

THE END OF AN ERA

The conclusion of the Peloponnesian Wars didn't bring peace or unity. Instead it spelled the end of the great days of the city-states, and eventually of the Classical Age. Other squabbles and conflicts followed, in which the Greek cities were far too absorbed to notice a new power rising in the northeast: Macedonia. Within 50 years, the Macedonians would control most of Greece, making it the core of a great empire.

SPARTA IN CONTROL

After the Wars, Athens was ruled by a group of pro-Spartan aristocrats, led by a man named Critias. The Thirty Tyrants, as they were known, made themselves so unpopular that the King of Sparta allowed democracy to be restored in 403BC.



This bronze helmet came from Sparta.

WAR BEGINS AGAIN

Spartan supremacy did not last. Wars broke out again and Sparta lost much of the land it had won. The Persian alliance collapsed too, when the Persians declared war on Sparta over the former Greek colonies in Ionia. Within 10 years, Athens, Thebes, Argos and Corinth were all at war with Sparta. The Spartans were defeated by Thebes at the

Battle of Leuctra in 371BC and Thebes took on the role of leading Greek state. Less than 10 years later, the Thebans themselves were beaten by Spartans and Athenians at the Battle of Mantinea in 362BC.

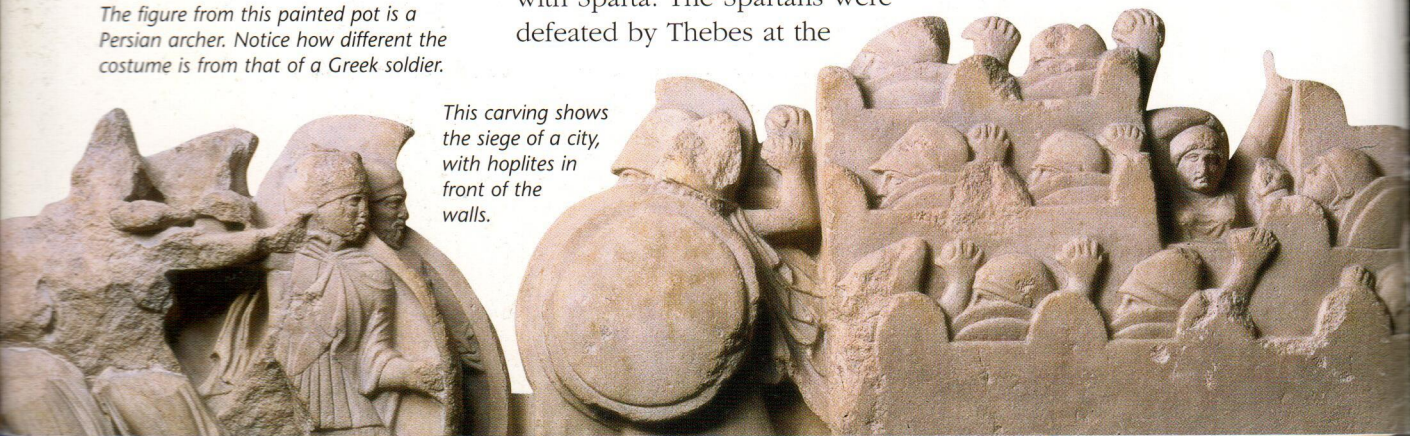


The figure from this painted pot is a Persian archer. Notice how different the costume is from that of a Greek soldier.



INTERNET LINK

For a link to a website where you can see a timeline of the major events in the history of ancient Greece, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com



This carving shows the siege of a city, with hoplites in front of the walls.