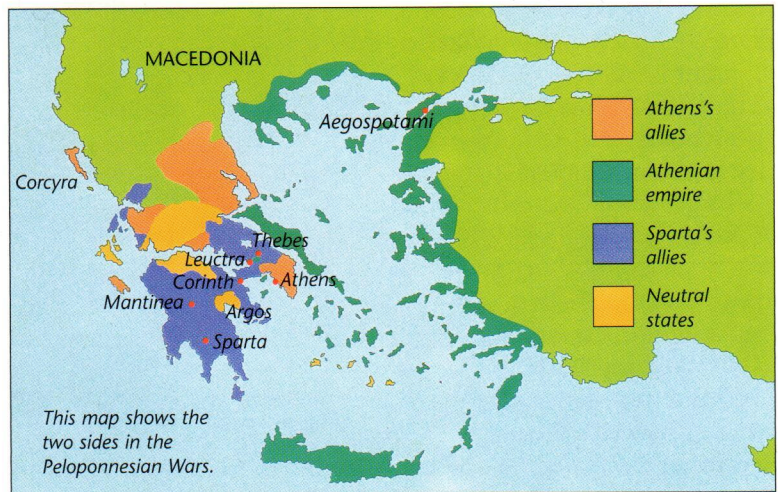


THE PELOPONNESIAN WARS

While Athens grew richer and more powerful, the other city-states began to feel threatened. Relations grew worse, especially between Athens and her great rival, Sparta. An atmosphere of suspicion and uneasy peace dragged on until 431BC. Then a war broke out, which tore the Greek world apart, and weakened the city-states beyond repair.



THE LONG WALLS

In 460BC, the Athenians began building vast walls to enclose their city and its sea port at Piraeus. The walls were designed to stop an

enemy from cutting Athens off from its navy. The Long Walls, as they were known, effectively turned Athens into a fortress. The Spartans were nervous: they were sure the Athenians must be preparing for war. In 435-433BC, fighting broke out between Corinth and its colony of Corcyra (Corfu).

Sparta and Athens backed opposing sides. Sparta (supported by its allies in the Peloponnesian League) then declared war directly on Athens (and its allies in the Delian League). In 431, the mighty Spartan army marched into the province of Attica, the area immediately around Athens.

This scene shows the Athenians behind the Long Walls defending themselves from a Spartan attack.

