Athens established the world’s first democracy.

Solon:

* Solon reduced power given to the aristocracy
* Canceled poor people’s debts
* Freed enslaved farmers
* Created an assembly that could vote for the next ruler

Cleisthenes:

* Assembly members debated openly
* Assembly members could hear court cases
* Citizens were grouped up based on where they lived, each group send people to represent them at the council
* This council proposed laws, debated new policies, and then the assembly voted on them.

Pericles:

* Transferred the power of the aristocrats to the assembly
* Allowed poor citizens to take time off and serve the state
* Opened powerful political positions to middle classes
* Made Athens a direct democracy, where male could vote
* Guided Athens towards its golden age, also known as the Age of Pericles.
* Removed the Persian threat

# The Delian League

* Pericles formed the Delian League, an alliance of city-states that supported protecting Greece from an invasion from Persia.
* Athens used a lot of money from the Delian league for themselves, unfairly stealing money from other city-states just to build their own.
* Sparta got mad because Athens was using money without permission, and later went to war.