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Greek Religion
A Sourcebook

Valerie M. Warrior

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Cover: Macron Vasepainter. Young man pouring a libation on an altar. Center medallion of a red-figured cup (around 480 BCE) Inv. G 149. Location : Louvre, Paris, France. Photo Credit : Erich Lessing / Art Resource, NY. Background image © istockphoto / Peter Zelei.

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GODS¹

- Aphrodite:** goddess of sexual desire and procreation. According to Hesiod, born from the foam created by Cronus' castration of Ouranos. In Homer, she is the daughter of Zeus and Dione. She is often addressed as "Cypris," the Cyprian.
- Apollo:** son of Zeus and Leto; god of prophecy, music, healing and medicine, often addressed as Phoebus (Phoibos) Apollo, or Loxias.
- Ares:** son of Zeus and Hera, god of war
- Artemis:** virgin daughter of Zeus and Leto. She presided over important aspects of life, including the transition from girlhood to marriage and thence to childbirth. She was also a death-bringing goddess, responsible for the deaths of women, especially in childbirth. As a huntress she protected wild beasts and their young.
- Asclepius (Asklepios):** god of healing, a son of Apollo and the mortal woman Coronis.
- Athena (Athene):** virgin daughter of Zeus and Metis, goddess of handicrafts, especially those of women, patron goddess of Athens.
- Bacchus:** see Dionysus.
- Bendis:** a Thracian goddess who resembled Artemis the huntress.
- Castor:** son of Leda and Tydareus (a mortal), and the twin brother of Pollux (Greek Polydeuces), who was Zeus' son. Pollux shared his immortality with his brother; they spent half their time on earth near Sparta and the other half in Olympus.
- Cronus:** son of Ouranos (Sky) and Gaia (Earth), husband of Rhea and father of Zeus. Cronus castrated his father Ouranos.
- Cybele** or Cybebe: the great Anatolian mother goddess, who was also known as Meter. Her cult came to mainland Greece in the late seventh and early sixth centuries BCE.

¹ For the major Greek gods and their relationship to each other, see Figure 1.3, The Family of Zeus.

Demeter: daughter of Cronus and Rhea, and sister of Zeus with whom she produced Persephone. She was the goddess of grain who controlled all crops and vegetation.

Dionysus (also known as Bacchus): son of Zeus and Semele; god of wine, ecstasy, the mask, impersonation, and the theater.

Gaia: the goddess Earth, wife of Ouranos (Sky), also known as Ge or Gaea.

Hades (Pluto): brother of Zeus, god of the underworld, who abducted Persephone, the daughter of Zeus and Demeter.

Hecate: a sinister goddess associated with magic and witchcraft, the moon, creatures of the night, dog sacrifices, and crossroads.

Hephaestus (Hephaistos): son of Hera, god of fire.

Hera: sister and wife of Zeus; goddess of marriage and women's life.

Hermes: son of Zeus and Maia; messenger of the gods, who guided people, especially travelers, and escorted the souls of the dead to the underworld.

Hestia: daughter of Cronus and Rhea, and thus sister of Zeus, Hera, etc.; goddess of the hearth.

Iris: minor goddess and messenger of the gods.

Kore: see Persephone.

Mother of the Gods: see Cybele.

Pan: minor god, who originated in Arcadia; he was represented as half man and half goat.

Persephone: daughter of Demeter and Zeus; she was carried off by Hades to be his wife in the underworld; she is also known as Kore, the Maid.

Poseidon: son of Cronus and Rhea, and brother of Zeus and Hades; god of the sea and earthquakes.

Rhea: daughter of Ouranos (Sky) and Gaia (Earth); married her brother Cronus.

Sabazius: a foreign god, of Phrygian or Thracian origin.

Zeus: son of Cronus and Rhea, king of gods and of men.

GLOSSARY

Names, places, institutions, and terms

Achilles (Greek, Akhilleus): Greece's greatest fighter at Troy, son of the mortal Peleus and the sea nymph Thetis.

acropolis: usually the highest spot in a city where temples and final defenses were built. In Athens, it was where the old temple of Athena and the Parthenon were situated.

Aegisthus (Greek, Aigisthos): lover of Clytemnestra wife of Agamemnon. The lovers were murdered by her son Orestes to avenge the death of Agamemnon.

Agamemnon: son of Atreus and brother of Menelaus. He was the leader of the Greek expedition to Troy and was murdered on his return home by his wife Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus. His son Orestes avenged his death by killing the lovers.

Agave: daughter of Cadmus of Thebes and mother of Pentheus.

agora: literally a "gathering place," it came to mean the marketplace and was the civic center of any city or town.

Alcibiades (Greek, Alkibiades): c. 450–404 BCE. Athenian general and politician, accused of complicity in the profanation of the Eleusinian mysteries. He defected to Sparta, but later returned to Athens. After winning several victories, he again fell out of favor and was killed in Asia Minor.

Alcmene: a mortal woman who was deceived by Zeus into believing that he was her husband Amphitryon; from this union she gave birth to Heracles.

Alexander the Great: king of Macedon, ruled 336–323 BCE. He conquered the Persian empire and extended his empire as far as the Punjab. He founded the city of Alexandria and died in Babylon, leaving no clear successor.

Alexander/Alexandros: see Paris.

Amphitryon: husband of Alcmene who bore Heracles to Zeus.

amulet: an object worn on the person to ward off evil, disease or other undesirable happenings; sometimes applied directly against the skin.

Andocides (c. 440–390 BCE): an Athenian who was implicated in the profanation of the Eleusinian mysteries; he later delivered a speech in his own defense.

Andromache: wife of the Trojan warrior Hector.

Antigone: daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta, who buried her brother Polynices, thus defying the edict of King Creon. Condemned to death by Creon, she was led to a tomb where she was left to die. Warned by Tiresias, Creon reversed his decision only to hear that Antigone had hanged herself.

Anthesteria: a festival in honor of Dionysus.

aulos: a pipe whose sound was produced by means of a double reed (rather like an oboe); it provided accompaniment for the chorus at dramatic performances, and for personal poetry; it was also used to keep soldiers in step.

bacchant: worshiper of Dionysus/Bacchus.

bouleuterion: council chamber.

Cadmus: founder of the city of Thebes, father of Agave and Semele, the mothers of Pentheus and Dionysus.

Calchas: Greek seer or prophet.

chorus: a group of originally twelve and later fifteen male actors who performed as a unit, dancing in the orchestra as they sang choral odes to the accompaniment of appropriate musical instruments.

Chryses: Trojan priest of Apollo.

Cimon (c. 512–450 BCE): leading conservative politician in Athens in the 470s and 460s before the ascendancy of Pericles.

Circe: powerful sorceress or witch; daughter of the Sun (Helios). She turns Odysseus' men into pigs, Odysseus rescues them, and she sends them to the Underworld to consult the seer Tiresias.

Clytemnestra (Greek, Klytaimnestra): wife of Agamemnon, whom she murdered on his return from Troy; sister of Helen, Castor, and Pollux (Polydeuces), mother of Orestes, Electra, and Iphigenia. She was murdered by her son Orestes in revenge for his father's death.

Creusa: mother of Ion by the god Apollo.

Croesus (Greek, Kroisos): king of Lydia in the sixth century BCE.

Delos: an island in the Aegean that was sacred to Apollo; it was said to be the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis.

Delphi: location of the sanctuary of Apollo, seat of an influential oracle, and site of the Pythian games.

deme: a local territorial district in Attica.

Dionysia: a festival in honor of Dionysus. In Athens, there was the Lesser, or Rural, Dionysia, and the Greater or City Dionysia at which the major tragic and comic competitions were held.

Diagoras: a lyric poet who was active in Athens in the late fifth century BCE. Because of his atheism, he was forced to flee.

Diomedes: a Greek warrior fighting at Troy.

Dioppeithes: Athenian who sponsored an impeachment procedure against impiety in the 430s BCE.

divination: (*mantike*): attempting to discern the will of the gods by the observation and interpretation of signs believed to have been sent by them. Divination was practiced by seers (*manteis*) who interpreted signs from thunder, lightning, the flight of birds, oracles, and the entrails of sacrificial animals, especially the liver. Divination was also practiced by means of lots, small pebbles or bits of wood that were shaken and drawn from a bowl.

drachma: a unit of money within the following system: 6 obols = 1 drachma; 2 drachmas = 1 stater; 100 drachmas = 1 mna; 6000 drachmas or 60 mnas = 1 talent. In the mid-fourth century BCE, the daily wage for a skilled laborer was between one and a half to two drachmas.

Dracon: magistrate, c. 621 BCE, who is said to have given the Athenians their first law code.

Eileithyia: goddess of childbirth.

Electra: a daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra who, with her brother Orestes, devised revenge for her father's murder.

Eleusis: a sanctuary some twenty-two kilometers from Athens, where mysteries of Demeter were celebrated and initiations took place.

Epidaurus: location of a sanctuary of Asclepius, the god of healing, on a peninsula of the Saronic Gulf.

epiphany: the appearance or visitation of a god to a human.

ephebe: a young man between the onset of puberty and the age of twenty; also a group of Athenian young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty who were undergoing military training.

Erinyes: the Furies who avenge the shedding of blood by a blood relative, e.g., the Furies of Clytemnestra pursue Orestes after he has committed matricide.

expiation: an action aimed at making amends or atonement for an offense against the gods in order to win back their favor.

genos (pl. *gene*): clan or a small grouping of families within a phratry.

guest-friendship: see *xenia*.

hecatomb: literally a sacrifice of hundred oxen, but generally used of a large number of sacrificial victims.

Hector: son of King Priam of Troy, and Hecuba; hero of the Trojan War, who killed Achilles' companion Patroclus (Greek Patroklos) and was then killed by Achilles.

- Hecuba** (Greek, Hekabe): wife of King Priam of Troy, and mother of Hector and Paris (Alexandros).
- Helen**: sister of Clytemnestra and wife of Menelaus, king of Sparta who was the brother of Agamemnon; she was abducted by Paris (Alexandros) of Troy, thus causing the Trojan War.
- Heracles**: son of Zeus and Alcmene (the wife of Amphitryon), who performed twelve labors and was worshiped as a hero and a god after his death.
- herm**: sacred pillar, with head of Hermes on the top and an erect phallus in the middle, located outside a house.
- hero-cult**: the worship of heroes or heroines, beings intermediate between gods and humans. These are real or imaginary persons said to have accomplished superhuman deeds.
- hierophant**: the chief priest who revealed the sacred Mysteries.
- Hippolytus**: son of Theseus and an Amazon. He was destroyed by Aphrodite because he refused to worship her.
- hybris**: outrageous or excessive behavior that goes beyond the human norm, excessive pride that offends the gods.
- ichor**: the liquid that flowed in the veins of the immortals, corresponding to human blood.
- incubation**: a ritual whereby an individual who was sick would go to a sanctuary that was a place of healing and sleep overnight in the hope of being cured by the god.
- initiation**: a ritual whereby an individual underwent a purification, followed by revelation of "things that must not be spoken of." Thus he entered into a mystical communion with the divine that was thought to set him apart from non-initiates, conferring a state of blessedness both in this life and after death.
- initiand**: a candidate for initiation into the mysteries of a particular deity.
- Ion**: son of Apollo and a mortal, Creusa.
- Ionia**: the area along the central coastline of Asia Minor inhabited by Greeks.
- Iphigenia**: a daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, who, according to some sources, was sacrificed by her father at Aulis in order to obtain favorable winds to sail to Troy. Other sources say that she was rescued and taken to the land of the Taurians, where she was later discovered by her brother Orestes.
- iunx** or **inyx**: a magic disc or wheel, pierced by two holes in the center through which a looped thread was passed. When spun, it emitted a whirring sound that was spellbinding.
- Jason**: leader of the Argonauts in the quest for the golden fleece. He was helped by the Colchian princess Medea who possessed magical powers. She fled with him to Greece. But when Jason wished to marry a Greek princess, Medea took revenge on him by killing their children.

- Jocasta**: widow of Laius, mother and wife of Oedipus.
- Laius**: king of Thebes, husband of Jocasta, and father of Oedipus. The oracle of Apollo foretold that Laius would be killed by his son, who would then marry his mother.
- Lacedaemonians**: another name for the Spartans.
- Lenaea**: an Athenian festival in honor of Dionysus at which dramas were performed.
- Leto**: the mother of Apollo and Artemis by Zeus.
- libation**: pouring of liquid on an altar or the ground in honor of god(s), often wine, but could be milk or honey, or lustral water. The pouring of the libation would be accompanied by a prayer. The remaining liquid would often be consumed by the participants in the ritual. Pouring a libation could be a separate ritual or part of an animal sacrifice.
- Loxias**: Delphic Apollo.
- lustral water**: water reserved for purification before entering a sanctuary or making a sacrifice.
- maenads**: women inspired to ritual frenzy by Dionysus.
- mantis**: a seer, prophet, or soothsayer.
- Marathon**: a deme in Attica where, in 490 BCE, the Athenians defeated an enormous force of invading Persians.
- Medea**: the daughter of the king of Colchis; Aphrodite caused her to fall in love with Jason. Possessing magical powers, she helped him obtain the golden fleece by charming the dragon that guarded it. She fled with him to Greece. Later, when repudiated by Jason who wished to marry a Greek princess, she took revenge by killing the bride, the bride's father, and the children she had borne to Jason.
- Menelaus**: king of Sparta and brother of Agamemnon. His wife Helen was abducted by Paris.
- metic**: a resident alien (i.e., a non-Athenian citizen who was a permanent resident of Athens). Liable to military services and special taxes, but not allowed to own landed property in Attica. Resident aliens generally handled trade and commerce.
- mna**: a unit of money; see drachma.
- Musaeus**: a legendary singer, whose name means "he of the Muses", and who is said to have given oracles and cures for diseases.
- Nicias**: Athenian politician and general (470-413 BCE); commander in Sicily where he was defeated and died. He was extremely pious but also superstitious.
- nomos**: custom or law.
- obol**: see drachma.
- Odysseus**: Greek warrior who fought at Troy; the *Odyssey* is the story of his journey home.

Oedipus: (Greek, Oidipous): king of Thebes, who killed his father (Laius) and married his mother (Jocasta); father of Polynices, Eteocles, Antigone, and Ismene.

oikos: household or family, including property and slaves.

Olympia: a location in the western Peloponnese and site of the Olympic games.

Olympus: a mountain in northern Greece and home of the twelve Olympian gods.

omphalos: the navel stone at Delphi.

oracle: an utterance, regarded as sent by a god, usually delivered by a priest or priestess. The word also can apply to the priest or priestess, as well as to the place.

orchestra: circular space in the Greek theater, where the chorus performed the choral odes as they danced and sang to the accompaniment of music.

Orestes: son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra who avenged his father's murder by his mother, thus incurring the crime of matricide. He was absolved by Apollo and finally by Athena. His bones were said to have been retrieved from Tegea and reburied in Sparta.

Orpheus: a legendary singer and poet, to whom are attributed a set of beliefs and religious practices.

paean: a song or hymn performed to honor a god in festal, political, military and personal situations.

Pallas: Pallas Athena.

Panathenaea: an Athenian festival held annually in honor of Athena, celebrated with greater magnificence every fourth year (the Great Panathenaea). There were processions, sacrifices, and contests that were open to all Greek-speaking males.

papyrus: writing material prepared from the papyrus rush.

Paris (also known as Alexandros or Alexander): prince of Troy, son of Priam and Hecuba. He abducted the wife of Menelaus, King of Sparta, thus causing the Trojan War.

Parthenon: the temple of Athena Parthenos (the Maid) on the Athenian acropolis, built 437–432 BCE.

Patroos: literally "of the father," used of gods in their role as protectors of the family and people.

Peloponnesian War: the war fought between Athens and Sparta from 431–404 BCE, in which Athens was defeated.

peplos: the sacred robe woven annually for the statue of Athena Polias and presented to her at the Panathenaea.

Pericles (c. 495–429 BCE): Athenian statesman and general who commissioned the building of the Parthenon; friend of many leading intellectuals of the day, e.g., Anaxagoras.

Phaedra (Greek, Phaidra): the wife of Theseus, whom Aphrodite caused to fall in love with her stepson Hippolytus.

Piraeus: the harbor of Athens.

Persian Wars: wars fought between Greeks and Persians between 490 and 480 BCE, particularly the battles of Marathon (490 BCE), Thermopylae (481 BCE), Salamis (480 BCE), and Plataea (479 BCE). All but Thermopylae were Greek victories.

phallus: representation of the male reproductive organ, often carried in processions, particularly those associated with Dionysus.

Philip II, reigned 359–336 BCE: king of Macedon, who unified Macedon and defeated the Greeks at the battle of Chaeronea in 338 BCE, thus ending Greek independence. He was the father of Alexander the Great.

Phoebus (Greek, Phoibos): a title of Apollo.

phratry: a subdivision of the tribe (*phyle*), a kin grouping or brotherhood, to which only Athenian citizens could belong. It had various religious functions, including the official acknowledgment of the newborn children of its members. It was often called upon to validate claims to legitimacy and thus rights of citizenship.

Pisistratus (Greek, Peisistratos): tyrant (sole ruler) of Athens in the mid-sixth century BCE. Under his rule Athens began to flourish as a cultural and commercial center.

Polias: title of Athena as guardian of the city.

polis: the *polis* or Greek city state developed in the eighth century BCE. The term designates a political community consisting of a principal city or town and its surrounding territory, which combined to form a self-governing entity.

Polynices (Greek, Polyneikes): one of the sons of Oedipus and Jocasta, who made war on his native Thebes in order to oust his brother Eteocles from the kingship. Both brothers were slain in the conflict and Creon, their uncle and the new king, forbade the burial of Polynices. Antigone, Polynices' sister, defied Creon and gave her brother token burial.

Priam: king of Troy and father of Hector and Paris (Alexandros).

Pythagoras: born in Samos in the mid-sixth century BCE, and migrated to Croton in southern Italy, where he founded a sect that bore his name.

Pythia: the priestess of Apollo at Delphi, through whom the god delivered his oracles.

Rhea: wife of Cronus.

sacred robe: see *peplos*.

seer or **soothsayer** (*mantis*): an interpreter of signs thought to be sent by the gods.

Socrates (470–399 BCE): the philosopher who turned Greek philosophical enquiry away from the nature of the physical world to questions concerning humans. He left no writings; for knowledge of his teachings, we are largely dependent on Aristophanes' comedy *Clouds*, and the dialogues of Plato and Xenophon. He was condemned to death on charges that were tantamount to impiety.

Solon: late seventh and early sixth century BCE poet, politician, and law-giver.

sophists: literally “wise men,” the term was applied to traveling teachers who were prepared to impart knowledge for a fee. Some taught rhetoric, others engaged in discussions that challenged traditional views.

supplication: a ritual whereby an individual in need of help or protection would humble himself by sitting at a more powerful person's feet or at an altar and beg for assistance, while also invoking a god. The individual being supplicated (*supplicandus*) would thus be bound to grant the suppliant's prayer.

symposium: a drinking party celebrated by males of noble birth. Women, with the exception of female entertainers, were excluded

talent: see drachma.

Telemachus: the son of Odysseus and Penelope.

temenos: a sacred precinct of land consecrated to a god or hero, containing an altar and probably also a temple and other buildings essential for the administration of the cult.

Themis: daughter of Gaea and Ouranos (Earth and Sky); her name means Right or Established Custom. She becomes associated with the order or justice of Zeus.

Themistocles (c. 528–462 BCE): leading Athenian general in the late 480s. He advised the Athenians to build a navy and was instrumental in the strategy that resulted in the Greek victory over the Persians at Salamis.

Theseus: legendary king of Athens who performed various exploits including killing the Minotaur; father of Hippolytus and husband of Phaedra. Bones, said to be his, were brought from Scyros and interred in Athens by Cimon in 474 BCE, where he was worshiped as a hero.

Thesmophoria: a women's festival in honor of Demeter and her daughter Kore (Persephone).

Thetis: immortal sea nymph and mother of Achilles by the mortal Peleus.

Thirty Tyrants: thirty men appointed in 404 BCE by the Spartans to govern Athens and write a new constitution after Athens' defeat in the Peloponnesian War. They were overthrown in 403 BCE.

Tiresias: the blind prophet or seer in the story of Oedipus.

Titans: the generation of gods that preceded the Olympian gods and was overthrown by them.

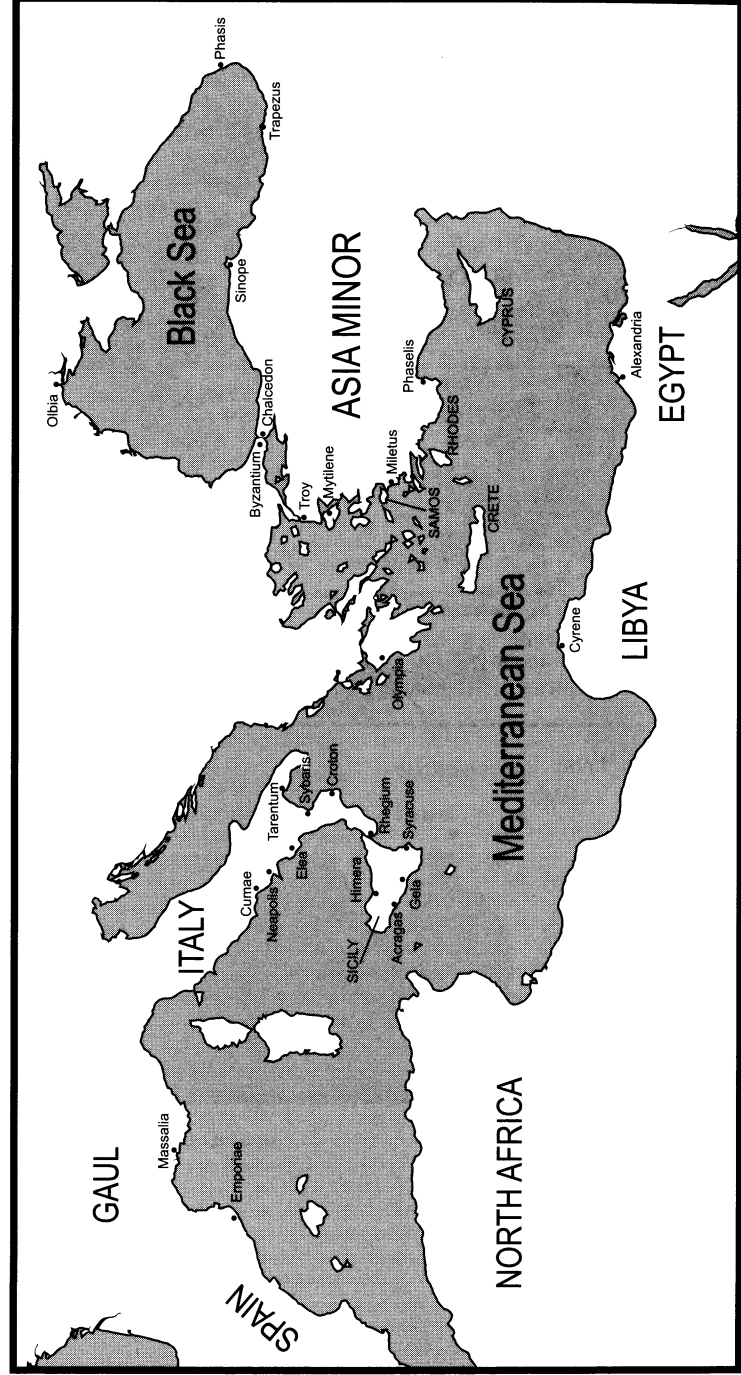
The Twelve gods: Aphrodite, Apollo, Ares, Artemis, Athena, Demeter, Dionysus, Hephaestus, Hera, Hermes, Poseidon, Zeus. These are the twelve gods depicted on the Parthenon frieze, and altars were erected to this group in the agora in Athens and in other Greek cities.

votive offering: an offering made to a god either in fulfillment of a vow promising such a gift if the god granted a particular prayer, or in the hope of a prayer being granted.

xenia: guest-friendship, a form of ritual friendship, whereby a “stranger” (*xenos*) entered into a relationship of mutual friendship with an individual from another community or country, each becoming obliged to offer hospitality and aid when they visited the other's community. This bond endured from generation to generation within the two families.

Xerxes: king of Persia; leader of the invasion of Greece in 480s BCE. He defeated the Spartans at Thermopylae, but then lost the battles of Salamis and Plataea, after which the Persians withdrew from Greece.

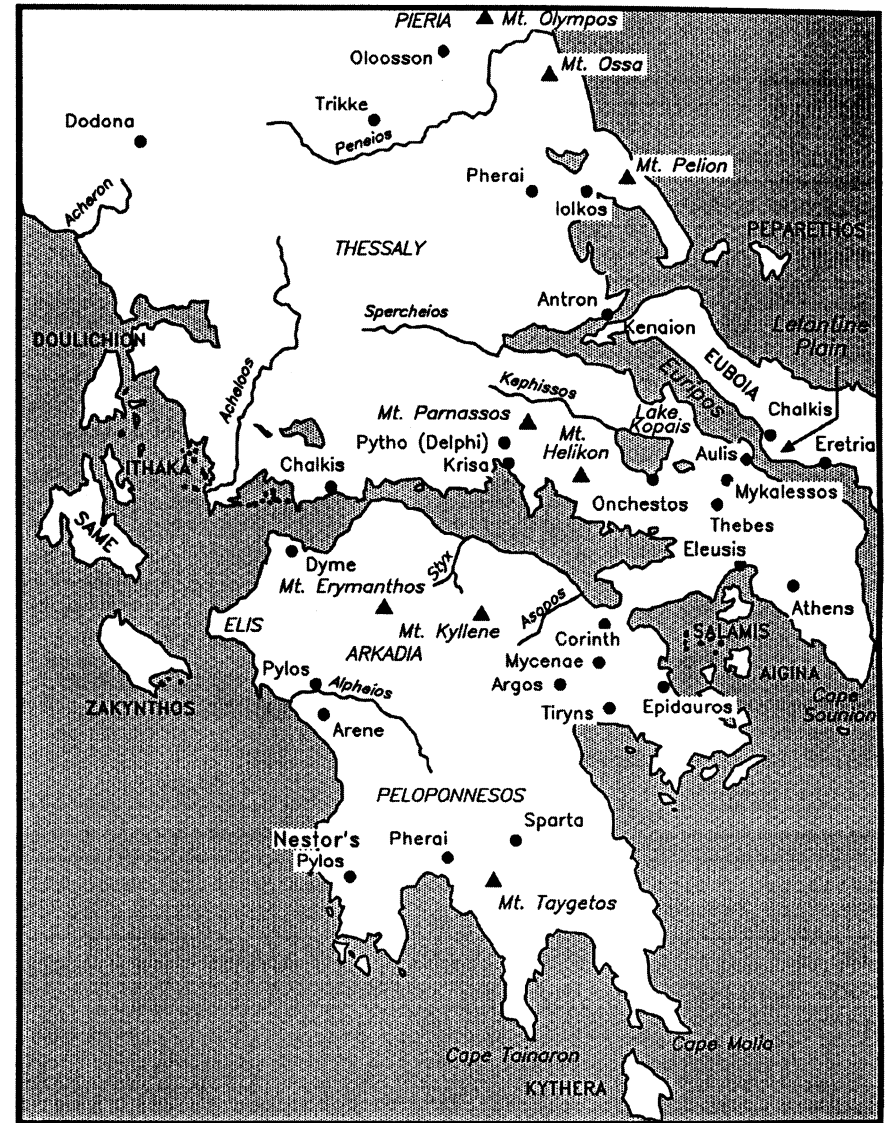
MAPS



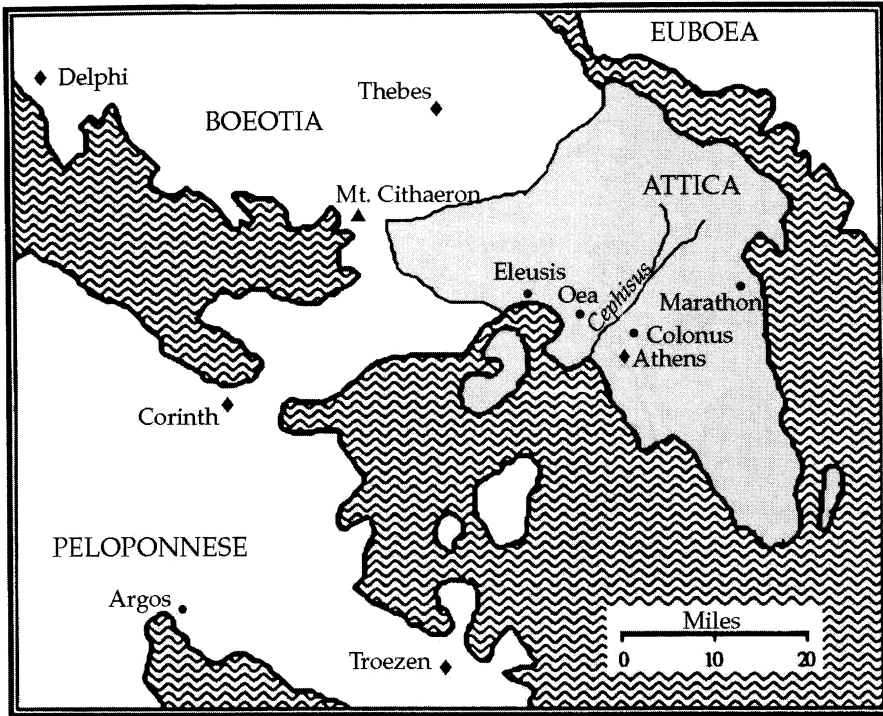
Map I. The Mediterranean World.



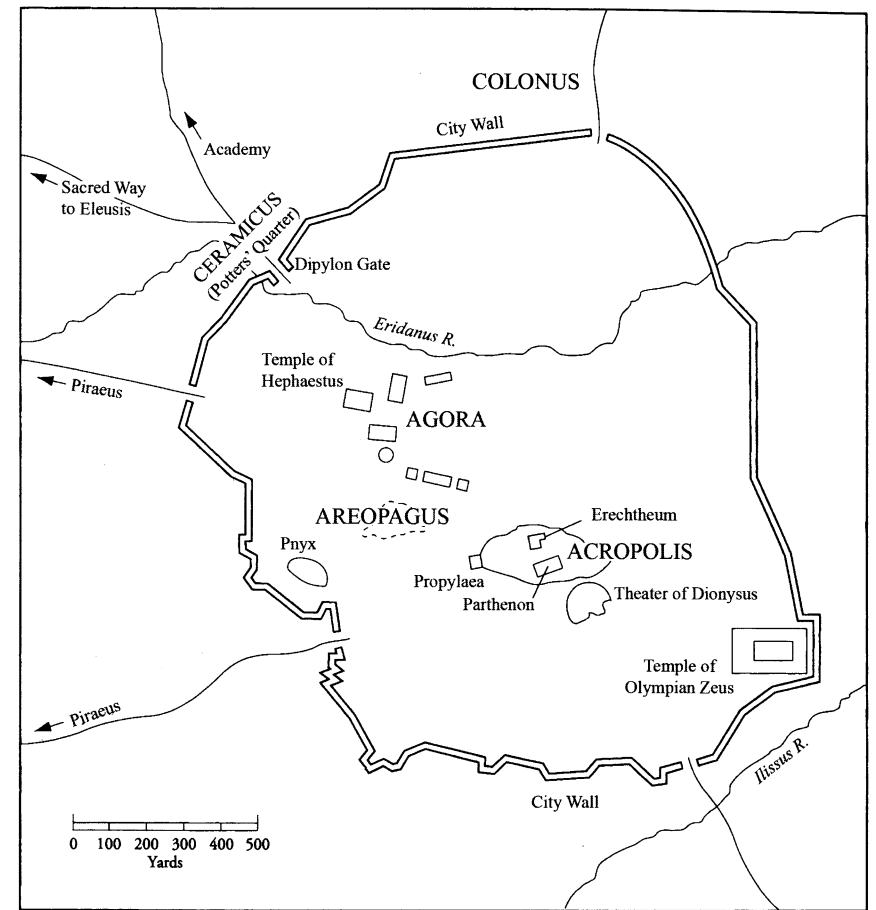
Map 2. Greece and Asia Minor.



Map 3. Mainland Greece.



Map 4. Attica and the Environs.



Map 5. The City of Athens.

ANCIENT LITERARY SOURCES

Most of the sources listed are available in the Loeb Classical Library.

Acts of the Apostles: the fifth book of the New Testament, a major source for the journeys of the apostle Paul in the 40s and 50s CE.

Aeschylus (c. 525–456 BCE): Athenian tragedian.

Anaxagoras (c. 500–428 BCE): Greek philosopher who came to Athens but was forced to leave because of his teachings to avoid the charge of impiety.

Anaximander: early sixth century BCE philosopher.

Antiphon (c. 489–411 BCE): Athenian orator.

Apollonius Rhodius: third century BCE poet who worked in Alexandria. His major work, the *Argonautica*, is an epic poem telling the story of the quest of Jason and the Argonauts for the golden fleece.

Aristophanes (c. 450–c. 385 BCE): greatest Athenian comic playwright; his plays reveal much about contemporary Athenian life and politics.

Aristotle (384–322 BCE): philosopher, joined Plato's Academy, and later founded his own school, the Lyceum.

Athenaeus c. 200 CE: author of the *Deipnosophists*, an account of a cultured conversation over dinner in fifteen books that is an invaluable source of quotations from authors whose works are now lost.

Callimachus *fl.* 280–240 BCE: Greek poet and critic, educated in Athens, but worked in the library of Alexandria that was established by Ptolemy II.

Cicero (106–43 BCE): Roman orator, politician, and writer of letters and philosophy that touch on religion and theology, notably *On divination* and *On the gods*.

Clement of Alexandria born c. 150 CE : Christian writer of *Exhortation to the Greeks*, a diatribe in which he makes various assertions about the Eleusinian Mysteries and the Thesmophoria.

- Critias** (460–403 BCE): friend of Alcibiades and associate of Socrates, generally included among the sophists. He was an oligarch, an extremist, and one of the Thirty Tyrants, probably the author of the lost tragedy *Sisyphus*.
- Demosthenes** (384–322 BCE): Athenian orator and politician.
- Dio** (c. 160–c. 235 CE): Cassius Dio, a Greek who wrote a history of Rome through to his own times.
- Diodorus Siculus**: a Sicilian who wrote a *World History* in the late first century BCE.
- Diogenes Laertius** (probably the third century CE): wrote a compendium on the lives and doctrines of ancient Greek philosophers.
- Dionysius of Halicarnassus**: a Greek resident in Rome 30–8 BCE, who wrote *Roman Antiquities*, a detailed account of Rome's early history and customs that emphasized the Greek origins of Rome.
- Empedocles** (c. 492–432 BCE): a philosopher from Sicily, who posited a theory of reincarnation.
- Epictetus**: a mid-first to second century CE Stoic philosopher.
- Euripides** (c. 485–406 BCE): Athenian tragic playwright.
- Heraclitus**: early Greek philosopher, active c. 500 BCE.
- Herodotus** (c. 480–420 BCE): historian who came from Halicarnassus, and lived for some time in Athens, wrote *Histories*, an account of how the Greeks and Persians came into conflict in the Persian Wars. He traveled widely in doing his research and is known as the “father of history.”
- Hesiod**: late eighth to early seventh century BCE poet and farmer, who wrote in epic style *Works and Days* (a farmer's calendar and instruction manual) and *Theogony* (the birth of the gods).
- Hippolytus** (170–c. 236 CE): Christian apologist who, in *Refutation of all Heresies*, claims knowledge of the ultimate Eleusinian revelation.
- Homer**: late eighth century BCE poet, who imposed unity on the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.
- Homeric Hymns**: a collection of thirty-four poems written in the same meter as the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, but composed by different authors dating from the eighth century BCE to the Hellenistic period.
- Isaeus**: (c. 420–340s BCE): Athenian speech writer.
- Isocrates** (436–338 BCE): Athenian orator and advocate of panhellenism.
- Julian “the apostate”**: Roman emperor from 361–363 CE who attempted to restore the old pagan cults in opposition to Christianity.
- Livy** (64 or 59 BCE–17 CE): Roman historian who wrote a history of Rome.
- Lysias** (459/8–c. 380 BCE): Athenian orator.
- Menander** (c. 342–292 BCE): writer of so-called New Comedy, set in contemporary Greece and dealing generally with domestic, i.e., non-political, situations.

- Palatine Anthology**: a selection of Greek poems by different authors, composed in the tenth century CE that drew on three older anthologies.
- Pausanias**: mid-second century CE Greek author of *Description of Greece*, a descriptive tour of the cities and sanctuaries of Greece.
- Phanodemus**: a fourth century BCE chronicler of early Athenian history, whose work only survives in fragments quoted by later authors.
- Philochorus** (340–260 BCE): a scholar-historian who was also a seer. His work only survives in fragments.
- Philostratus**: mid-third century CE author of *Pictures in a Gallery*, descriptions of paintings that elaborate the breadth of his knowledge.
- Photius**: a Byzantine lexicographer who wrote in the ninth century CE.
- Pindar** (518–c.446 BCE): lyric poet from Boeotia famous for the victory odes he composed for victors at the various games, e.g., Olympic games.
- Plato** (c. 429–347 BCE): influential Greek philosopher and pupil of Socrates, whom he made an interlocutor in many of his dialogues.
- Pliny the Elder** (23/4–79 CE): author of *Natural History*, an encyclopedic collection of contemporary knowledge; he died in the eruption of Vesuvius.
- Plutarch** (c. 50–120 CE): biographical historian, whose works include the *Parallel Lives of Greeks and Romans* and *Moralia*.
- Porphyry** (234–c. 305 CE): scholar, philosopher, and student of religion, whose works include *On Abstinence from Killing Animals*.
- Prodicus**: sophist and contemporary of Socrates.
- Protagoras** (490–420 BCE): most famous of the sophists; he made several visits to Athens.
- Simonides**: late sixth and early fifth century BCE poet.
- Solon**: late seventh and early sixth century BCE poet, politician, and law-giver; only fragments of his work survive.
- Sophocles** (c. 496–406 BCE): Athenian tragedian.
- Strabo** (c. 64 BCE–after 21 CE): author of *Geographia*, an important source for descriptions of Greek cities and sanctuaries.
- Tertullian** (c. 160–c. 230 CE): a convert to Christianity, who wrote many works about the history and character of the church.
- Thales**: early sixth century BCE Greek philosopher.
- Theocritus**: early third century BCE poet from Syracuse in Sicily who worked in Alexandria in the 270s.
- Theognis**: elegiac poet; a large body of verses attributed to him survives, of which many were probably by other elegiac poets. Scholars date the poems from the mid-sixth to the early fifth century BCE.
- Theopompus**: fourth century BCE historian; his work only survives in fragments quoted by later authors.

Thucydides (c. 460–400 BCE): Athenian who wrote the history of the Peloponnesian War as far as 411 BCE.

Timaeus (c. 350–260 BCE): important Greek historian who lived in Sicily; much of his work is lost, surviving only in fragments quoted by later authors.

Xenophanes (c. 570–c. 475 BCE): an early Greek philosopher who questioned several concepts of traditional Greek religion.

Xenophon (c. 430–c. 354 BCE): pupil of Socrates, Athenian soldier, and author of several works, including *Anabasis* (the expedition of a Greek mercenary force to Mesopotamia and their return journey, 401–399 BCE), *Memorabilia* (Memoirs of Socrates), and *Symposium*. His works reflect traditional piety.

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CREDITS

Figure 1.1 the Gales Painter

Potter: Gales, *Oil flask (lekythos) with sacrificial procession*. Greek, Archaic Period, about 520–510 B.C. Place of Manufacture: Greece, Attica, Athens. Ceramic, Red Figure. Height: 31 cm (12 3/16 in.). Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Francis Bartlett Donation of 1912. 13.195

Figure 1.2 *Mantiklos "Apollo"*

Greek, Late Geometric or Early Orientalizing Period, about 700–675 B.C. Place of Manufacture: Greece, Boiotia. Bronze. Height: 20.3 cm (8 in.). Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Francis Bartlett Donation of 1900. 03.997

Figure 1.3 Family Tree, chart, from Bristol Classical Press, *Religion and the Greeks*, Garland. Used with permission.

Figure 1.4 Silver coin (tetradrachm). © istockphoto/Georgios Kollidas

Figure 2.1 Genealogy of the Gods, chart, from *Hesiod's Theogony*, Focus Publishing. Used with permission.

Figure 2.2 Succession of Divine Rule, chart, from *Hesiod's Theogony*, Focus Publishing. Used with permission.

Figure 2.3 Wives of Zeus, chart, from *Hesiod's Theogony*, Focus Publishing. Used with permission.

Figure 3.1 *Loutrophoros depicting a bridal procession*. Greek, Classical Period, about 425 B.C. Place of Manufacture: Greece, Attica, Athens. Ceramic, Red Figure. Height: 75.3 cm (29 5/8 in.); Diameter of lip: 25.3 cm (9 15/16 in.); Diameter of body: 18 cm (7 1/16 in.). Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Francis Bartlett Donation of 1900. 03.802

Figure 3.2 *Grave marker in the form of an oil flask (lekythos)*. Greek, Classical Period, Late 5th century B.C. Place of Manufacture: Greece, Attica, Athens. Marble, from Mount Pentelikon near Athens. Overall: 76cm (29 15/16in.). Diameter and weight: 215.9 mm, 6 x 31.1 cm (8 1/2 x 2 3/8 x 12 1/4 in.). Weight: 129.3 kg (285 lb.). Mount (3/4" diameter brass rod / 7/8" brass nut): 1.9 x 35.6 cm (3/4 x 14 in.). Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Anna Mitchell Richards Fund and 1931 Purchase Fund, 38.1615

Figure 4.1 The Kleophon Painter or his circle, *Mixing bowl (bell krater) depicting a sacrifice*. Greek, Classical Period, about 425 B.C. Place of Manufacture: Greece, Attica, Athens. Ceramic, Red Figure. Height: 42.3 cm (16 5/8 in.); diameter: 47 cm. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Catharine Page Perkins Fund, 95.25

Figure 5.1 View of Delphi. © istockphoto/Benjamin Lazare

Figure 5.2 Kodros Painter (5th BCE), attributed to: Aegeus receiving the oracle of Delphi from the priestess Themis who is sitting on the tripod. Kylix (drinking cup), from Vulci, c. 440 BCE. Diam. 32 cm. Inv. F 2538. Photo: Johannes Laurentius. Location: Antikensammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany. Photo Credit: Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz / Art Resource, NY

Figure 5.3 Scene of divination. Black figure amphora, c. 520 BCE. Location: Chateau-Musee, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. Photo Credit: Erich Lessing / Art Resource, NY