

## TIMELINE OF ATHENS DURING THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

|     | POLITICAL & MILITARY EVENTS   | CULTURAL EVENTS   |
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| 432 | Revolt of Potidaea. The 'Megarian decree' passed at Athens. Peloponnesian League declares for war.  | <b>Phidias</b> completes the Parthenon frieze and the pediments of the Parthenon; he dies soon after this date. <b>Empedocles</b> dies. Athens bans teaching of atheism.  |
| 431 | <i>First year of the Peloponnesian War.—The Archidamian War (431-421).</i> Theban attack on Plataea (March). First Peloponnesian invasion of Attica (May) under Spartan <b>Archidamus</b> . Athens wins Soilion and Cephallenia; takes Thronion and Atalanta; expels Aeginetans from Aegina.  | <b>Thucydides</b> begins work on <i>Histories</i> . <b>Euripides: Medea</b> (3rd), < <i>Philoctetes, Dictys</i> >   |
| 430 | Plague strikes Athens (430-427). Second invasion of Attica. Expedition of Pericles to Argolis and failure at Epidaurus. Pericles deposed from <i>strategia</i> , tried, fined, and reappointed <i>strategos</i> . <b>Phormio</b> operates in the west.  | <b>Euripides: Heraclidae</b> . <b>Stesimbrotus</b> writes critique of Athenian power, <i>On Themistocles, Thucydides, and Pericles</i> ; he will also compose important works on Homeric allegory and Orphic practices. The important Sicilian historian <b>Philistus of Syracuse</b> born. |
| 429 | Capitulation of Potidaea; <b>Pericles</b> reinstated and dies, who for more than, thirty years has guided the policy of Athens. Peloponnesians besiege Plataea. Sea-victories of <b>Phormio</b> in the Corinthian Gulf.   | <b>Sophocles' Oedipus Rex and Trachiniae</b> after this date (?). First performance of a comedy by <b>Eupolis</b> . <b>Lysias</b> moves to Thurii after death of father <b>Cephalus</b> , whose house is the setting for <b>Plato's Republic</b>  |
| 428 | Third invasion of Attica. Revolt of Mytilene from Athens. Introduction of war tax ( <i>eisphora</i> ).  | <b>Euripides: Hippolytus</b> (1st). <b>Plato</b> and <b>Xenophon</b> born this year or the next or the next. <b>Anaxagoras</b> dies in Lampsacus. <b>Herodotus' Histories</b> likely completed.   |
| 427 | Fourth invasion of Attica. Surrender of Mytilene. Surrender of Plataea. Oligarchic revolution on Corcyra suppressed with Athenian aid. Athens captures Minoa. Expedition of <b>Laches</b> to Sicily. Aetolian expedition of <b>Demosthenes</b> . Battle of Olpae. Unsuccessful attempt by Athens to win Melos. Athenians purify Delos. End of the Athenian plague.  | The visit and public speeches of <b>Gorgias</b> of Leontini (Sicily) to Athens promotes popularity of Sophism. <b>Aristophanes &lt;Daitales&gt;</b> (2nd), his 1st presentation; <b>Eupolis &lt;Taxiarchoi&gt;</b>  |
| 426 | Foundation and occupation of Heracleia in Trachis by the Peloponnesians   | <b>Aristophanes &lt;Babylonians&gt;</b> prompts lawsuit by <b>Cleon</b> .   |
| 425 | Fifth invasion of Attica. Athenians send reinforcements to Sicily. Athenians occupy of Pylos and capture of Spartans on Sphacteria (August). Triumph of the democracy in Corcyra. Athens wins Anactonon, and occupies Methone. Athens more than doubles the tribute of her allies. <b>Cleon</b> introduces the <i>triobolon</i> for jurors. <b>Cleon</b> charges <b>Laches of Axonae</b> with embezzlement. Congress of Gela.   | <b>Aristophanes: Acharnians</b> (1st), his earliest comedy to have come down to us. The comic playwright <b>Cratinus</b> is active at Athens; <b>Euripides: Andromache; &lt;Thyestes&gt;</b> predates this year.  |
| 424 | <b>Thucydides</b> , as <i>strategos</i> , fails to relieve Amphipolis from <b>Brasidas'</b> attack; exiled. Athens wins Oeniadae; captures Nisaea, with the Long Walls of Megara, and Cythera. Reorganisation of the tribute assessment among the members of the Maritime League by <b>Cleon</b> (so-called Cleon assessment); occupation of Cythera by <b>Nicias</b> ; <b>Brasidas'</b> march to Chalcidice (autumn); Boeotians, using an improvised flamethrower, defeat of the Athenians at Battle of Delium, during which Alcibiades rescues Socrates; Congress of Gela. Revolt of Acanthus, Amphipolis; Peace of <b>Callias</b> renewed between Athens and Persia. | <b>Herodotus</b> dies; possibly in Thurii [420]. <b>Aristophanes: Knights</b> ; <b>Euripides: Hecuba; Supplices</b> [421]; < <i>Helots, Erechtheus</i> >; <b>Eupolis &lt;Golden Age&gt;</b>   |
| 423 | Negotiations for peace. One Year's Truce (March). Revolt of Scione. Leontini annexed by Syracuse.   | <b>Aristophanes: Clouds</b> (3rd); <b>Cratinus</b> wins last comedic victory for < <i>Pytine</i> >  |
| 422 | Battle of Amphipolis. Death of <b>Brasidas</b> and <b>Cleon</b> .   | <b>Aristophanes: Wasps</b> , < <i>Proagon</i> >; <b>Euripides &lt;Theseus&gt;</b> performed before this date.   |
| 421 | Peace of <b>Nicias</b> (March) ends the Archidamian War (431-421). Capture of Scione. Defensive alliance between Athens and Sparta.   | <b>Aristophanes: Peace</b> (2nd) to <b>Eupolis &lt;Kolakes&gt;</b> . Construction of Erechtheum begins (421-405)  |
| 420 | Alliance of Athens with Argos, Elis, and Mantinea. Treaty concluded between Sparta and Boeotia. Elis bans Spartans from Olympic Games   | The sculptor <b>Polycleitus</b> , artist of the Doriphorus, flourishes during these years (420-417); <b>Isaeus</b> , rhetorician, speechwriter, and teacher of <b>Demosthenes</b> , born in Athens or Chalcis. Building of the Temple of Apollo at Bassae begins (420-400)                  |
| 419 |   | <b>Antiphon: On the Choreutes</b> .   |
| 418 | Battle of Mantinea. Argos forms alliance with Sparta.   | <b>Euripides: Ion</b>   |
| 417 | Ostracism of <b>Hyperbolus</b> . <b>Nicias</b> in Chalcidice.   | <b>Antiphon: Against the Stepmother</b> . <b>Euripides: Electra</b> [413?]; <b>Hercules furens</b> [421-415], first extant tragedy to show trochaic tetrameters.  |

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| 416 | Conquest of Melos. Embassy of Segesta to Athens.  | <b>Euripides:</b> <i>Epitician</i> for <b>Alcibiades'</b> victory at Olympia. <b>Agathon</b> wins first tragic victory at Lenaea - the celebration of this triumph provides the setting for <b>Plato's Symposium</b> .  |
| 415 | Mutilation of the Hermes. Athenian Sicilian Expedition begins. Recall of <b>Alcibiades</b> . <b>Alcibiades</b> defects to Sparta.   | <b>Euripides:</b> < <i>Alexander, Palamedes</i> >, <i>The Trojan Women</i> . <b>Andocides</b> testified against mutilators of the Hermes; banned from Athenian temples and agora. <b>Antiphon:</b> <i>On the Murder of Herodes</i> . <b>Sophocles:</b> <i>Electra</i> [410s]  |
| 414 | Athenian siege of Syracuse.   | <b>Aristophanes:</b> <i>Birds</i> (2nd at Dionysia); < <i>Amphiaraus</i> > at Lenaea  |
| 413 | Spartans occupy Decelea beginning the <i>Decelean or Ionian War</i> (413-404). Second Athenian expedition to Sicily. Great battle in the Syracusan Harbour (September 9). Destruction of the Sicilian Expedition; Council of Probouloi established at Athens  | <b>Euripides:</b> <i>Electra</i> [417?]; <i>Iphigenia in Tauris</i> . <b>Lysias</b> expelled from Thurii; returns to Athens.  |
| 412 | Revolt of Athenian allies. Treaty of Miletus between Sparta and Persia. <b>Alcibiades</b> leaves Sparta.  | <b>Euripides:</b> <i>Helen; Phoenissae</i> [c. 412-408]; < <i>Erechtheus</i> >. <b>Sophocles</b> serves as <i>proboulos</i> . <b>Eupolis</b> dies; < <i>Demes</i> >.  |
| 411 | Philosopher <b>Melissus</b> leads Samians to victory over Athenians. Persia begins to support Spartan navy. Battle of Syme (January). Revolt of Rhodes. Revolt of Abydos and Lampsacus (April). Assembly at Colonus and provision made for a new Constitution (May). Revolt of Thasos. Council of Four Hundred comes into office (early in June), and governs till September. Revolt of Euboea (September). Four Hundred overthrown and Polity established (September); the government in the hands of the Five Thousand. | <b>Aristophanes:</b> <i>Lysistrata</i> and <i>Thesmophoriazusae</i> . <b>Thucydides:</b> narrative of <i>Histories</i> breaks off in this year. Work on text continued after end of Peloponnesian War; continued by < <b>Cratippus</b> and <b>Theopompus</b> > and <b>Xenophon's Hellenica</b> . <b>Hellanicus's Atthis</b> likely published; first in line of Athidographers the runs to <b>Philochorus</b> in 3 <sup>rd</sup> BCE; his work <i>Victors at the Carneia</i> and <i>Priestesses of Hera</i> establish chronological framework utilized by later historians. <b>Antiphon</b> champions revolution; tried and executed. <b>Andocides</b> unsuccessful in attempt to regain civil rights. |
| 410 | Battle of Cyzicus. Restoration of Democracy at Athens. Athens decrees that a list of existing state laws be published (410-401)   | <b>[Pseudo-Lysias]:</b> <i>For Polystratus</i> . <b>Herodotus of Heraclea Pontica</b> , author of rationalizing <i>Story of Hercules, Argonautica, Pelopea</i> , active. <b>Demastes of Sigeum</b> writes mythological work on heroes of Trojan War and <i>On Poets and Sophists</i> – first identifiable works of sustained literary criticism. <b>Glaucus of Rhegium:</b> <i>On the Poets and Musicians</i>   |
| 409 | Athens recovers Colophon: loses Pylos & Nises. Invasion of Sicily by Carthage. Destruction of Selinus and Himera.   | <b>Sophocles:</b> <i>Philoctetes</i> (1st prize)  |
| 408 | Athens recovers Chalcedon and Byzantium. Warfare of <b>Hermocrates</b> in western Sicily.   | <b>Andocides</b> unsuccessful in attempt to regain civil rights ( <i>On his Return</i> ) [407]. <b>Euripides:</b> <i>Orestes</i> ; travels to court of <b>Archelaus</b> in Pella. <b>Aristophanes</b> < <i>Plutus</i> >   |
| 407 | Athens recovers Thasos. <b>Alcibiades</b> at Athens. <b>Cyrus</b> comes down to the coast. Death of <b>Hermocrates</b> . Foundation of Thermae. <b>Lysander</b> navarch.  |   |
| 406 | Battle of Notion. <b>Alcibiades</b> deposed. Battle of Arginusae Trial of the Generals. Capture of Acragas by the Carthaginians; ensuing Sicilian crisis leads to rise of <b>Dionysius I</b> . Conspiracy of reed-bearers at Chios.   | <b>Euripides</b> dies in Macedonia; his last tragedies, from this year, are <i>Iphigenia at Aulis</i> and the <i>Bacchae</i> - likely performed in 405. The Erechtheum on the Acropolis of Athens is finished [405]   |
| 405 | <b>Lysander</b> 'assistant' navarch. <b>Cyrus</b> called to Susa. Battle of Aegospotami (end of summer). <b>Dionysius</b> becomes tyrant of Syracuse; and makes peace with Carthage. Blockade of Athens (405-404)   | <b>Sophocles</b> dies. The <i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> will be performed posthumously. <b>Aristophanes:</b> <i>Frogs</i> (1st at Lenaea); honored with 2nd presentation; < <i>Muses</i> > (2nd at Dionysia)   |
| 404 | The Peloponnesian War ends with the victory of Sparta over Athens. Long Walls pulled down (April). Psephism of Dracontides (summer) and rule of the Thirty. Thrasybulus seizes Phyle (December). Alliance of Catane and Leontini. First expedition of Thirty against <b>Thrasybulus</b> . Death of <b>Theramenes</b> .  | <b>Thucydides:</b> Projected end of <i>Histories</i> . <b>Lysias</b> property confiscated and his brother killed by the Thirty.   |
| 403 | Lacedaemonian garrison at Athens. Second expedition against <b>Thrasybulus</b> (May). <b>Thrasybulus</b> seizes Piraeus. Battle of Munychia. King <b>Pausanias</b> at Athens. Fall of Thirty (September). Recall of <b>Lysander</b> . Revolt at Syracuse against <b>Dionysius</b> . Archonship of <b>Euclides</b> . Sicel war of <b>Dionysius</b> . Reduction of Naxos and Catane (403-400). Pay for Athenian assemblies (re-?)instituted [403-399]   | The orator <b>Lysias</b> delivers <i>Against Eratosthenes</i> , one of his most famous speeches; opens schools [403-401]. Around this time <b>Thucydides</b> dies. <b>Euclides</b> adopts Ionian alphabet as official script in Athens. <b>Andocides</b> regains his civil rights.  |

#### KEY

[403-399]: date of even uncertain; range given.

(403-399): event lasted several years; range given.

<*Plutus*>: this work is lost.