

## PEOPLE IN THUCYDIDES

Aristides, the Just, established the annual tribute money for the Delian League.

Kleisthenes 504 established the 10 tribes.

Archidamus II (d. 427 BCE) is king of Sparta when the Peloponnesian War breaks out in 431 BCE. The first 10 years of the war are known as the "Archidamian War." He is depicted as a cautious ruler, advising his subjects that warfare requires sound decisions and thorough preparation.

Agis II (d. c. 400 BCE) succeeds his father Archidamus as one of the kings of Sparta in 427 BCE. He leads several invasions of Attica and serves as commander at the Battle of Mantinea in 418 BCE.

Pleistoanax is a king of Sparta (reigned 458–09 BCE).

Sthenelaidas (flourished late 5th century BCE) is an ephor, or leading official, at Sparta.

Brasidas is especially successful in dismantling Athenian power and influence in northern Greece. His victory in 422 at Amphipolis is stressed by Thucydides (who happened to serve there as an opposing military commander). Brasidas "was not a bad speaker for a Spartan," says Thucydides in a back-handed compliment in Book 4, Chapter 14. The historian, in fact, gives Brasidas several speeches that reveal him to be eloquent and persuasive. It is clear that Thucydides has substantial admiration for Brasidas's abilities.

Alcibiades (c. 450–04 BCE) is a major Athenian statesman who plays a significant role in events starting in 415 BCE, when he vigorously supports the Sicilian Expedition. Young, wealthy, ambitious, and aggressive, he is so controversial at Athens that some citizens believe that he aims at becoming a tyrant. [Read More](#)

Cleon Cleon plays a leading role, for example, in the Mytilenaeen debate in Book 3, Chapter 9, arguing that the rebels at Mytilene should be severely punished. Thucydides calls him "the most drastic" of the citizens and labels him a demagogue. Cleon epitomizes what can go wrong in a democracy that idolizes persuasion. Cleon is adept at spurious reasoning and shows no scruples about appealing to people's baser instincts. For Thucydides, Cleon is the polar opposite of Pericles. Cleon's death in 422, along with that of the Spartan Brasidas, clears the way for Athens and Sparta to negotiate the Peace of Nicias in the following year.

Nicias (d. 413 BCE) is the reluctant general who leads the Sicilian expedition, beginning in 415 BCE. Thucydides stresses his caution and prudence, as when he attempts to persuade the Athenians that rushing into the Sicilian venture will be costly and reckless. [Read More](#)

Pericles (c. 495–29 BCE) is the leading Athenian statesman of Thucydides's History. A man of insight, eloquence, and honesty, Pericles is admired because of his wise guidance in the opening stages of the war. Thucydides gives him three memorable speeches, including the renowned funeral oration. [Read More](#)

Anaxagoras (c. 500–c. 428 BCE) is a philosopher, born in Asia Minor, who emigrates to Athens, becoming a close friend of the statesman Pericles. He is tried for impiety and exiled from Athens.

Cleinias (d. 447 BCE) is the father of the Athenian politician Alcibiades. Cleinias is killed at the Battle of Coronea, in which the Athenians fight the Boeotian League.

Cnemus (flourished late 5th century BCE) is a Spartan admiral who takes part in military campaigns against Zacynthus and Acarnania.

Demosthenes (d. 413 BCE) is one of the most important Athenian generals in the History. He plays a leading role in the Athenian victory at Pylos and Sphacteria in 424 BCE, and he is also a highly significant participant in the Sicilian expedition, commanding reinforcements sent from Athens in 413 BCE.

Diodotus (5th century BCE), son of Eucrates, is an Athenian politician who makes a critically important speech to the assembly in Book 3, Chapter 9 of the History. In the Mytilenaeon debate Diodotus successfully opposes Cleon, arguing for moderate punishment of the rebels on Lesbos, rather than any extreme measures.

Phormio (d. c. 428 BCE) is an Athenian naval commander. His name is sometimes rendered as Phormion.

Sophocles (c. 496–06 BCE) is an Athenian general who takes part in campaigns at Corcyra and in Sicily.

Euphemus is an Athenian delegate to Camarina in Sicily. Beyond his mention in History of the Peloponnesian War, his historicity is difficult to establish.

Eurymedon (flourished late 5th century BCE) is an Athenian general who leads the reinforcing fleet at Corcyra and commands the reinforcing fleet in Sicily.

Gylippus (5th century BCE) is a Spartan general appointed to lead the Peloponnesian forces in Sicily at the time of the Athenian invasion.

Athenagoras Athenagoras advises Sicilians to disregard Hermocrates's warnings about an Athenian invasion.

Hermocrates correctly predicts the actions and motives of Athens. He insightfully advises the Syracusans to adopt a naval strategy, and he tricks the Athenians into delaying their retreat. On many levels Hermocrates presents striking parallels to the skills, insight, and eloquence of Pericles. He manages to unify the disparate city-states of Sicily against a common enemy. He is publicly persuasive, and in contrast to the Athenian politicians who succeeded Pericles, Hermocrates does not display the flaws of corruption or personal ambition.

Lamachus is the third Athenian general commanding the Sicilian expedition.

Antiphon (c. 480–11 BCE) is an Athenian orator and teacher of rhetoric who becomes a leader in the oligarchic overthrow of the democracy in 411 BCE.

Peisander (flourished late 5th century BCE) is an extremist oligarchic politician at Athens.

Phrynichus is an Athenian general and oligarch who plays a leading role in the Council of the Four Hundred in 411 BCE.

Theramenes (d. c. 404 BCE) is an Athenian politician and oligarch who is one of the leaders of the Four Hundred in 411 BCE.

Lichas (flourished late 5th century BCE) is a diplomat and politician from Argos.

Pagondas (flourished late 5th century BCE) is a Theban general who commands the Boeotian forces at the Battle of Delium (424 BCE).

Perdiccas II is king of Macedon from c. 450 to c. 413 BCE.

Sitalces is the king of Thrace (reigned 431–24 BCE).

Syracusan general      The Syracusan general says there can be no true debate in Syracuse if the debaters continue trading insults.

Themistocles (c. 524–c. 460 BCE) is an Athenian politician who rises to prominence in Athens at the time of the Persian Wars (490–79 BCE). It is Themistocles who urges the Athenians to build warships, and it is he who serves as commander at the Battle of Salamis in 480 BCE.

Pausanias (d. c. 470 BCE) is a Spartan military commander.

Thrasyboulos (flourished late 5th century BCE) is an Athenian politician who leads the counterrevolution against oligarchy on the island of Samos.

Thrasyllus (flourished late 5th century BCE) is an Athenian politician who takes part in the counterrevolution against oligarchy in Samos in 411 BCE.

Xenophon (c. 430–c. 350 BCE) serves as an Athenian general at the siege of Potidaea.

Tissaphernes (d. c. 395 BCE) is a Persian provincial governor who schemes with Alcibiades and others in the final phase of the Peloponnesian War.

Hippocrates (c. 460–c. 375 BCE) is an ancient Greek physician who is often regarded as the father of medicine.