

Chapter 8: The Greek Adventure: 8-9 Chapter Review
Book Title: World Civilizations
Printed By: Colin Morris-Moncada (006279659@coyote.csusb.edu)
© 2018 Cengage Learning, Cengage Learning

8-9 Chapter Review

8-9a Summary

The Greeks were an Indo-European nomadic group who entered the Greek peninsula around 2000 B.C.E. and were gradually civilized, in part through the agency of the Minoans on Crete. By 1200 the Greeks had developed to the point that they were able to conquer their former overlords and mount an expedition against Troy. Following the coming of the Dorian invaders, however, Greece entered a Dark Age of cultural regression. This period ended around 800, and the Greeks began their ascent to becoming one of history's most remarkable civilizations, a rise that culminated in the Classical Age from 500 to 325 B.C.E.

In the Classical Age the democratically led polis of Athens became the most important of the more than two hundred city-states. Athens evolved through the various types of Greek government to achieve a limited-but-real democracy in the early fifth century. Through its commercial and maritime supremacy, it became the richest and most culturally significant of the poleis.

Victory over the Persians in the two Persian Wars encouraged democratic and imperialist Athens to attempt dominion over many other city-states. Its main opponent was militaristic and conservative Sparta, and the two came to blows in the lengthy Peloponnesian War, which ended with a Spartan victory in 404 B.C.E. Seventy years later, however, the real winner proved to be the Macedonians, whose king Philip took advantage of the continuing intra-Hellenic disharmony and warfare to impose his rule over all of Greece at the battle of Chaeronea.

Alexander extended his father's ambitions by conquering the entire eastern world as it was known to the Greeks at that time, creating an empire that incorporated all the old eastern civilizations that had preceded Alexander's, save that of China. Alexander died just ten years after setting forth on his own path to fame, and his empire failed to survive him. Had he lived longer, perhaps Alexander might have derived satisfaction from witnessing the diverse peoples of the eastern Mediterranean region and western Asia learning the language of their conquerors and colonizers and imbibing deeply from the wellsprings of their civilization, as indeed they did. Greek became the common language of discourse; it and Greek urban civilization were the twin foundations of most nations throughout this vast expanse, as we shall see in the next chapter. In the end, though, it was the Romans who would reap the greatest rewards of Greece's and Alexander's triumphs ([Chapters 10 and 11](#)).

Chapter 8: The Greek Adventure: 8-9 Chapter Review
Book Title: World Civilizations

Printed By: Colin Morris-Moncada (006279659@coyote.csusb.edu)
© 2018 Cengage Learning, Cengage Learning

© 2020 Cengage Learning Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means - graphic, electronic, or mechanical, or in any other manner - without the written permission of the copyright holder.