

Un régime politique fondé sur l'égalité des citoyens

Whether rich or poor, all Athenian citizens had the same rights. These citizens formed the ecclesia (ecclésia), which was the assembly of the Athenian citizens. All citizens could participate in the assembly to make political decisions and to vote. Votes were often held by having citizens raise their hands, though they would occasionally do it in a more private fashion. The ecclesia would come together three or four times a month in a big open space called the Pnyx. The citizens could run everything with only four meetings per month, so they would choose smaller groups among them to direct the state when they weren't around. This group is called the magistrates (magistrats).

Among the magistrates are the high magistrates (hauts magistrats) and the lower magistrates (magistrats inférieurs). The most respected of the high magistrates were the nine Archons (archontes), chosen randomly. Despite holding the title of the head of state, they were less influential than the strategoi (stratèges). The strategoi were ten elected officials who managed the army and were very influential over the ecclesia.

In the lower magistrates, we have the Heliia (Héliée) and the Boule (Boulê). The Heliia was like the supreme court of Athens; a reservoir of 6000 citizens do act as members of the jury. They would judge the public affairs of the city and would frequently get together by groups of juries. The Boule was a counsel of 500 citizens, chosen randomly to decide on what to present to the ecclesia.

Only a minority of the magistrate were elected; the rest were chosen randomly with a term limit of one year. This was because they were all treated as equals and putting people into office randomly ensured that everyone would have an equal opportunity to be in power.

- 9 Archontes
 - Choisis au sort
 - Exercent diverses fonctions (président les cérémonies religieuses, les tribunaux)
 - Prestigieux mais moins influents que les stratèges
- 10 Stratèges
 - Élus
 - Dirigent l'armée
 - Très influents à l'ecclésiā depuis les guerres contre les Perses
- Héliée
 - 6000 citoyens choisis à tour de rôle pour être membres de jurys
 - Juge les affaires publiques de la cité
 - Réunit fréquemment par groupes de jurés.
- Boulê
 - Conseil de 500 citoyens choisis au sort
 - Décide des projets de lois à présenter à l'ecclésiā
 - Administre les affaires courantes (ex. surveillance des magistrats)
 - Se divise en groupes de 50 personnes : à tour de rôle, chaque groupe se réunit tous les jours pendant un mois
- Ecclésiā
 - Assemblée des citoyens
 - Vote sur les lois

- Prend les décisions politiques importants
- Se réunit trois ou quatre fois par mois.

Ecclésia	Assemblée des citoyens.
Pnyx	L'endroit où que l'assemblée réunit.
Hauts magistrats	9 archontes et 10 stratèges
Magistrats inférieurs	L'Héliée et le Boulê
Archontes	Magistrats prestigieux choisis au sort Moins influents que les stratèges
Rôles d'archontes	Président les cérémonies religieuses Les tribunaux
Stratèges	Magistrats élus qui dirigent l'armée Très influents à l'ecclésia
Héliée	Réservoir de 6000 citoyens qui fonctionne comme les membres de jurys.
Boulê	Conseil de 500 citoyens choisis au sort qui décide des projets de lois à présenter à l'ecclésia