

A classical painting depicting a grand ancient Greek temple complex, likely the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens. The temple is built on a hillside, featuring multiple levels of colonnades and a prominent pedimented structure at the top. The architecture is rendered in warm, golden-brown tones. In the foreground, several figures in classical attire are visible, including a group of three women on the left and two men on the right, suggesting a bustling public space. The sky is a vibrant blue with soft, white clouds. The overall style is characteristic of 19th-century historical painting.

# Athens versus Sparta

# Introduction

- Both Athens and Sparta were known as a *polis* or a city-state
- Athens had ~140,000 citizens while Sparta had ~ 8,000 citizens
- Both Athens and Sparta had around 100,000 enslaved individuals
- Now, let's look at some of the similarities and differences that made these 2 city-states unique!



# Geography



# Geography

## Athens

- Located in central Greece 4 miles from the Aegean Sea
- Extensive trading routes
- Powerful naval fleet

## Sparta

- Very isolated on a peninsula in southern Greece
- Surrounded by mountains, closes harbor was over 25 miles away
- Excellent farmers, very fertile soil



# Government



# Government

## Athens

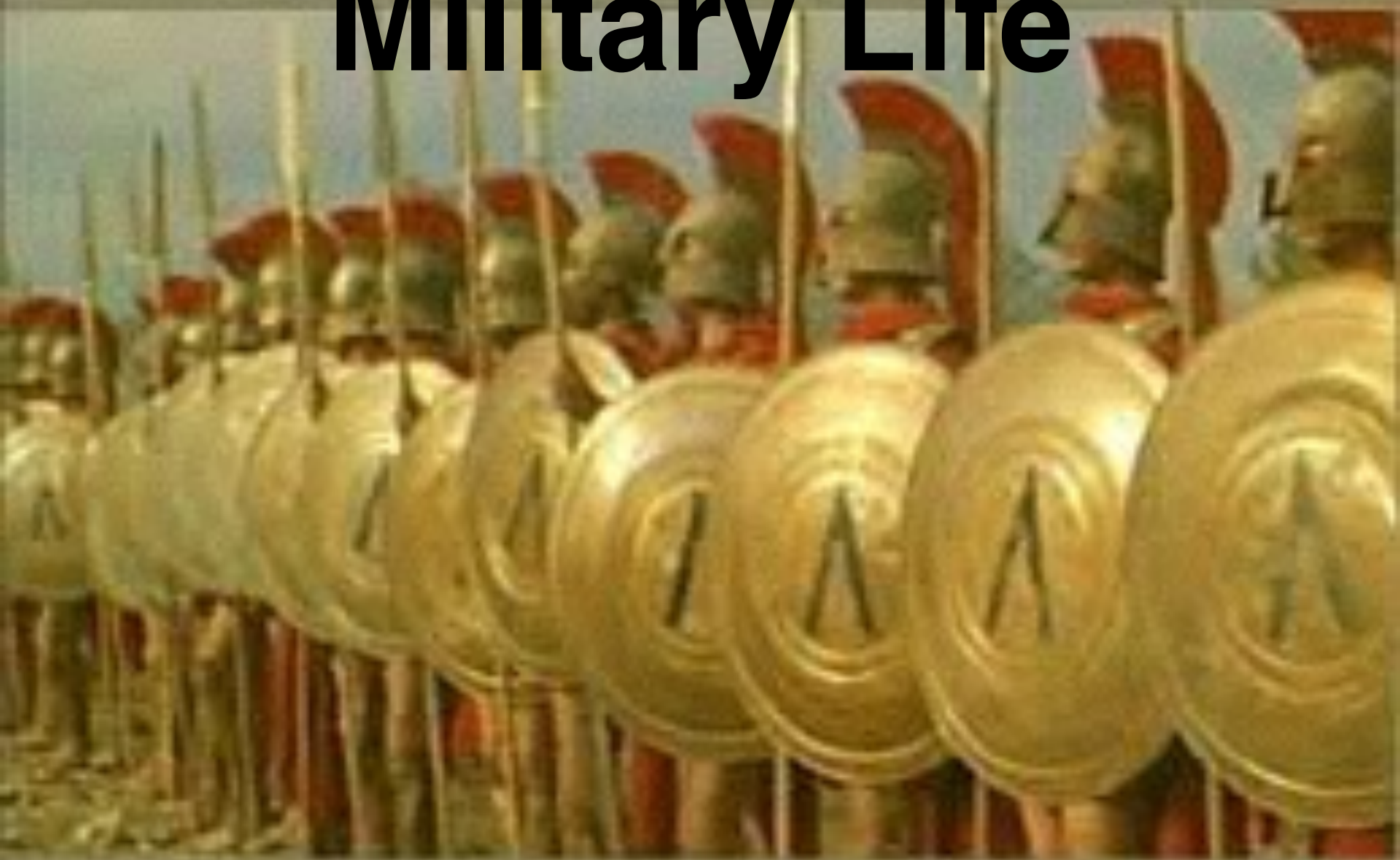
- Direct Democracy
- Athenian men over 18 were citizens, women and slaves were not permitted citizenship
- Daily business run by the Council of 500
- Laws approved by Assembly of Athens

## Sparta

- Oligarchy
- Also elements of a monarchy as they had 2 kings who were in command of the militaries
- Dedicated to military strength
- Decisions made by the Council of Elders
- Council was headed by the 2 kings and 28 other men
- Assembly voted on laws, little power



# Military Life



# Military Life

## Athens

- At 18, Athenian men began military training for 2 years
- After formal training, boys could choose how to live out the rest of their lives
- Very strong navy
- They mastered the trireme ship



## Sparta

- Spartans started military training at age of 7 (Boys AND girls)
- At 20, boys had to pass a rigorous physical test that determined whether they would be Spartan warriors or not
- They then served until they were 60
- Boys learned to read and write, but these were not seen as important skills



# Education



# Education

## Athens

- Placed heavy emphasis on learning and physical strength, becoming well-rounded citizens
- Males began reading at a young age that would make them strong citizens
- Women were taught various household skills (not able to become citizens) and were not taught to read or write

## Sparta

- Harsh laws demanded citizens to dedicate themselves to the state
- There was a strict devotion to a military state
- Not a lot of time left over for reading and writing
- Girls were taught beginning at age 7 and had more freedom than Athenian girls/women



# Society



# Society

## Athens

- Focused on trading and building relationships with other
- Part of the Delian League
- Bought and sold goods at the agora
- Large number of slaves, most wealthy Athenians owned at least one slave

## Sparta

- Emphasis on military strength
- Famous Sparta saying “Come back with your shield or on it.”
- Part of the Peloponnesian League
- Not allowed to own luxuries
- Spartan babies were placed on mountainsides overnight to determine their strength
- Farming society and self-reliant



