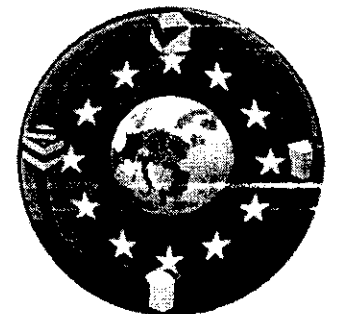


Debating our way to Citizenship;
from school Representation to the EU Parliament

The Birth of Democracy in Ancient Athens

6ο ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΛΥΚΕΙΟ ΟΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΑΙΓΑΛΕΟ

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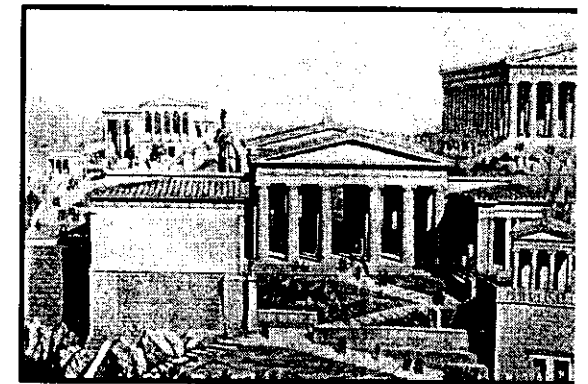
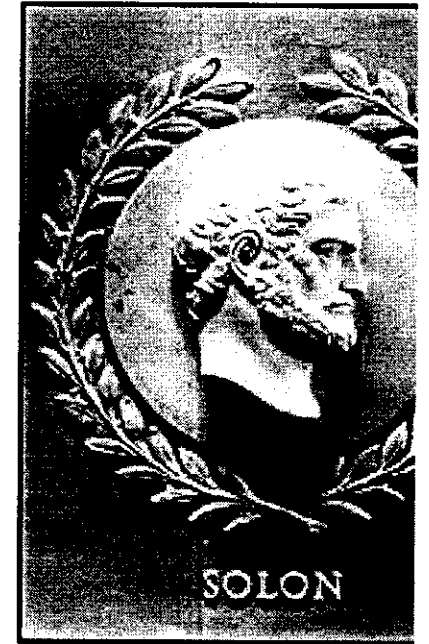
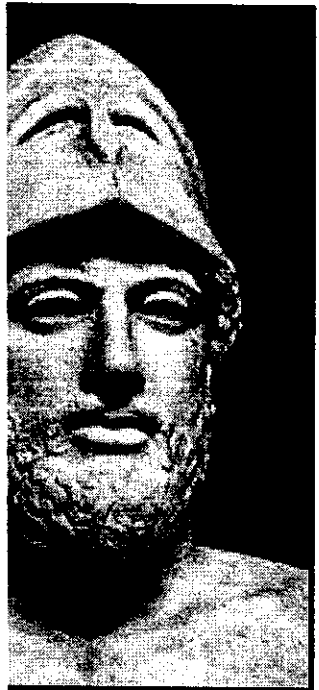
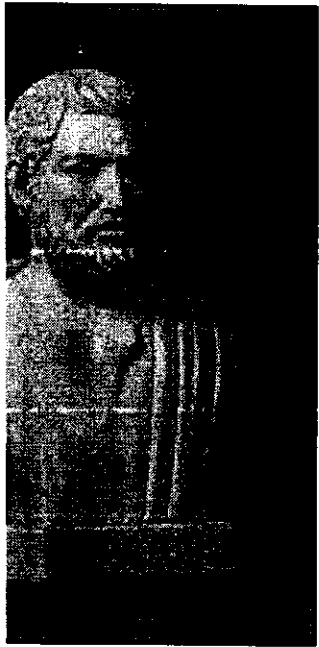


The Birth of Democracy

The reforms of the Athenian
democracy

From Tribe-State
to Polis-State (City-state)

Solon
Cleisthenes
Pericles



The Athenian Democracy=power of “demos”



The Athenian Democracy

- ❑ Athens, in the **5th to 4th** century BC, had an extraordinary system of government known as **Democracy** (Power of dēmos-People).
- ❑ It was a system that required **active, ongoing participation** of the citizens.
- ❑ The word Democracy (**dēmokratia**) derives from **dēmos**, which refers to the entire citizen body, and **kratos**, meaning *rule. governing*.
- ❑ The main characteristic of Democracy in Ancient Athens was:
All free male citizens had **equal political rights, freedom of speech and direct participation** in the political arena.

Direct participation in democracy meant:

- **getting involved** in **decision making** about the way of ruling and living,
 - **actively serving** in the institutions,
 - **controlling** all parts of the political process.
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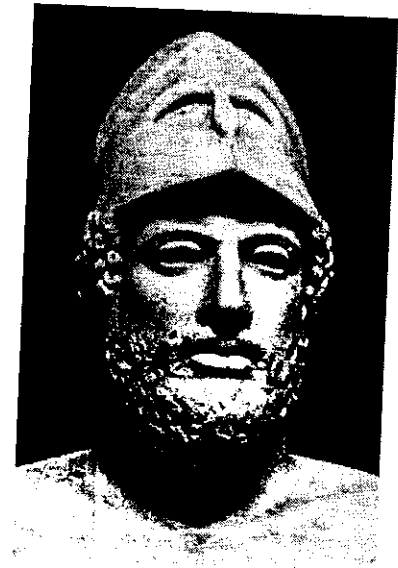
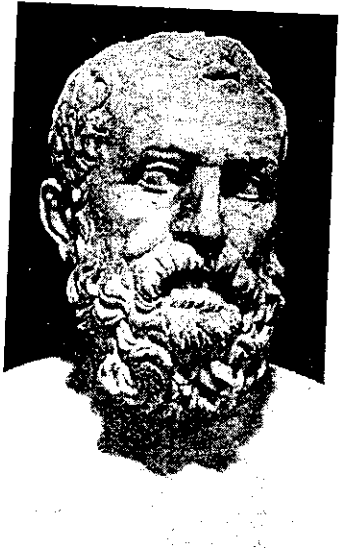
In the Athenian Democracy

- **all citizens' interests** are respected and served, instead of those of a privileged minority.
 - when it is a question of settling private disputes, **everyone is equal before the law**;
 - when it is a question of positions of public responsibility, what counts is the **actual ability which the man possesses** (not membership of a particular class).
 - No one is kept in political **obscurity –exclusion** because of poverty. (Thucydides. 2.37)
-

The birth of Democracy

The basic outlines of ^{the} development of democracy were established in the city-state of Ancient Athens by :

Solon, Cleisthenes, and Pericles.

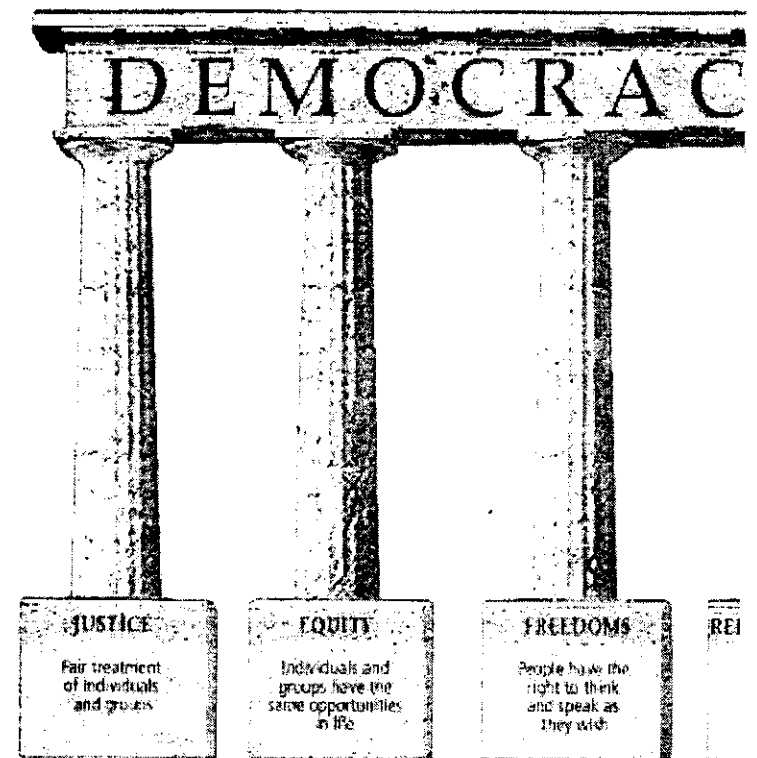


Main creators- reformers of Ancient Athens Democracy

Solon and Cleisthenes made reforms so that more people could take part in Government.

Pericles turned Athens into direct Democracy- citizens rule and make laws.

All three of them worked to reform and strengthen Greek Democracy at different times to help **balance the power between rich and poor** citizens.



Solon (c. 640 – c. 560 BCE) :



- ✓ was an **Athenian statesman, lawmaker, and poet**,
- ✓ he is credited with
 - restructuring the **social and political organization** of Athens,
 - laying the **foundations** for ^{the} Athenian **democracy**, by introducing **the Ecclesia of Demos** (Citizens' Assembly).
 - laying the **foundations for the economic, cultural and military** development of the town.
 - setting Athens on the path to the **glory and prosperity** the city enjoyed in the Classical period and granted the city its fame all over the centuries.

Solon's reforms:



- 1] **produced a new law code**, considered as wide ranging, covering diverse matters of social, economic and political life in Ancient Athens.
- 2] **reduced the dominance** of the Athenian **aristocracy** and improved the participation of ordinary citizens in the political arena.
- 3] **is considered as one of founder fathers of Athens**, a man who immeasurably helped the city fulfill ^{the} ~~its~~ ^{destination} ~~destiny~~ as a major Mediterranean power in the Classical period.
- 4] **deserves credit for laying the foundations for the Athenian Democracy** which ^{culminate} ~~arrive~~ in the mid-5th century BCE.

Over-concentration of land in the hands of a small aristocracy, resulting in slavery of a significant part of the population because of debts, had been one of the greatest problems in the city of Ancient Athens.



- ✓ **Solon** set all the enslaved free and relieved them from their debts.
- ✓ This plan was referred to as **seisachtheia** or ^{the} 'shaking off of ^{economic} burdens'.
- ✓ He made laws to prevent the poorer from **slipping into slavery**, forbidding the use of one's person or family members as security ^{for} on loans. ^{made}
- ✓ He set the **foundation** ^{of} **for the economic growth** of Athens, which would also grant the city its cultural development and military power.

Solon also re-structured the Athenian class system, creating **four distinct groups** classified by agricultural production and not by their noble origin (pentakosoimedimnoi, hippeis, zeugitai and thetes)

Only the **top three classes** had political rights and could be elected in public posts, but still this was a very important measure for that time, as it **restricted “aristocracy”** from ^{absolute} domination.



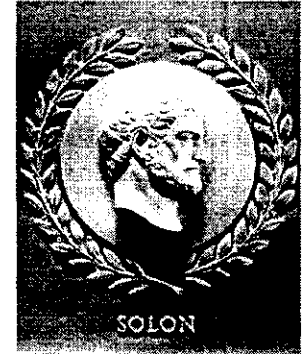
Fragments of Solon's writing and poems by Herodotus

- *"Often the wicked prosper, while the righteous starve; yet, I would never exchange my state for theirs, my virtue for their gold. For mine endures, while riches change their owner every day".* (Fragment 15)
- *"Justice, though slow, is sure".* (Fragment 13)
- *"I stood guard with a broad shield before both parties, and prevented either from triumphing unjustly".* (Fragment 5)



(meaning that he empowered the weak and moderated the power of the strong – noble-wealthy party, a great achievement for that time)

It is said that after the reforms and before Solon leaving Athens to sail around the world,



- ❑ He **made the Athenians sign a contract** that they would keep those reformatations for **at least 10** years before they ~~make~~^{made} any change in the political system.
- ❑ He wanted to **prevent any political instability** until the town ~~gets~~^{got} strong again and ~~recover~~^{recovered} from its political problems.

Cleisthenes: father of the Athenian Democracy



- Cleisthenes came from an aristocratic family of Athens and was born around 570 B
- He made his reforms during the last decade of the 6th century and ~~he~~ marked the **beginning of classical Athenian democracy**.
- He organized Attica into the ^{framework} ~~political landscape~~ that would last for the next two centuries.
- His reforms targeted at **breaking the power of the aristocratic families, reinforcing pan-Athenian solidarity,** and preventing the rise of tyrants.

He transmitted the idea of **Democracy**, ^{which} that is the power of the people-demos

Cleisthenes:

Athenian citizen ^{of} with democratic ideas

Ostracism:

A measure to prevent ^{the} domination of tyrannies and ^{sustain the} protection of Democracy

Divided citizens in **10 tribes**, consisting of citizens of all classes with equal rights for the rich and the poor.

The Vouli/Parliament of 500

Every tribe elected **1 General** (military) and **50 Members of the Parliament**. They decided about issues that the "Ecclesia of Demos" discussed.

The Ecclesia of Demos

The assembly of the Athenian citizens. After their discussions they took important decisions

- 1 Citizens from all parts of Attica worked together – even though separately and within their tribes – to effectively govern the city.
- 2 Old associations, ^{created} by region or ^{actual evidence} according to families, ^{based on/with regard to} were broken.
- 3 Citizenship and the ability to enjoy ^{its benefits} the rights of citizens were in the hands of everyone, but the governing of Athens was in the hands of the Athenian “Demos-Ecclesia” as a whole.



The 9 archons

(elected for one year onceⁿ a lifetime)

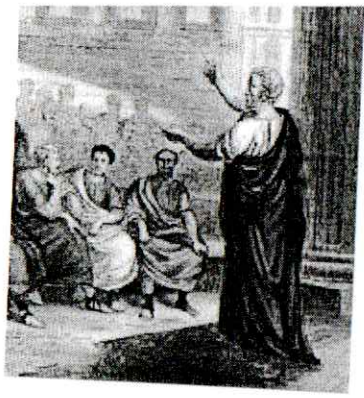
1. Archon Basileus (King)
civil and
(~~civic~~ religious duties)

2. Archon Polemarhus (Fighter)
(military duties)

3. Archon Eponymus
presides over
(chief Magistrate- ~~decides~~ the
Ecclesia Assembly)

4. The 6 Junior Archons^o
(The Thesmothetes)
juridical
(~~judicial~~ duties)

The ex-Archons became members of
Areospagus for life (the supreme court).



The Ecclesia of Demos



The **Ecclesia of Demos** (the Assembly of citizens-laos (people)) ensured the smooth operation of the democratic system.

All of the Athenians who had **full rights** ^{to participate} participating in the works of the Ecclesia.

It was the main **Democratic Assembly** in ancient Athens and took place on the **Plaza**, in the market or in the theatre of Dionysus.

The meetings ^{were} ~~was~~ open to all citizens aged **over 20 years**, and was introduced by Solon in 594 BC.

During the 5th century up to 43,000 Athenians citizens participated in the process of decisions of the Athenian democracy.

The Ecclesia of Demos enacted new Laws, elected the Archons, controlled the administration and decided about war or peace.



The Athenians made public decisions in the clear light of day and ^{were} subject to **open criticism**.

The skill of **rhetoric** was highly praised.

The picture shows a **time-meter** during orations-speeches in ^{the} Ecclesia of Demos.





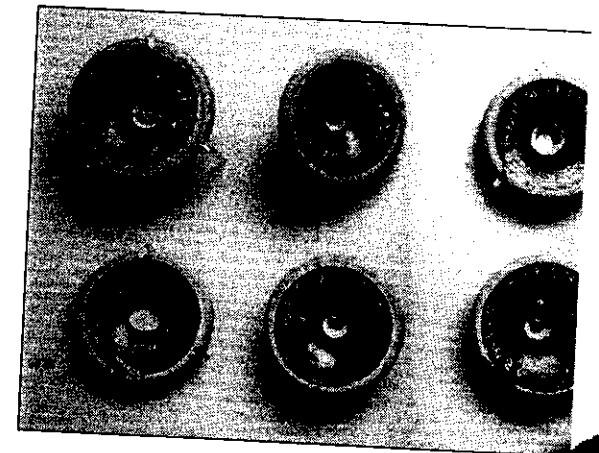
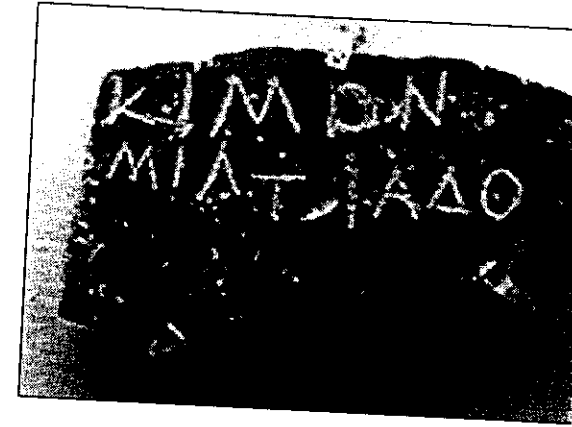
Ostracism

(Cleisthenes came up with his most famous innovation in order to avoid possible future **threats of tyranny: ostracism**".

^(When?) the ^{a piece of} Demos voted to hold an ostracism, each citizen ^{carved} ~~scratched~~ a name on a broken piece of pottery, which were called ostraka (shells) and ^{then} gave the name to the ^{so they should send that person into} institution of sending someone on exile. ^{correct}

^{When/If?} at least 6000 citizens voted with their ostraka, the **most voted person** was obliged to **leave Athens** for a period of ten years.

The **exiled person** did not lose his property or his rights as an Athenian citizen, but he had to leave the city for at least a decade.



Cleisthenes: Father of Democracy

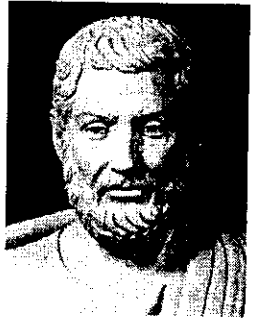


Most contemporary historians recognize **Cleisthenes** as the "**Father of ^{the} Athenian Democracy**", since he was the man who managed to reform the constitution and add public participation ^{to} in politics.

Additionally, Cleisthenes established the idea of "**sortition**", which is the **random selection of citizens** to fill government positions.

More importantly, however, he was the one who **ensured that potential tyrannies wouldn't be a problem** for the city again.

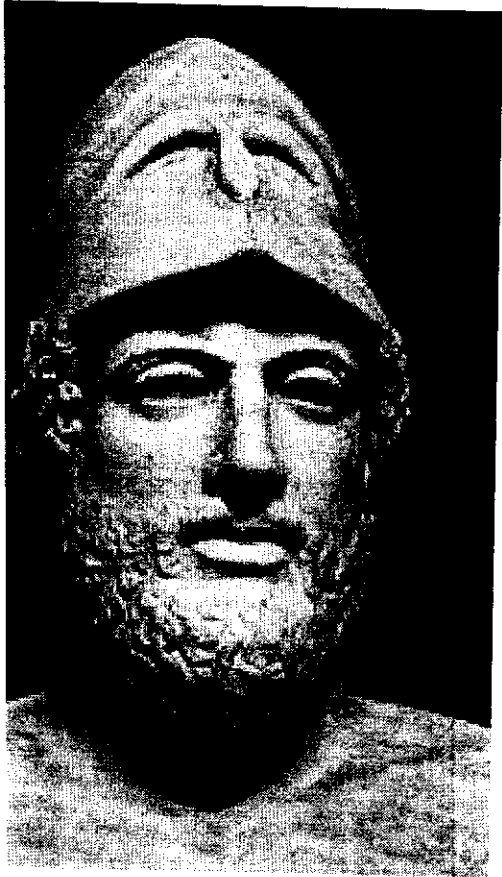
Clesthene: Father of Democracy



Clesthene's greatest accomplishment will always be the fact **that democracy, since then, has evolved and expanded to most countries of the modern world, and is still considered by many today (2,500 years later) as the best system of government.**

Pericles

The golden Age or Pericles, (495-429 BC)



- Great Statesman, Orator and General
- Extended ^{the} reforms of Cleisthenes
- Athens reaches the peak of its power
- Constructed the Parthenon
- Promoted the Arts and Literature.

Plato's Academy (Golden Age of Pericles)





Basic characteristics of the Athenian Democracy



The Athenian Democracy consists the best known form of Direct Democracy in comparison to the Representative Republic of Modern States.

In this ideal form of ruling, all citizens know each other, according to **Aristotle**, the great philosopher. **Themistocles** owed his great popularity to the fact that he knew all citizens by their names.

The fact that only a part of ^{the} citizens could participate in the Assembly of ^{the} Ecclesia of Demos has a lot to do with ~~the~~ direct democracy.

^eAthenians took care of maintaining the character of their democratic system by eliminating the number of people who could bear the title of the Athenian Citizen.

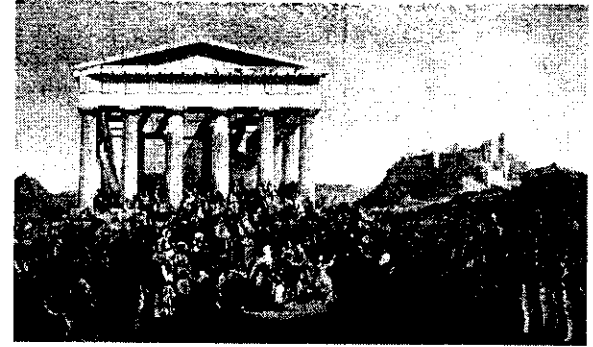
^{The} Athenian democracy was direct.

To make it as participatory as possible, most officials and all jurymen were selected by lot.



This was thought to be ^a the democratic way, since election favored the rich, famous and powerful over the ordinary citizens.

From the mid-fifth century, office holders, jurymen, members of the city's main administrative Council of 500, and even Assembly attenders were paid a small sum from ^{the} public funds ^{so as} to compensate them for ^{their} time spent on political service, away from ^{the} fields or workshops.



n Ancient Athenian Democracy:

- ❑ only adult male citizens ^{needed} ~~need~~ ^{to} apply for the privileges and duties of democratic government,
- ❑ a birth criterion of double descent - from an Athenian mother as well as father - was strictly insisted upon.
- ❑ Women, even Athenian women, were totally excluded.
- ❑ Foreigners, especially slave foreigners, were excluded formally and rigorously.

That means that the “Citizen Body” was a closed political elite, and that happened in order to protect “Direct Democracy”.



Athenian Direct Democracy VS Representative Democracy



Citizens didn't just elect their favorites to represent them in Ancient Athens' Democracy. **They ruled themselves.**

They sat on court cases in very large numbers, perhaps as high as 1500 and as low as 201, voted, by various, not necessarily precise, methods, including **estimation of hands raised**, and **spoke on everything affecting the community** in the assembly of Demos (Ecclesia).

Athenian Democracy

a revolutionary ruling system

According to the historian K. A. Raaflaub, democracy in Ancient Athens was **a unique and truly revolutionary system**, that realized basic principle to an unprecedented and quite extreme extent:

*no polis (city) had ever dared to **give all its citizens equal political rights, regardless of their descent, wealth, social standing, education, personal qualities, and any other factors** that usually determined status in a community".* (historian K. A. Raaflaub)

Athenian Democracy a revolutionary ruling system

*"Ideals such as these, ^{should} would form the cornerstones of all democracies in the modern world. The ancient Greeks have provided us with fine art, breath-taking temples, timeless theatre, and some of the greatest philosophers, **but it is democracy which is, perhaps, their greatest and most enduring legacy**".*

*"Democracy in Athens was not limited to giving citizens the right to vote. **Athens was not a republic, nor were the People governed by a representative body of legislators.** In a very real sense, the **People governed themselves**, debating and voting individually on issues great and small,"*

(historian K. A. Raaflaub)

The Athenian Democracy



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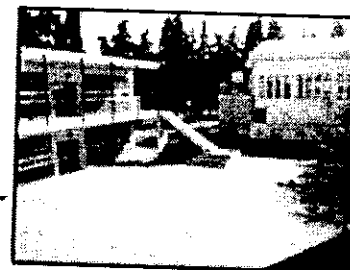
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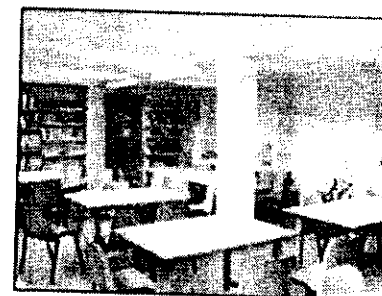
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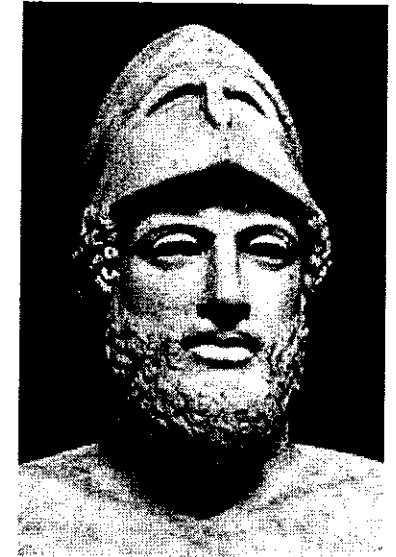


SOLON THE ATHENEAN

The wise Lawgiver of Athens

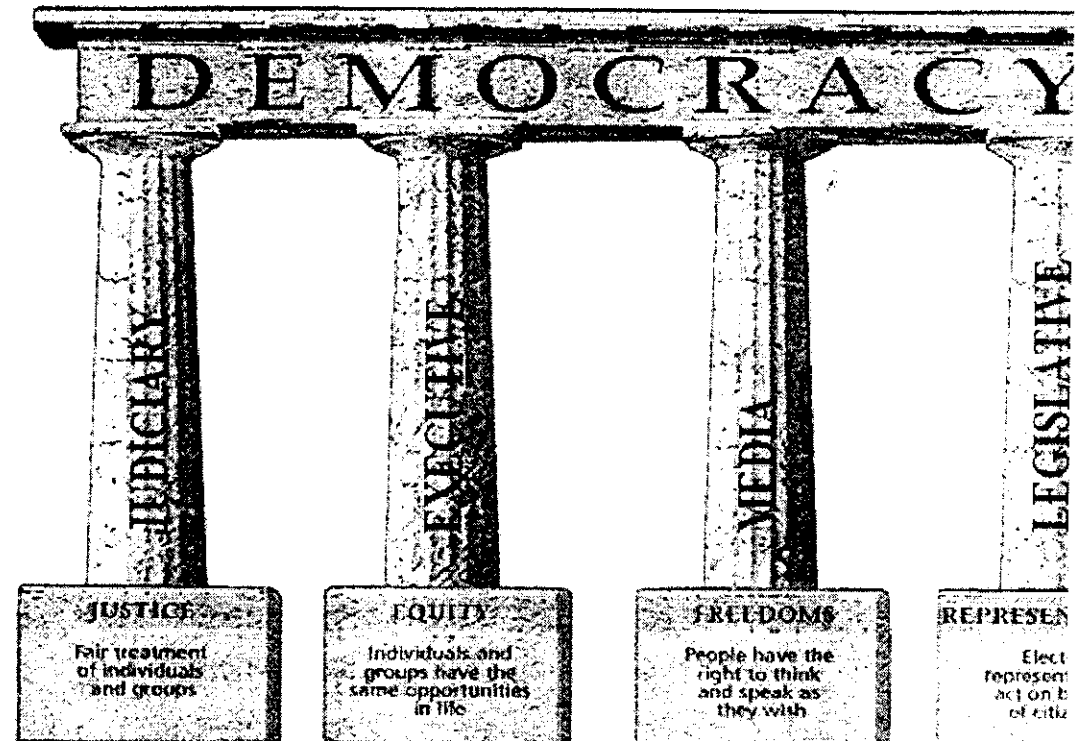
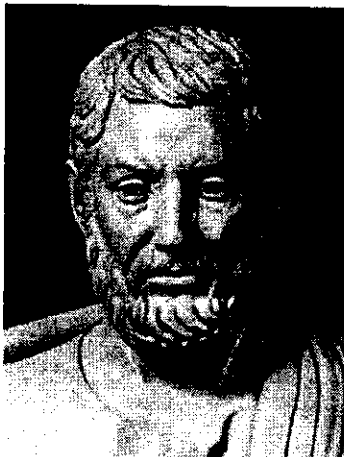


He greatly contributed to the foundation of the first democracy



KLEISTHENES

The father of the Athenian Democracy



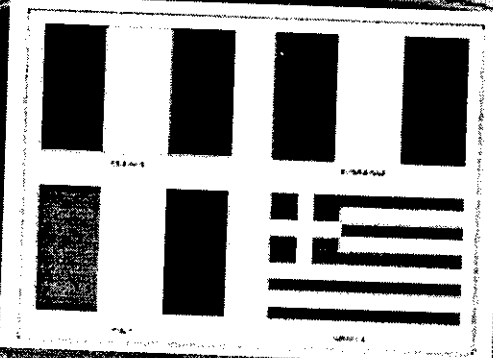


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