DRACO

Emphasize what it might be like before Draco – appeal to leader, leader decides.

1. \*\*First Written Law Code:\*\* Draco was the first legislator to introduce a written code of laws in Athens, around 621 BC. Before this, laws were transmitted orally, leading to potential inconsistencies and biases in judgments. By introducing a written code, Draco provided a consistent legal standard that everyone could reference. This was a significant step towards rule of law, where laws are codified, transparent, and apply to everyone equally. Displaying the laws publicly meant that they were accessible to all citizens, not just the elite or those in power. This was a move towards greater transparency and accountability in governance

2. \*\*Severity of Laws:\*\* Draco's laws were notoriously harsh, which is where the term "draconian" (meaning extremely severe or cruel) originates. For instance, stealing a cabbage or an apple could result in death.

3. \*\*Homicide Law:\*\* One of the few aspects of Draco's code that was not later replaced by Solon's reforms was his laws on homicide. They distinguished between premeditated and unintentional homicide, with different punishments and legal processes for each.

4. \*\*Debt and Slavery:\*\* Under Draco's laws, those who couldn't pay their debts could be sold into slavery, reflecting the severe nature of his legal code.

5. \*\*Public Display:\*\* The laws were reportedly displayed in public so that all could see, promoting a level of transparency and public accountability.

SOLON

There were incredible economic stability. Debt slavery was hated. Solon, an Athenian statesman and poet, played a pivotal role in the early development of Athenian democracy in the 6th century BC. His reforms laid the groundwork for the later democratic structures of Athens. Here are some of Solon's most important contributions:

1. \*\*Economic Reforms:\*\*

- \*\*Debt Relief:\*\* Solon canceled debts and abolished the practice of using one's person as collateral. This move effectively ended the widespread practice of debt slavery, where Athenians were enslaved to their creditors.

- \*\*Currency Revaluation:\*\* He introduced a new system of coinage, weights, and measures, which helped trade and commerce.

- \*\*Promotion of Olive Cultivation:\*\* Solon encouraged the cultivation of olives, a cash crop, which was beneficial for export and boosted the Athenian economy.

2. \*\*Legal Reforms:\*\*

- \*\*End of Draconian Laws:\*\* Solon repealed the harsh laws set by Draco, except for those concerning homicide.

- \*\*Public Access to Justice:\*\* He allowed any citizen to bring a lawsuit on behalf of another, broadening access to justice.

- \*\*Written Laws:\*\* Solon expanded the codification of laws and ensured they were displayed publicly, so all citizens were aware of them.

3. \*\*Political Reforms:\*\*

- \*\*Timocracy:\*\* Solon restructured the political classes based on wealth and property rather than birthright. He established four classes: Pentacosiomedimni, Hippeis, Zeugitai, and Thetes. The top three classes could hold political office, while the Thetes could participate in the Assembly.

- \*\*Council of Four Hundred:\*\* Solon introduced the Boule, or Council, which had 100 members from each of the four Athenian tribes. This council prepared the agenda for the Assembly.

- \*\*People's Court (Heliaia):\*\* Solon established popular courts where jurors were chosen from the citizenry, ensuring that legal decisions were made by a broader segment of society.

4. \*\*Notion of Citizenship:\*\*

- \*\*Broader Participation:\*\* By basing political rights on wealth rather than birth, Solon expanded the notion of citizenship. While not democratic by modern standards, this was a significant step towards broader participation in governance.

- \*\*Protection of Rights:\*\* Solon's laws provided protections to the rights of citizens, ensuring that the powerful elite couldn't easily exploit them.

- \*\*Inclusion in Governance:\*\* By allowing all classes to participate in the Assembly and by establishing popular courts, Solon ensured that more citizens had a say in governance and justice.

5. \*\*Moral and Cultural Contributions:\*\*

- \*\*Poetry and Wisdom:\*\* Apart from his political and legal contributions, Solon is also remembered for his poetry, which offered insights into his views on governance, justice, and society.

In essence, Solon's reforms were foundational in moving Athens away from aristocratic rule and towards a system where more citizens had rights and could participate in governance. His redefinition of citizenship, based on economic contribution rather than mere birthright, was a radical and crucial step in this transformation.

PISISTRATUS

\*\*Pisistratus:\*\*

1. \*\*Tyrant of Athens:\*\* Pisistratus emerged as a prominent figure in the mid-6th century BC and eventually became the tyrant of Athens. Despite the modern negative connotation of the term "tyrant," many ancient tyrants, including Pisistratus, were not necessarily cruel rulers. They simply held power outside the traditional aristocratic structures.

2. \*\*Populist Policies:\*\* Pisistratus implemented policies that favored the common people, such as land redistribution and loans, which helped small farmers.

3. \*\*Cultural Contributions:\*\* He supported the arts and religion, initiating major building projects and festivals, and is credited with the first written transcription of Homer's epics.

4. \*\*Multiple Seizures of Power:\*\* Pisistratus took control of Athens on three separate occasions, using a mix of force, strategy, and popular support.

\*\*Hippias:\*\*

1. \*\*Succession:\*\* After the death of Pisistratus around 527 BC, his sons Hippias and Hipparchus took over the leadership of Athens. Hippias was the elder and more dominant of the two.

2. \*\*Initially Moderate Rule:\*\* Initially, Hippias ruled in a manner similar to his father, maintaining relative stability and continuing the policies initiated by Pisistratus.

\*\*Attempted Assassination of Hippias and Murder of Hipparchus:\*\*

1. \*\*Harmodius and Aristogeiton:\*\* In 514 BC, two Athenians, Harmodius and Aristogeiton (often referred to as the Tyrannicides), plotted to overthrow Hippias and his brother Hipparchus. Their motivation was a mix of personal and political reasons.

2. \*\*Assassination of Hipparchus:\*\* The plot did not go as planned. While they failed to kill Hippias, they successfully assassinated Hipparchus.

\*\*Reasons for Targeting Hippias and Hipparchus:\*\*

1. \*\*Personal Motive:\*\* A personal dispute and alleged insult involving Hipparchus and the family of Harmodius provided a direct motive for the assassination plot.

2. \*\*Political Motive:\*\* Beyond personal grievances, there was a broader political motive. Many Athenians were unhappy with the dynastic rule of the Pisistratids and yearned for a return to a more open and participatory governance system.

\*\*Repercussions:\*\*

1. \*\*Tyrannical Rule of Hippias:\*\* After the assassination of Hipparchus, Hippias became increasingly paranoid and oppressive. His rule turned more tyrannical, with purges, increased security measures, and the suppression of Athenian nobility.

2. \*\*Exile and Fall:\*\* The growing unpopularity of Hippias, combined with external pressures (notably from Sparta), eventually led to his ousting. Hippias went into exile around 510 BC and sought refuge with the Persian court.

3. \*\*Legacy and Democracy:\*\* The fall of Hippias paved the way for the reforms of Cleisthenes, which would lead to the establishment of Athenian democracy. The memory of the tyranny under Hippias and the actions of the Tyrannicides became a part of Athenian democratic lore, serving as a cautionary tale about the dangers of concentrated power.

In summary, while the rule of Pisistratus was relatively benign and progressive, the assassination attempt on his sons and the subsequent tyrannical rule of Hippias played a significant role in the eventual establishment of democracy in Athens. The events underscore the complex interplay of personal motives and broader political aspirations in shaping the course of history.

CLEISTHENES

Cleisthenes, often dubbed the "father of Athenian democracy," was instrumental in laying the foundation for the democratic system in ancient Athens. Here are the important facts about Cleisthenes and his reforms:

1. \*\*Alcmaeonid Family:\*\* Cleisthenes hailed from the Alcmaeonid family, a prominent and influential aristocratic family in Athens.

2. \*\*Opposition to the Pisistratids:\*\* Cleisthenes and his family were staunch opponents of the Pisistratid tyrants, and they played a role in the eventual ousting of the tyrant Hippias.

3. \*\*Reforms after the Fall of Tyranny:\*\* After the fall of the Pisistratids, Cleisthenes emerged as a key political figure. In opposition to another aristocrat, Isagoras, Cleisthenes sought popular support and introduced a series of reforms around 508-507 BC to restructure the Athenian political system.

\*\*Key Reforms of Cleisthenes:\*\*

GET RID OF TYRRANY, DYNASTIES – BREAK UP FAMILIAL BONDS!!!!

Have students think about concentration of power and what founding fathers did in USA to distribute it: Power can be concentrated in different ways – sex, gender, race, ethnicity, family, geography, socio-economic class (wealth).

Under Cleisthenes, the political structures of Athens underwent significant reforms that laid the foundation for Athenian democracy. Here are the primary political structures introduced or modified by Cleisthenes:

1. \*\*Assembly (Ekklesia):\*\*

- The Assembly was the central decision-making body in Athens.

- All male citizens had the right to participate in the Assembly, where they could propose, debate, and vote on laws and policies.

- The Assembly met regularly and had the final say on a wide range of issues, from legislation to military matters.

2. \*\*Council (Boule) of 500:\*\*

- Cleisthenes expanded the Boule to consist of 500 members, replacing the earlier Council of 400.

- Members were chosen by lot from each of the ten tribes (50 from each tribe).

- The Council prepared the agenda for the Assembly, supervised the work of other government officials, and oversaw the treasury.

3. \*\*Demes and Tribes:\*\*

- Cleisthenes introduced the concept of "demes," which were local districts based on residence rather than lineage.

- He grouped these demes into ten new tribes, replacing the traditional four-tribe system. This move decentralized power and reduced the influence of traditional aristocratic families.

- The ten tribes also served as a basis for military levies and other civic duties.

4. \*\*Ostracism:\*\*

- Cleisthenes introduced the practice of ostracism, a unique feature of Athenian democracy.

- Once a year, Athenians could vote to exile a citizen for ten years. This was a safeguard against potential tyrants or overly ambitious individuals.

5. \*\*Legal System and Courts:\*\*

- Cleisthenes' reforms ensured broader citizen participation in the legal system.

- Citizens could serve as jurors, and the legal decisions were made by a broader segment of society.

6. \*\*Magistracies:\*\*

- Various public offices and magistracies continued to exist under Cleisthenes, but the method of selection (often by lot) and the distribution among the tribes ensured a more democratic representation.

These structures, introduced or reformed by Cleisthenes, were instrumental in distributing political power more broadly among Athenian citizens. They shifted the balance from aristocratic rule to a system where more citizens had a voice and a role in governance.

\*\*Significance of Cleisthenes' Reforms:\*\*

1. \*\*Foundation of Democracy:\*\* Cleisthenes' reforms laid the groundwork for the Athenian democratic system, moving power from the aristocracy to a broader base of citizens.

2. \*\*Decentralization of Power:\*\* By focusing on demes and new tribes, Cleisthenes reduced the power of traditional aristocratic families and lineages.

3. \*\*Increased Participation:\*\* The reformed structures allowed for greater citizen participation in both governance and the legal system.

In essence, Cleisthenes' reforms transformed the political landscape of Athens, setting it on a path to becoming one of the most celebrated democracies in ancient history.

Citizenship – free males, land owners. Also metics. Citizenship could in rare circumstances be granted to foreigners.

DEMES and TRIBES

Certainly! The concepts of "demes" and "tribes" were central to the political reforms of Cleisthenes in ancient Athens and played a pivotal role in the development of Athenian democracy.

\*\*Demes (Dēmoi):\*\*

1. \*\*Definition:\*\* A "deme" (singular) or "dēmoi" (plural) was a local administrative unit or district in ancient Athens. Think of them as similar to modern-day municipalities or wards. There were 139 – different quota to the council. There were three of these total.

2. \*\*Formation:\*\* Cleisthenes introduced the concept of demes as part of his reforms around 508-507 BC. Before this, family lineage and traditional regional divisions held more sway in Athenian politics.

3. \*\*Purpose:\*\* The establishment of demes was a way to decentralize power and reduce the influence of traditional aristocratic families. By organizing citizens based on their place of residence rather than lineage, Cleisthenes aimed to break the power of old aristocratic structures.

4. \*\*Role in Governance:\*\* Each deme had its own local officials and a local council. The deme was responsible for certain administrative tasks, like registering citizens for military service or jury duty. Kleisthenes took this a stage further by requiring each Deme to appoint its own leader, known as a Demarch, every year, giving them annual control of their own council members, citizen membership, finances, cult activities and judicial arrangements. Alongside the council, the Demarch could pass bylaws and raise his own revenue when needed.

5. \*\*Citizenship:\*\* The deme became the basic unit of citizenship. When a male child was born, his father registered him in the deme's official rolls. Later, when the child reached adulthood, the deme would confirm his citizenship, allowing him to participate in the political life of Athens.

\*\*Tribes (Phylai):\*\*

1. \*\*Definition:\*\* Tribes were larger administrative units made up of several demes. Cleisthenes reorganized the Athenian populace into ten tribes. Each provided 1000 soldiers.

2. \*\*Formation:\*\* Before Cleisthenes, Athens had four traditional tribes based on family lineage. Cleisthenes increased the number to ten and based them on the demes, ensuring a mix of coastal, city, and inland demes in each tribe. This was a deliberate move to foster unity and reduce regional rivalries.

3. \*\*Role in Governance:\*\* The tribes were essential for various administrative and political functions:

- Each tribe provided 50 members to the Council (Boule) of 500. Fixed votes per villages

- Tribes were the basis for military levies. Each tribe would provide a certain number of soldiers or sailors when needed.

- Tribes competed against each other in religious festivals and athletic competitions, fostering a sense of camaraderie and friendly rivalry.

4. \*\*Tribal Leaders:\*\* Each tribe elected a strategos, or general, who played a role in military and sometimes political matters.

In essence, the introduction of demes and the reorganization of tribes were innovative moves by Cleisthenes to democratize and unify Athens. By breaking down old aristocratic and regional divisions and creating new mixed units, Cleisthenes laid the groundwork for the participatory democracy that Athens would become famous for.

Assembly vs Council

In ancient Athens, both the Assembly (Ekklesia) and the Council (Boule) were crucial components of the democratic system, but they had distinct roles and functions.

\*\*Assembly (Ekklesia):\*\*

1. \*\*Composition:\*\* The Assembly was open to all male citizens of Athens, regardless of their wealth or status.

2. \*\*Frequency of Meetings:\*\* The Ekklesia met regularly, approximately every ten days or so, on the Pnyx hill in Athens.

3. \*\*Duties and Responsibilities:\*\*

- \*\*Legislation:\*\* The Assembly had the final say on laws. While the Council could propose legislation, it was the Assembly that debated and voted on it.

- \*\*Decisions on War and Peace:\*\* The Assembly decided on declarations of war, peace treaties, and military strategies.

- \*\*Financial Decisions:\*\* It had the authority to make significant financial decisions, including the allocation of funds and resources.

- \*\*Elections:\*\* The Assembly elected individuals to certain high-ranking positions, such as generals (strategoi).

- \*\*Ostracism:\*\* Once a year, the Assembly could vote to ostracize (exile) an individual for ten years if they were deemed a potential threat to the state.

4. \*\*Direct Democracy:\*\* The Assembly epitomized the concept of direct democracy, where citizens themselves made decisions rather than relying on elected representatives.

\*\*Council (Boule):\*\*

1. \*\*Composition:\*\* The Council consisted of 500 members, with 50 chosen by lot from each of the ten tribes of Athens.

2. \*\*Term of Service:\*\* Members served for one year and could not serve more than two terms in their lifetime.

3. \*\*Duties and Responsibilities:\*\*

- \*\*Agenda Setting:\*\* The Council set the agenda for the Assembly's meetings. They prepared and proposed legislation for the Assembly to debate and vote on.

- \*\*Preliminary Decisions:\*\* Before certain issues reached the Assembly, the Council would make preliminary decisions or recommendations.

- \*\*Administrative and Executive Functions:\*\* The Council supervised the work of other government officials, managed public finances, and oversaw the day-to-day administration of the polis (city-state).

- \*\*Foreign Relations:\*\* The Council received foreign ambassadors and made preliminary decisions on foreign policy.

4. \*\*Rotating Presidency:\*\* Each tribal contingent in the Council held the presidency for a part of the year. The group in charge during their tenure was responsible for key administrative tasks and ensuring the smooth functioning of the Council.

\*\*Differences between the Assembly and the Council:\*\*

1. \*\*Composition:\*\* While the Assembly was open to all male citizens, the Council was a smaller body of 500 members chosen by lot.

2. \*\*Function:\*\* The Assembly was primarily a decision-making body, while the Council had both administrative and preparatory legislative functions.

3. \*\*Authority:\*\* The Assembly held the ultimate authority on major decisions, whereas the Council's role was more about facilitating, proposing, and managing the day-to-day affairs of the state.

In essence, the Assembly and the Council were complementary institutions in Athenian democracy. The Council managed daily governance and set the stage for the Assembly's broader decisions, ensuring that the democratic process was both participatory and functional.