Jonathan Quang 10/15/14

1WW

HW #18

1.  
Monarchy: A form of government where a single person ruled  
 Aristocracy: A form of government where noble landowning families rule  
Oligarchy: A government ruled by a few powerful people  
Democracy: A government ruled by the citizens it governs  
Helots: Peasants forced to stay on the land they worked. When Sparta conquered Messenia around 725 B.C, the Messenians became helots.  
Phalanx: An ancient battle formation where foot soldiers stood side by side with each soldier holding a spear and shield.  
Marathon: A plain located northeast of Athens. This may also refer to a long lasting task or race.  
Salamis: An island to the west of Athens where Persian ships led by Xerese were destroyed by Greek ships  
Plataea: The place where the second Persian invasion suffered a major defeat in 479 B.C.

2. Solon was an Athenian lawmaker who brought about many reforms. He brought about the following: Solon abolished debt slavery, organized all members of Athenian citizens into four social classes according to wealth, gave the top three classes the ability to hold office, gave all classes the ability to participate in the Athenian assembly, and introduced the legal concept that any citizen could bring charges against criminals. Out of these many reforms, the ability for any citizen to bring charges against criminals most benefited Athens because Athenians now had government power behind them when prosecuting criminals. Less crime would happen if the criminals would have to face legal action.

3.  
  
 Athens, More than Just Another City State  
 When someone hears Athens, they think of a society that was undoubtedly different from other ancient Greek city-states. Education has flourished, but only for the few. The government has also begun to act as a democratic entity for the general public. The military of Athens has experienced numerous successes against the Persian invasions as well.   
 Education in Athens has achieved great variety, however it is limited to only a select few. Generally, only the sons of wealthy families received formal education. The sons began schooling around the age of seven and prepared them to be good citizens. Students at that time studied reading, grammar, poetry, history, mathematics, and music. They also received training in logic and public speaking because they were expected to debate issues in the assembly. The importance of the body was also emphasized in Athenian culture, so parts of each day were spent in athletic activities. Eventually, bots went to military school to prepare them to become soldiers. Unfortunately, Athenian girls did not attend school, but rather educated by their mothers and other females at their residences. They learned how to do chores and become good wives and mothers. Very few Athenian women were literate, and of those few, some actually became well received writers. Education for men was indeed diverse, but women received none of it.  
 In many Greek city states, tyrants ruled the government and the people, but in Athens things began to change. Similar to other city-states, Athens went through several power struggles between rich and poor, but major upheavals were avoided by timely reforms. In general, Athenian reformers moved toward democracy. The first step toward this new form of government came about when the nobleman, Draco, took power. In 621 B.C., Draco developed a legal code where all Athenians, regardless of wealth, were equal under the law. He also made the penalty for almost every crime death. Draco was a supporter of debt slavery, where debtors worked as slaves to repay their debts. The cruelty of this practice was removed by Solon, who gained power in 594 B.C. However, Solon delved further into class divisions by dividing citizens into four social classes according to wealth. The top three classes could hold political office, but all four could participate in the Athenian assembly. Prosecution against violators of the law was a legal concept also introduced by Solon. Around 500 B.C, the leader at that time was Cleisthenes. The concept of divisions by wealth was overturned and replaced with ten groups based on location. More power was given to the assembly by giving them the ability to submit laws for debate and approval. Cleisthenes also created the Council of Five Hundred, which proposed laws and counseled the assembly. The Council members were chosen randomly. Athens was one of the few city-states that moved toward a limited democracy.  
 Athens has had its fair share of successes against the Persian Empire. The battle between Athens and the empire began when Athens sent ships and soldiers to the aid of Ionian Greeks who were rebelling against the Persian in Ionia in 546 B.C. The rebellion was defeated and Darius the Great, leader of the Persian Empire, vowed revenge. In 490 B.C., the empire's fleet carried 25,000 men across the Aegean sea and landed northeast of Athens in Marathon. It was a battle between 10,000 Athenians and 25,000 Persians. The superior weapons, armor, and training of the Athenians led to the Persians retreat. The empire lost 6,000 men while Athens lost less than 200. To relay the victory to Athens, Pheidippides ran 26 miles to Athens, where he died shortly after telling Athens of their victory. This message allowed the Greek army to arrive in Athens and defend its harbor from the Persians. The successor to Darius, Xerxes, marched down an enormous invasion force down the eastern coast of Greece in 480 B.C. The Greeks slowed down Persian advance for three days. During these three days, Themistocles, an Athenian leader, convinced Athens to evacuate the city and fight at sea. His clever strategy involved blocking Xerexes' warships in a narrow channel near the island of Salamis. The Persian ships had difficulty turning, and were subject to Greek ships armed with battering rams. Xerxes lost more than one-third of his fleet. After the next defeat in 479 B.C at the Battle of Platea, the Persians were the ones on the defensive. The military of Athens experienced success due to its well armed and disciplined soldier and cunning leaders.  
 Now when you think Athens, you will think more than that it is just another ancient Greek city-state. You will remember its diverse education. You will remember its progress to a limited democracy and a criminal punishment system. You will remember it for its powerful and cunning military.