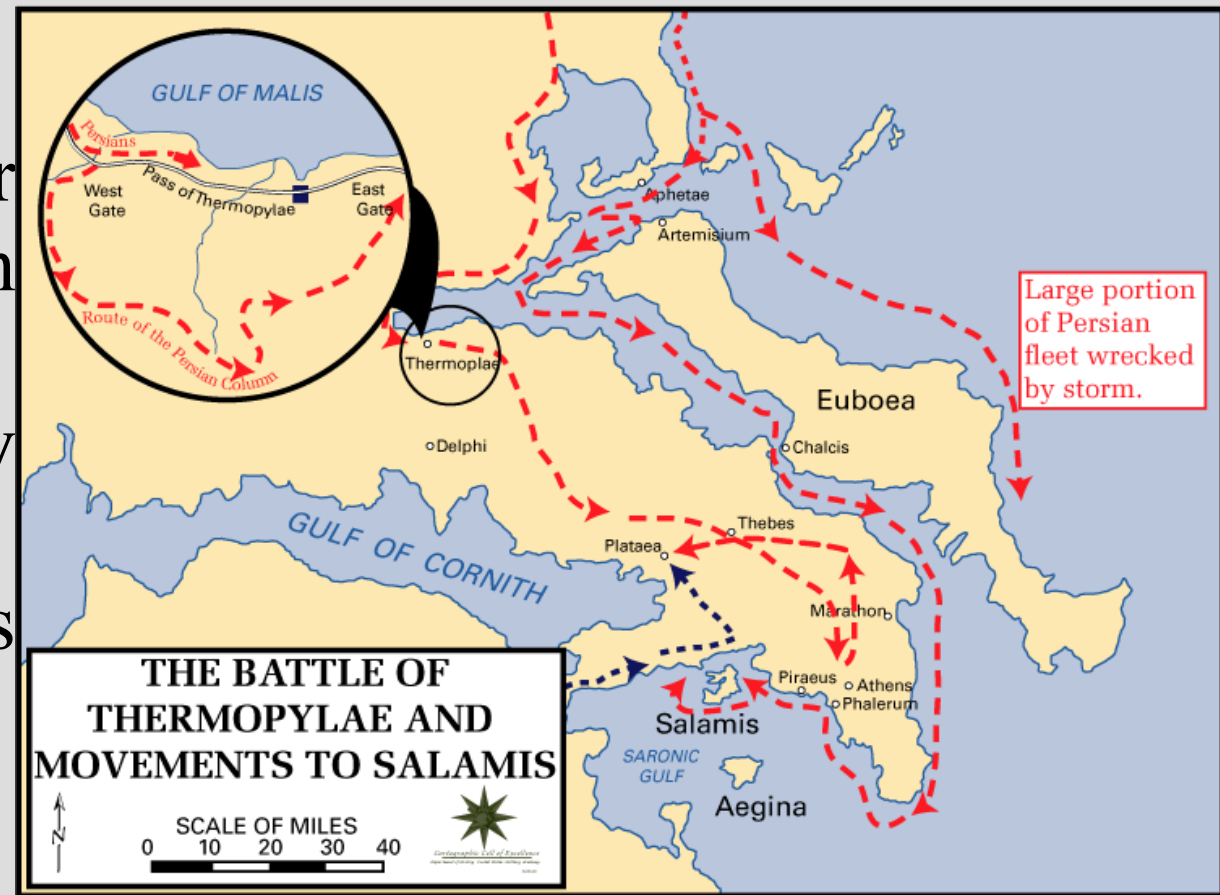
- Persian War makes a symbol of a conflict between free Greeks and barbaric slaves of the East.
- 490r. p.n.e – I Persian War: Battle of Marathon – defeat of Persian army of Darius.
- 480 – 479 p.n.e II Persian War

Greek Hoplite of V c. B.C.



# Grecy i barbarzyńcy

- Second Persian War was a continuation of previous war.
- Persians were led by king Xerxes
- Greek alliance was led by Sparta.



# Thermopylae

- Army of Xerxes was about 500000 people strength (Herodotus writes even about 5 million), his fleet numbered 1200 trier (main battle ship) and 3000 smaller vessels.
- Greek armies numbered (at their peak) 40000 Hoplites and 70000 light infantry, their fleet numbered 400 trier and 400 smaller vessels.



Greek warrior - Leonidas?

# Thermopylae

- As a defence point Thermopylae Pass was chosen.
- At the same time naval operations at Artemisium.
- In time to prevent Persians' advance only 6000 – 7000 Greeks managed to arrive (including 300 Spartans) under king Leonidas.
- The pass which was only 1,5 km wide was strengthened by a stone wall.
- At the battle about 20000 Persians died.
- Ephialtes the Malian betrayed Greeks by showing Xerxes



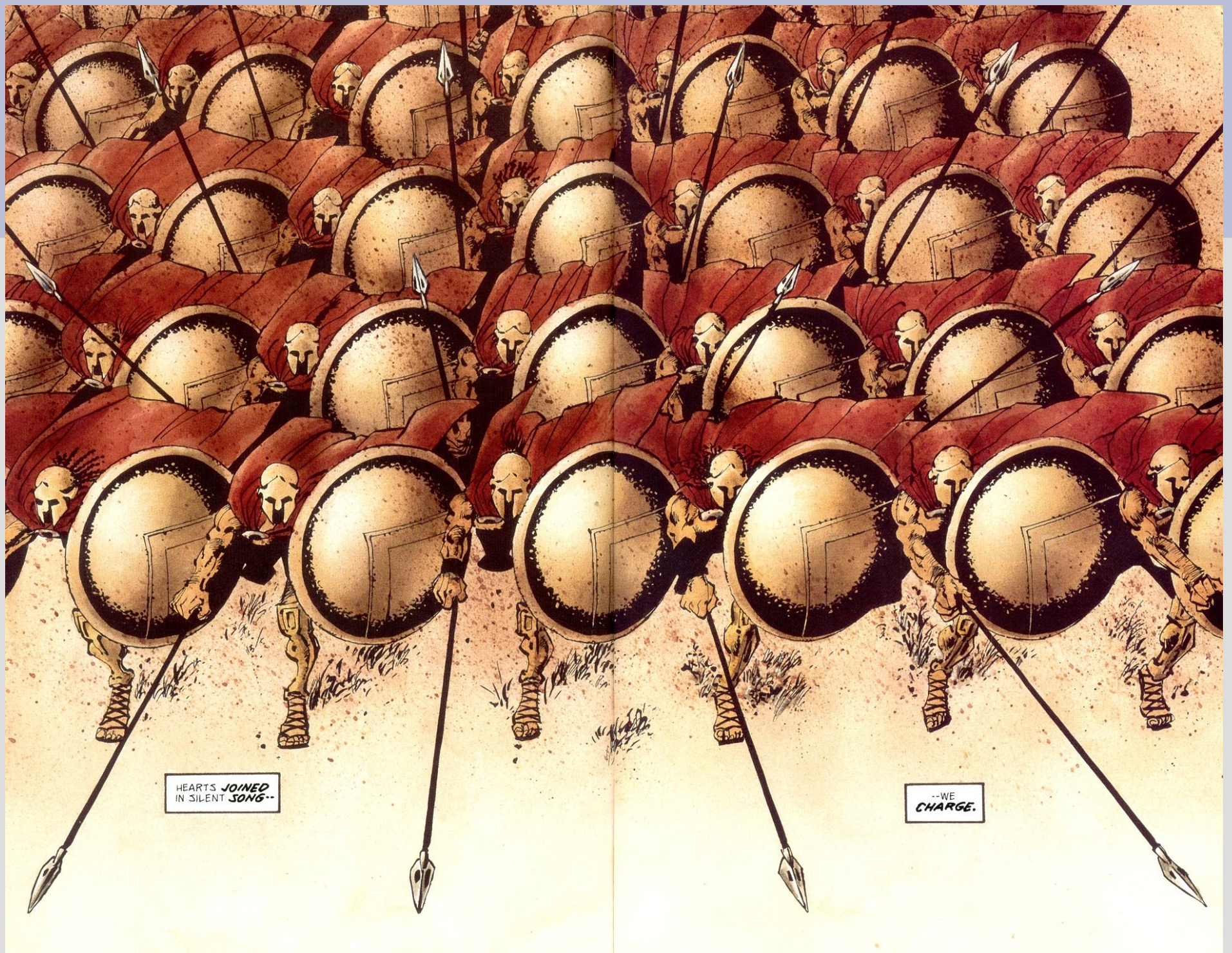
# Thermopylae

- When he learned about the treason Leonidas send most of his troops back.
- Spartans, Thebans and Thespians stayed to continue fight
- In face of defeat Thebans surrendered, Spartans and Thespians fought to death.
- After the war, in Thermopylae pass a monument was risen with following epitaph:  
„Go tell the world, you passerby  
That here, by Spartan law, we lie”



Leonidas at Thermopylae – picture of Jacques David.





HEARTS JOINED  
IN SILENT SONG--

--WE  
CHARGE.

Picture from Frank Miller's comic 300



# Salamis and Platea

- After Battle of Thermopylae Athens were sacked.
- Xerxes lost the sea battle of Salamis, which enabled for successful defence of Corinthian Pass as well as demoralised Xerxes
- In 479 B.C. Greeks took revenge for Thermopylae. In Battle of Platea c 250000 Persians were killed.
- II Persian War is a symbol of free people successfully defending against oppressor



# Culture

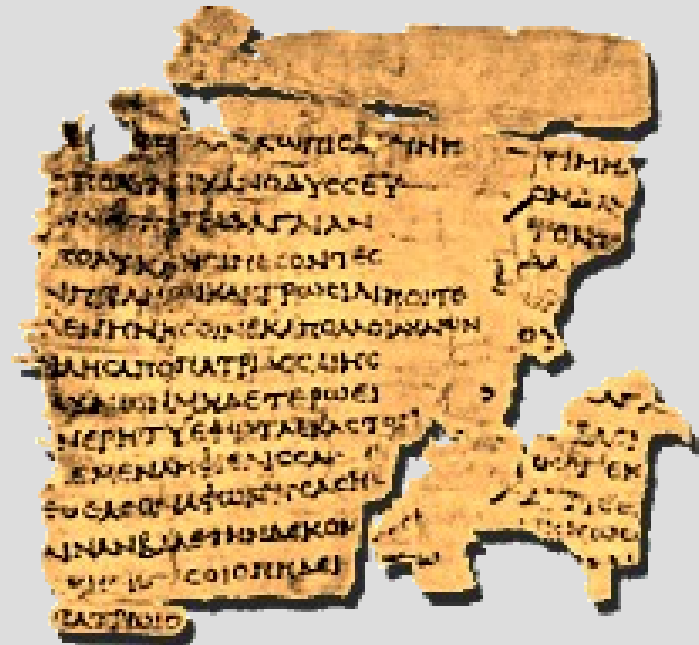
- V c. B.C. Is a “Golden Age” of Classical Greece
- The Peloponnesian War (431–404 BC) marked the period



Temple in Segesta

# Historiography

- Herodotus 485-425  
„Dzieje”
- Thucydides 460 – 400  
„Peloponesian War”
- These authors are considered the fathers of modern historiography.



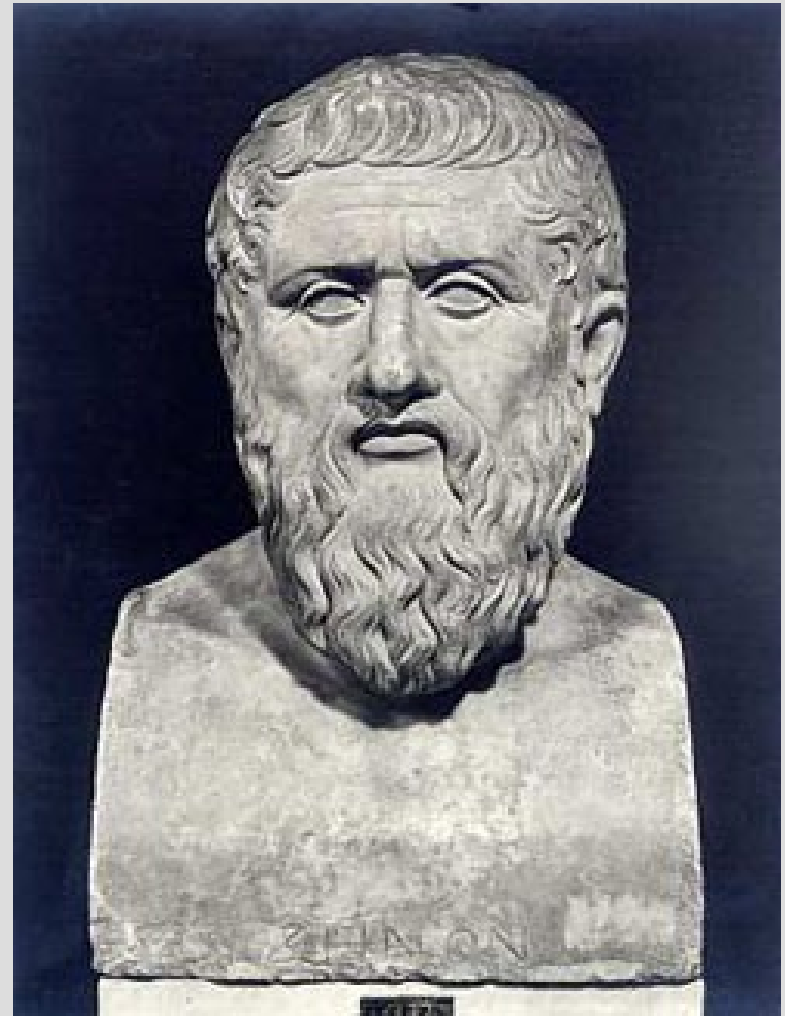
Greek text

# Philosophy

- Ancient Greece
- Socrates was the first great philosopher we know more about.
- However he was not the only one.

# Plato

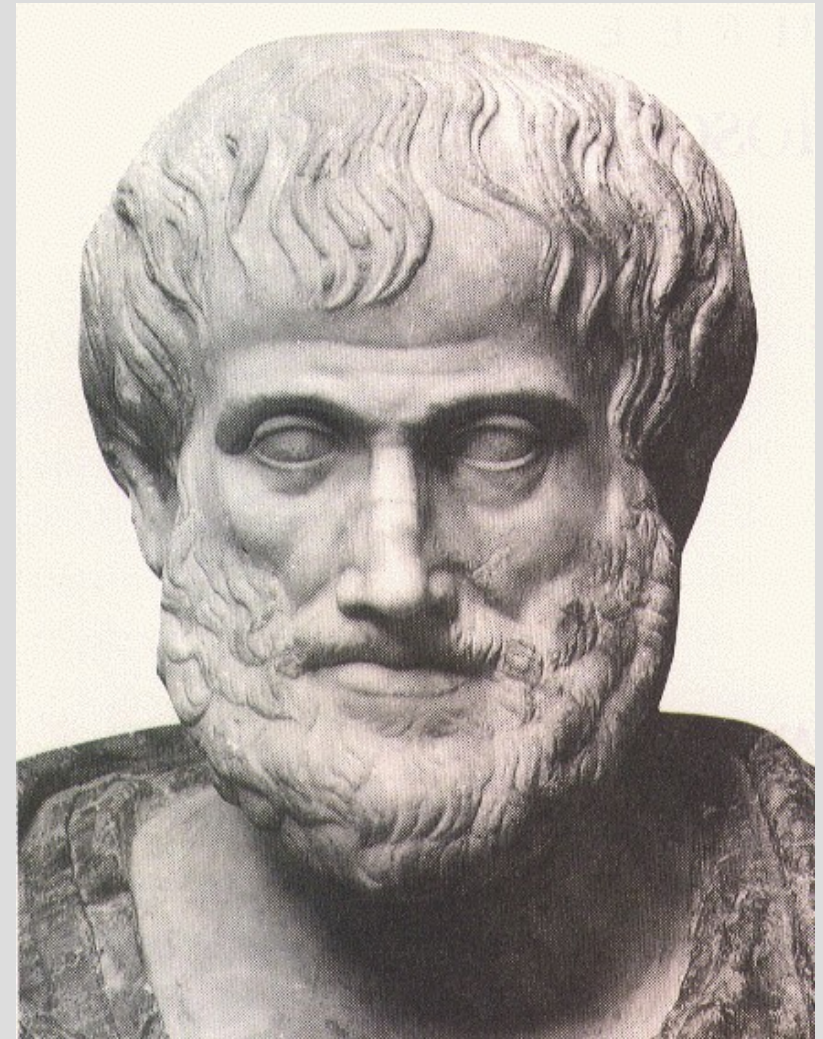
- Plato lived in 427 – 347 B.C.
- He founded so called Academy





# Aristotle

- Aristotle lived in 384 – 322 B.C.
- He studied under Plato
- He founded Lyceum (from Lykeion where it was founded) called also Peripatetic school
- In years 343-342 B.C. He was a teacher of Alexander the Great



# Alexander the Great

- After Peloponesian War Sparta dominated but was soon defeted by Thebes
- In 338 B.B. At the Battle of Cheronea King Philip of Macedon defeated Greek cities.
- In 336 B.C. After Philip's murder, his son Alexander became King.



Alexander the Great

# Empire of Alexander the Great

- In years 334 -323 B.C. Alexander conquered Persia and arrived to India





# Empire of Alexander the Great

- Conquest of Persian Empire – three battles:
  - Battle of the Granicus 334 B.C.
  - Battle of Issus 333 B.C.
  - Battle of Gaugamela 331 B.C.
- Alexander founded over 70 cities including Alexandria in Egypt
- In 323 B.C. Alexander dies in Babylon aged 33.

Battle of Issos

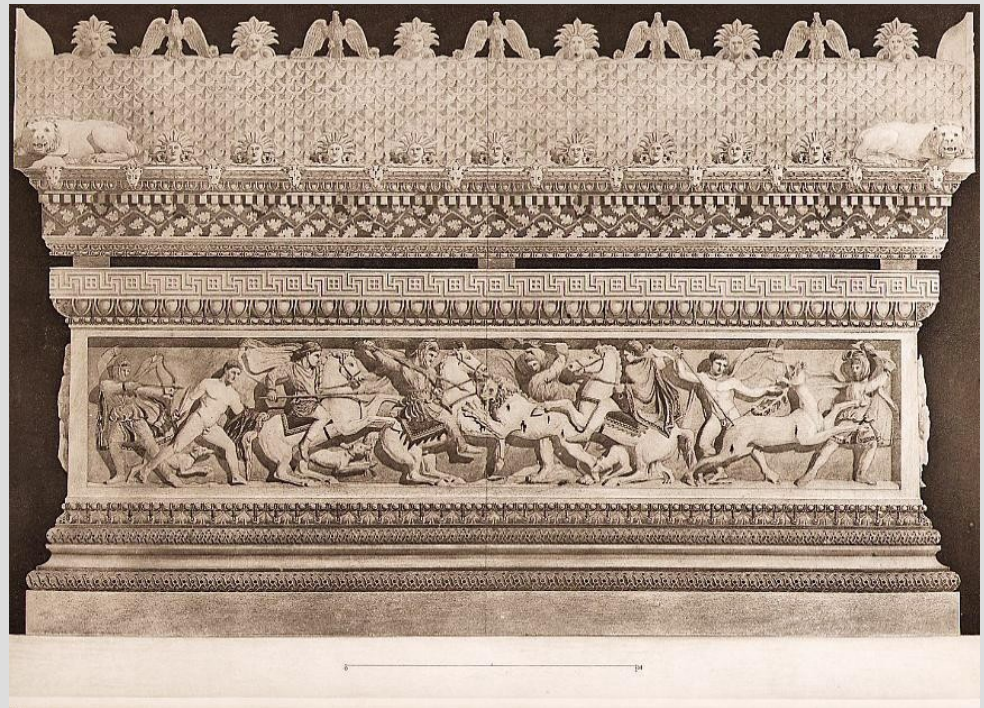




# Hellenistic Period

- After Alexander's death his empire crumbles.

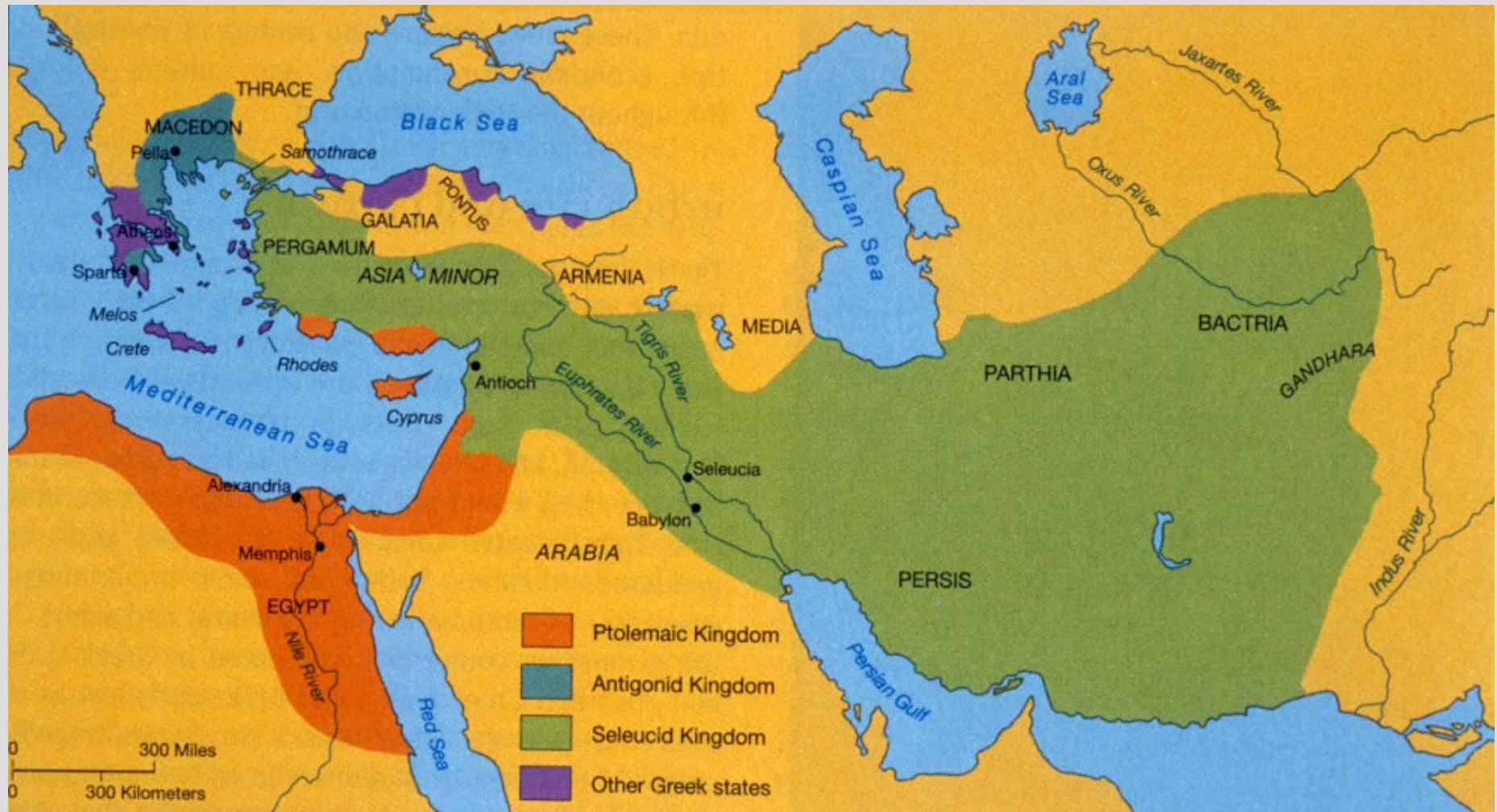
Alexander's sarcophagus from Alexandria



# Hellenistic Kingdoms

- Ptolemaic Egypt (capital city: Alexandria)
- Seleucid Empire (capital city: Seleucia on Tigris/ Antioch)
- Macedonia (Pella)
- Pergamum
- Rhodos
- Pontus
- Syracuse
- Greco-Bactrian Kingdom
- Indo-Greek Kingdom

# Hellenistic Kingdoms





# Heritage of Hellenistic period

- Spread of Greek culture from Italy to India (Ai Khanoum city in modern Afghanistan)
- Contacts with different cultures and civilisations – rise of new ideas
- Greek art reaches its final form – inspiring Rome and modern Europe



Venus de Milo

# Hellenistic world.

- Hellenami stali się nie tylko Grecy czy Macedończycy ale wszyscy żyjący w kulturze helleńskiej.
- Hellenistic cities – huge metropolis of hundreds thousand of inhabitants (largest city of classical Greece had c. 30000 inhabitants)

Nike of Samothrace





# Alexandria – one of greatest cities of Antiquity

- Founded by Alexander the Great in 332/331 B.C.
- Capital of Ptolomaic Egypt
- At the time of Octavian Augustus it had c. 1000000 inhabitants
- Location of Library of Alexandria
- Location of one of “world wonders” - “Lighthouse of Alexandria on Pharos



# Alexandria as metropolis

- Alexandria was an important political, administrative and cultural centre..
- City was fabulously decorated by buildings, thousands of monuments.
- Main streets were 30 (60) m wide, bordered by colonnades.



# Royal Library of Alexandria

- Royal Library of Alexandria:
  - Had about 700000 scrolls
  - Tried to collect all existing books.
- Museaum (Mouseion) in Alexandria – first in history public financed institution dedicated to studies and research





# Alexandria – city of many cultures

- Alexandria was a trading centre with contacts even in India
- It was divided into three districts: Greek, Jewish and Egyptian
- Jewish sacred books were translated into Greek (koine) – so called Septuagint.
- New god was created – Serapes – combining Greek and Egyptian elements.



# I c. B.C. Manuscript of Septuagint





# Serapeum

- Temple of Serapes – symbol of paganism for early Christians

Ruins and foundation plaque of Ptolemy III



# Culture of Hellenistic period

- New philosophy (seeking for happiness - eudaimonia):
  - Epicurus and his garden
  - Zeno of Citium and Chrysippus i „Stoa Poikile”
  - Pyrrho and skepticism
- Development of science – according to Lucio Russo – understood in modern way

Mosaic from Aleksandria



# Hellenistic Art

- For a long time Hellenistic period was considered as inferior in art – a transition time between Classical Greece and Roman times.
- Today this period is perceived as a time of incredible development of culture

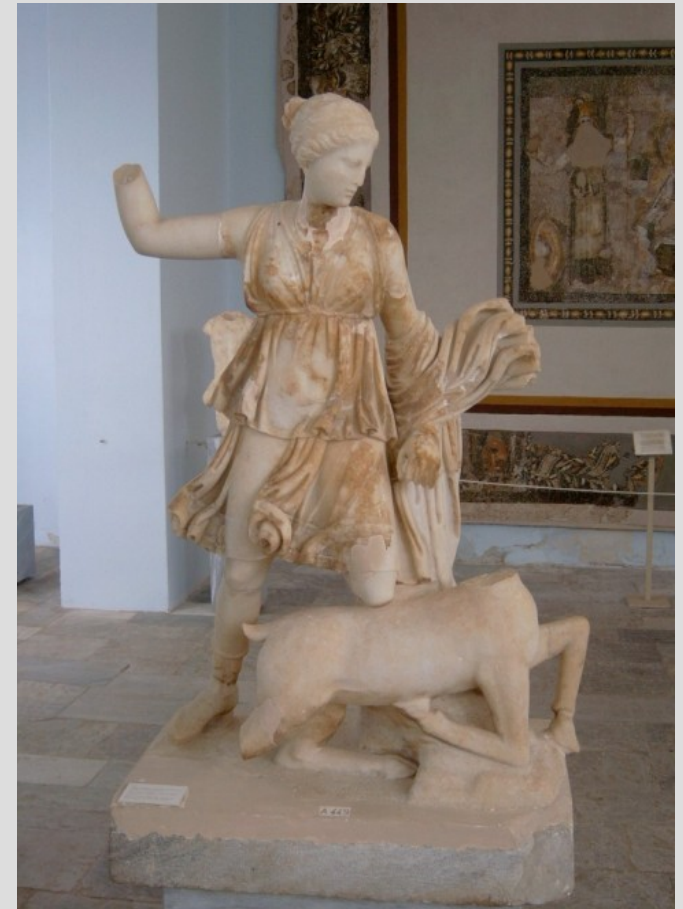




# Hellenistic Art – sculpture

- Rzeźba hellenistyczna próbuje pokazać ruch – w przeciwieństwie do dzieł wcześniejszych

Two copies of Athena from Parthenon and a sculpture of Diana killing a deer from Delos



# Hellenistic Art – sculpture



# Painting

- We do have little remains of Greek panel painting.
- Some Roman frescos and mosaics are considered to be copies of famous artworks.
- The best Hellenistic painters were Apelles and Protogenes

Possibly a copy of Alexander the Great portrait by Apelles





# Painting

Fresco from  
Pompeii  
depicting  
Aphrodite  
Anadyomene.  
Probably a copy  
of Apelles  
work showing  
mistress of  
Alexander the  
Great Pancaspe





# Literature

- In Alexandria and Pergamum textual studies were made.
- Critical editions of Homeric text were published.
- Literature is more self-aware and often uses references to earlier works.
- Also more emphasis is placed on individual characters motivation

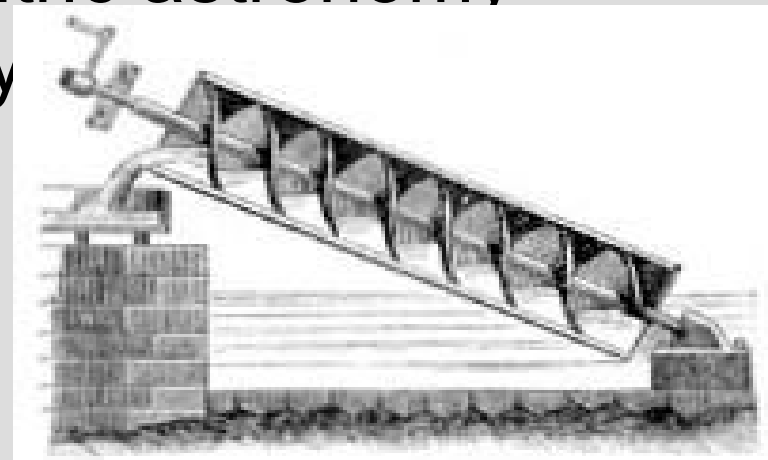


Piece of papyri with Menander's „Sicyonios” from Egypt and a mosaic depicting one of this authors plays.

# Hellenistic science

- Euclid of Alexandria – geometry
- Archimedes of Syracuse – mathematician and engineer
- Eratosthenes – calculate the circumference of the Earth
- Herophilos – physician (nerves: motoric and sensory, blood vessels, brain etc.)
- Aristarchus of Samos – heliocentric astronomy
- Hipparch – dynamics and gravity
- Ktesibios – engineer

Archimedes screw



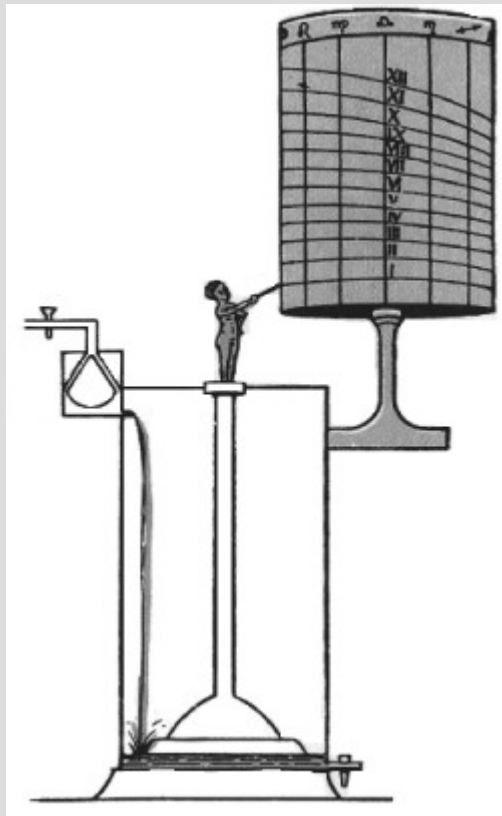


# Hellenistic science

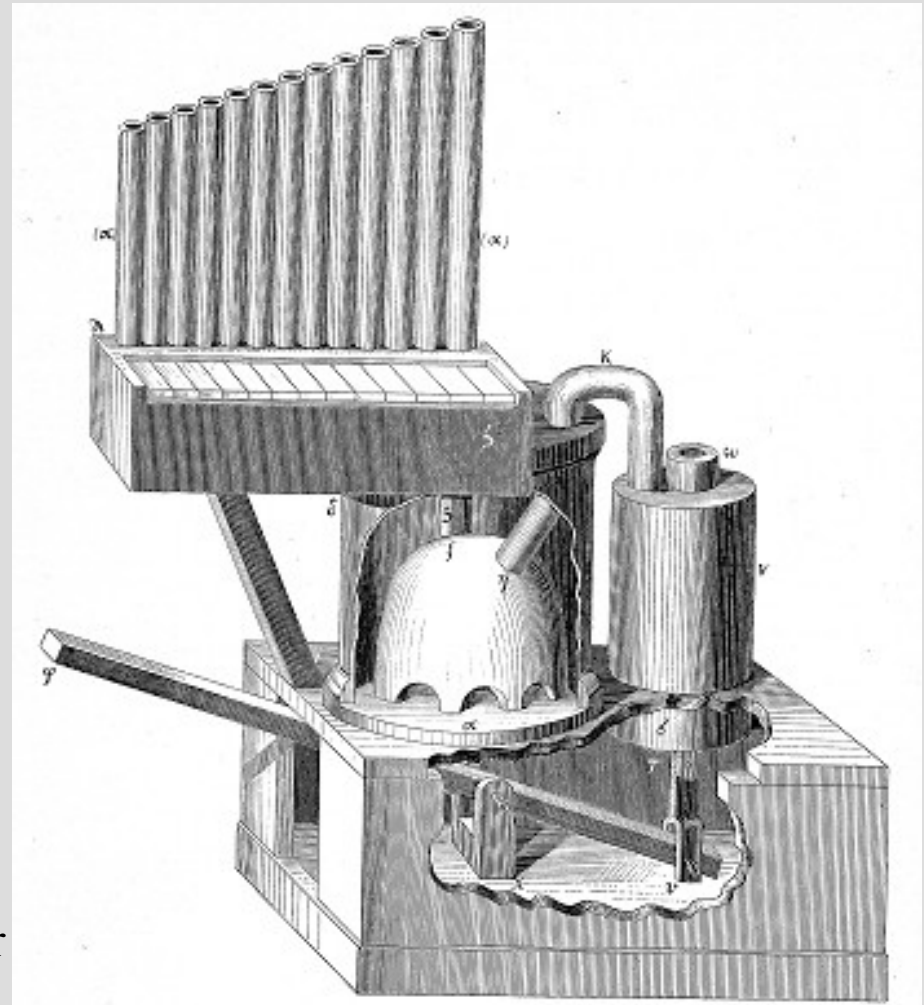
- Hellenistic rulers tried to reach upper hand in technological race
- Pergamum had second biggest library in the Greek world. When the Ptolemies of Egypt refused to export any more papyrus to Pergamum, King Eumenes II commanded that an alternative source be found. This led to the production of parchment (charta pergamena), which is made out of a thin sheet of sheep or goat skin.



# Hellenistic science

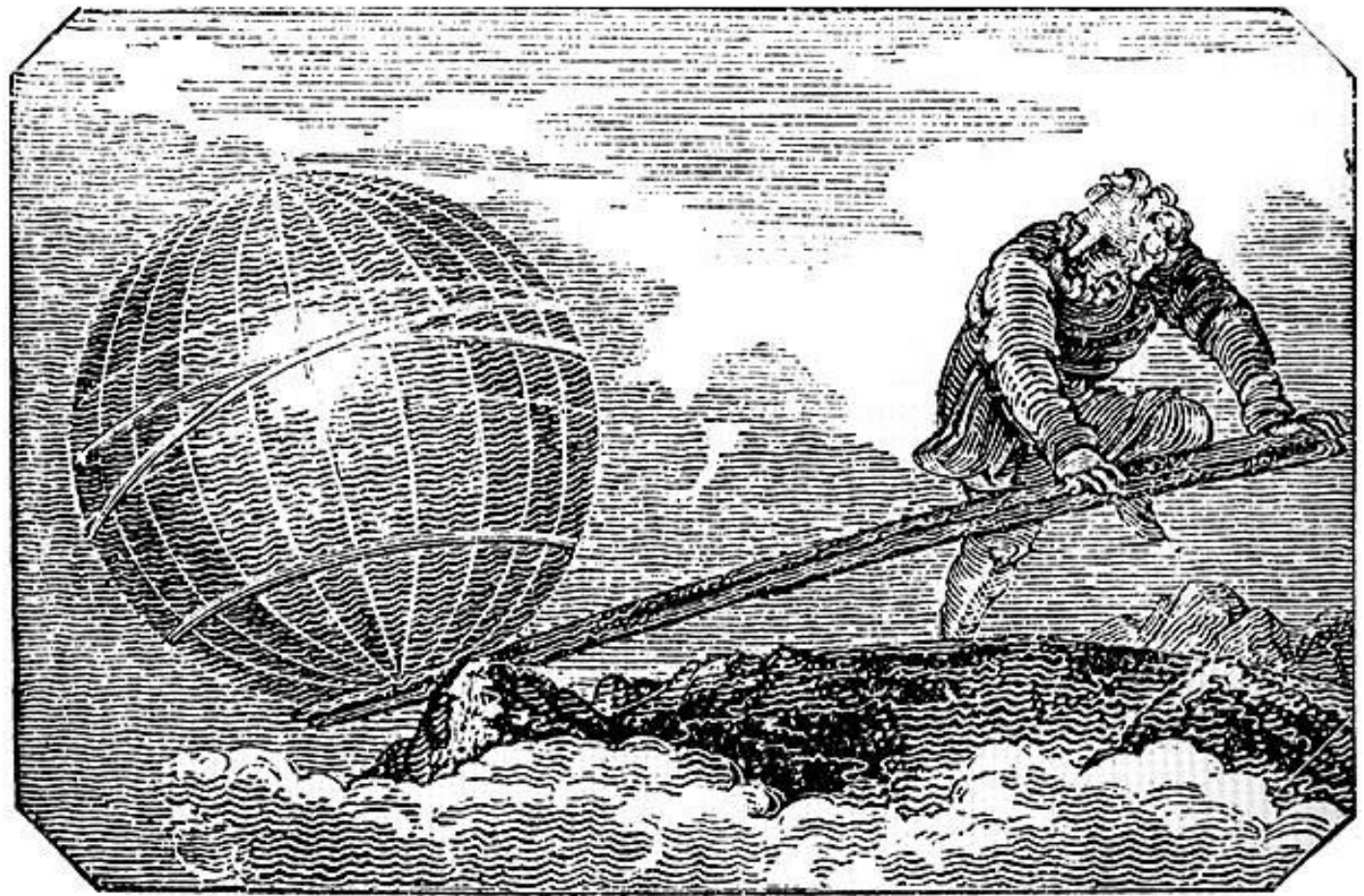


Ktesibios' clepsydra (water clock) and water organ



# Hellenistic science

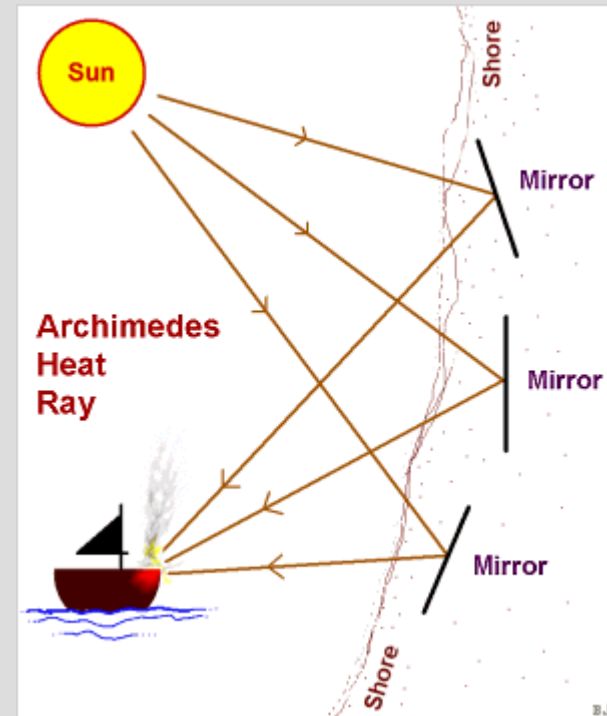
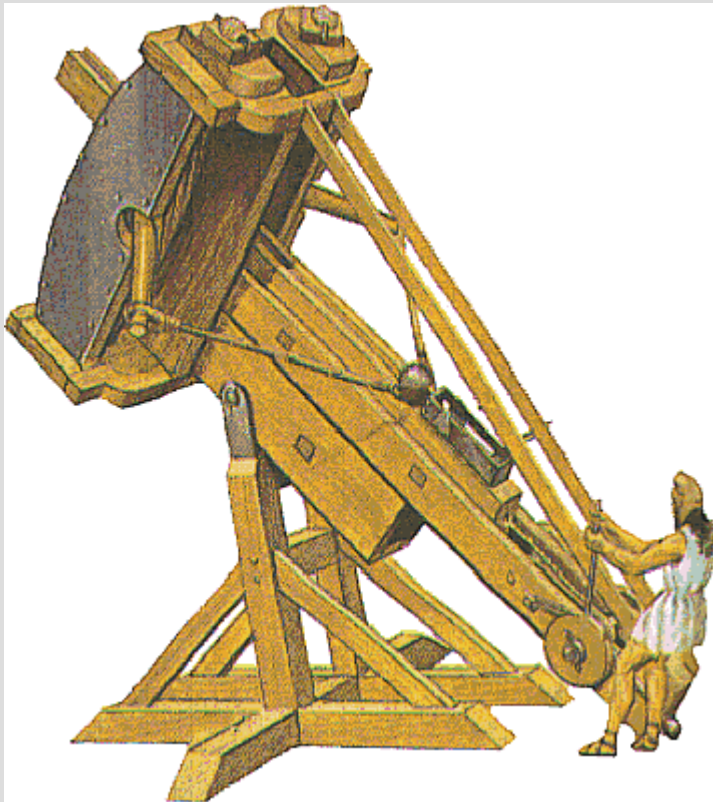
“Give me a place to stand on, and I will move the Earth.” - Archimedes.





# Hellenistic science at war

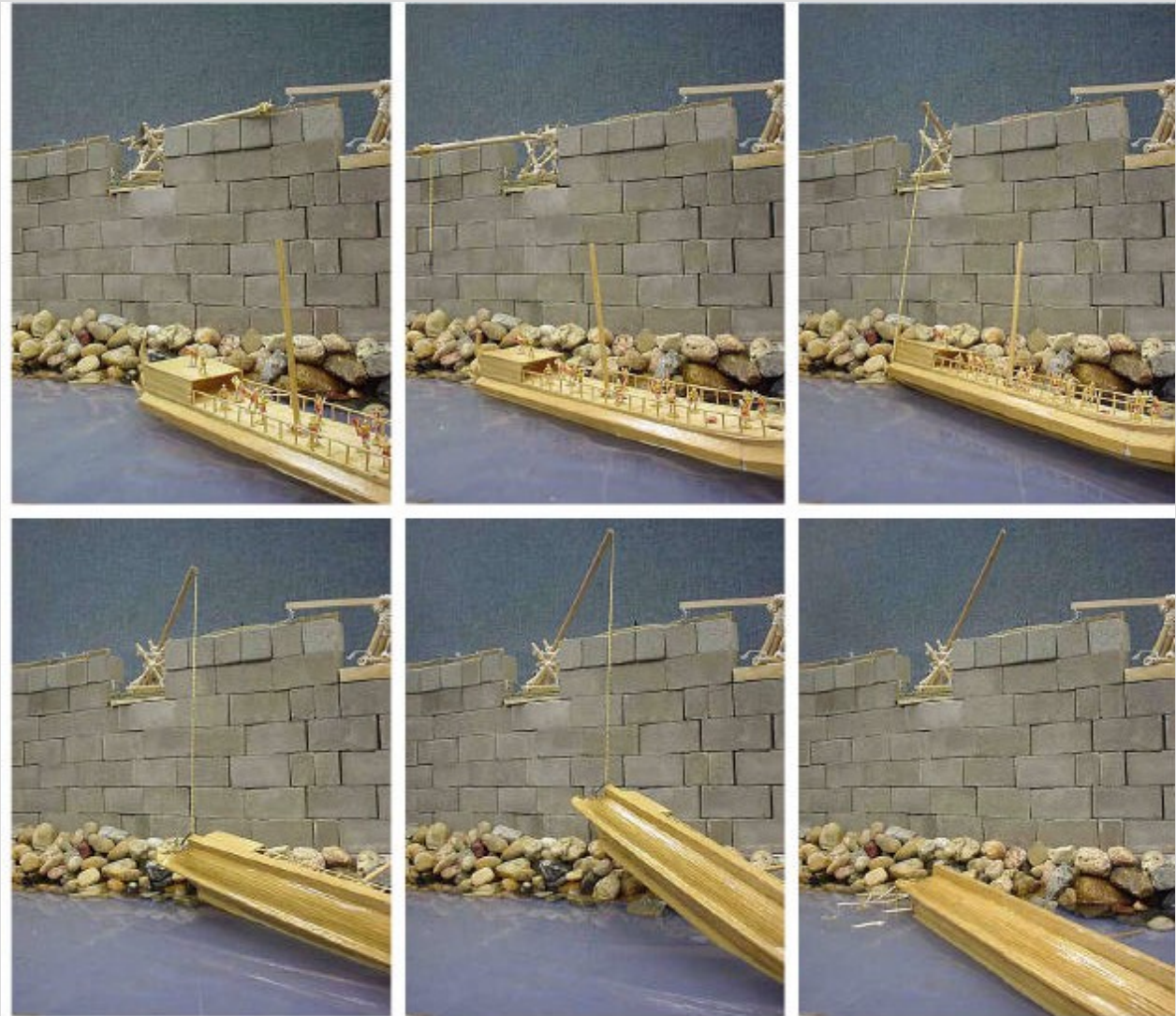
Palintonon – Greek  
catapulta



Archimedes "Heat Rays"

# Hellenistic science at war

“The Claw of  
Archimedes”  
machine for rising  
and sinking ships

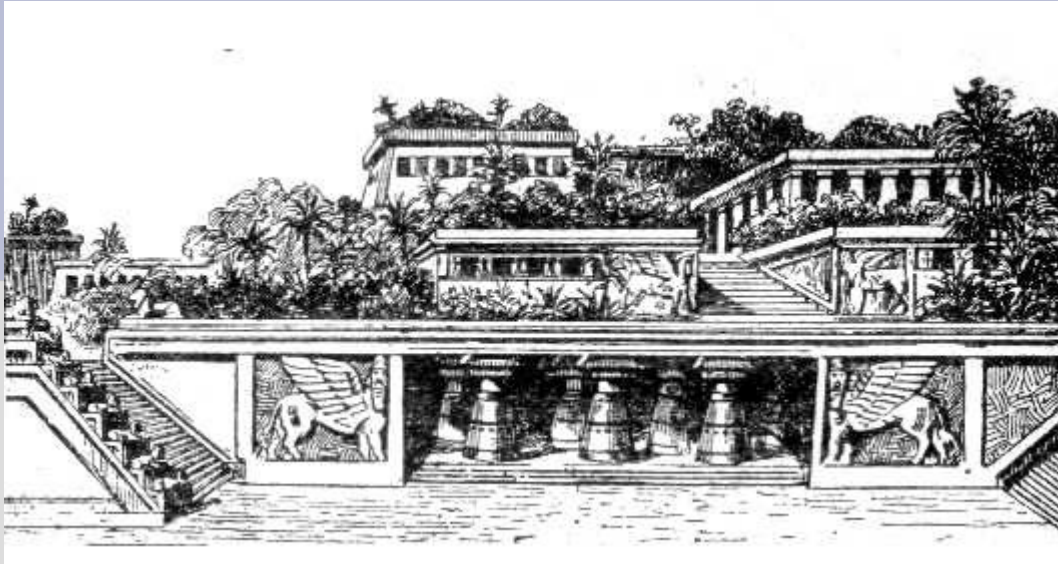


# Seven Wonders of the World

- Great Pyramid of Giza
- Hanging Gardens of Semiramis,
- Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
- Statue of Zeus at Olympia
- Mausoleum of Maussollos at Halicarnassus
- Colossus of Rhodes
- Lighthouse of Alexandria







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# Thank you for attention

