**Task:**

As stated in your reading assignment titled ‘Boundless World History’, “Democracy in Athens was overthrown in 411 BCE as a result of its poor handling of the Peloponnesian War.” Based on this statement, answer the following questions.

* Athens could not effectively handle the Peloponnesian War, do you agree? Why/why not? Support your answer with sources and evidence by providing details and examples.
* Is it correct to say that democracy in Athens was overthrown after the war?

Please explain your answer and justify your answers with relevant examples.

**Learning Journal Unit 3:**

Before providing my opinion of whether I agree that Athens effectively handled the Peloponnesian War or not, I should at least have well overall understanding of the Peloponnesian War and recognize its critical events. Based on my research on different sources on the Internet and evaluating the most critical war events (turning points that significantly affected the war outcome), I believe that Athens did not handle the Peloponnesian War effectively due to several reasons I will include in the assignment.

One of the critical mistakes by Athens that caused it to drain its source of manpower, ships, and money was the huge investment in the distant island of Sicily. We already know that one of the important strengths Athens had over Sparta was its wealth. However, Athens not only lost this advantage but also took a huge risk, especially considering the many early signs of war with half of Greece. I believe that a wiser approach would have been to reduce expenses and prepare for difficult situations. Thucydides expressed a similar concern through Nicias, stating, “If we are wise, will not be for the barbarian Egestaeans in Sicily, but to defend ourselves most effectively against the oligarchic machinations of Sparta” (Bennett, 2017).

Despite Sparta having a stronger military and manpower than Athens. The Athenian government even worse the situation by questioning Alcibiades' attention and loose one of its gifted general in their forces in Sicily. This widened the gap between Sparta and Athens in terms of military power and left Athens in an unenviable situation.

Answering the second part of the assignment of whether it is correct that democracy in Athens was overthrown after the war or not. I believe that this statement is partially correct due to Democracy in Athens was briefly overthrown in 411 BCE. Citizens of Athens blame the democratic system for their defeat in the Peloponnesian War against Sparta. Sparta used this reaction of Athens citizens against their political figures by encouraging Athen’s citizens to revolt and install Thirty Tyrants as replace to the democratic system. The pro-Sparta oligarchy did not stand long until democracy was restored in Athens. During the restoration of the democratic system, there were minor changes to prevent any pro-Sparta oligarchy from taking over.

In summary, expressing an opinion of whether I agree that Athens effectively handled the Peloponnesian War needs well general understanding of the Peloponnesian War and its critical events. Based on my search there are major mistakes by Athens like draining their sources for Silicia during critical times or widening the gap in terms of military strength by sentencing one of its gifted generals to death. Finally, I believe that the democratic system was permanently overthrown by the Sparta oligarchy, but it was a matter of time for the democratic system to be restored and modified for future revolt.

References:

Bennett, C. (2017, November 28). The Peloponnesian Errors. Ancient Pasts. Retrieved June 15, 2018, from <https://ancientpasts.as.ua.edu/uncategorized/the-peloponnesian-errors-christopher-bennett-2017/#:~:text=The%20refusal%20to%20leave%20when,all%20Athenian%20forces%20in%20Sicily>.

Lumen Learning. (n.d.). Effects of the Peloponnesian War. <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/atd-herkimer-westerncivilization/chapter/effects-of-the-peloponnesian-war/#:~:text=Democracy%20in%20Athens%20was%20briefly,13%20months%20they%20maintained%20power>.