

# Archaic Greece: The Age Of New Reckonings



In the world of ancient civilizations, Archaic Greece stands out as a period of significant cultural, political, and artistic transformation. Spanning from the 8th century BCE to the Persian Wars in the early 5th century BCE, this era witnessed the birth of city-states, the development of democracy, the rise of new art forms, and the of philosophical thought that would shape the Western world for centuries to come.

## The Dawn of City-States

During Archaic Greece, the city-state, or polis, emerged as the fundamental political unit. These independent city-states, such as Athens and Sparta, became centers of power where citizens actively participated in decision-making processes. This era marked a significant shift from the centralized monarchies of the Mycenaean period to a more decentralized and democratic form of governance.



## Archaic Greece: The Age of New Reckonings

by Brian M. Lavelle(1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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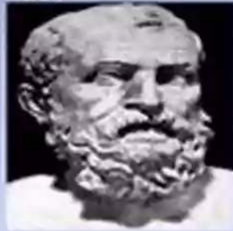
## The Birth of Democracy

Archaic Greece witnessed the birth of democracy, laying the groundwork for the democratic principles that many modern Western societies cherish today. In Athens, for example, the reforms of Solon and later Cleisthenes allowed eligible male citizens to actively participate in the decision-making process through a direct voting system, known as ostracism.

# Timeline Athenian Democracy

Time of Tyrants,  
Oligarch & civil  
war: Draco,  
Cylon, etc

594 BC:  
Father of Democracy:  
Solon



?510 BC? Reformer  
(improvement on  
Solon's constitution):  
Cleisthenes



490 – 479 BC:  
Democracy  
Defended: Persian  
Invasions: Aristides,  
Themistocles etc



479 – 461 BC,  
'Democracy'  
expanded - Delian  
League: Cimon ,  
Ephialtes , etc



461 – 379 BC,  
Athenian 'Golden  
Age': Pericles



421 – 407 BC,  
"Lesser" political  
leaders  
(Demagogues) The  
400, the 5000 etc:  
Alcibiades



404 BC:  
Sparta wins the  
Peloponnesse  
War (limiting  
the further  
strength of  
Athens & its  
democracy)

## Art and Architecture

The Archaic period witnessed a flourishing of artistic expression. Greek art transitioned from the rigid stylization of the preceding Orientalizing period to a more naturalistic and human-centered style. Sculptures, pottery, and architecture emphasized the idealized human form, showcasing the aesthetic and cultural values of ancient Greek society.

## Philosophy and Rational Thought

Archaic Greece also saw the emergence of groundbreaking philosophical ideas. Thinkers such as Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes pondered the nature of the universe, introducing concepts that formed the basis for scientific and rational

thought. Their inquiries into cosmology, ethics, and metaphysics laid the foundation for the later philosophical traditions of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

## **Expansion and Trade**

The Archaic period also marked a time of increased Greek colonization, with settlements springing up across the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. This expansion opened up new trade routes, fostering economic growth and cultural exchange. Over time, a network of maritime trade and the establishment of colonies contributed to the spread of Greek culture and influence.

## **The Persian Wars**

The end of the Archaic period saw the eruption of the Persian Wars, which pitted the Greek city-states against the mighty Persian Empire. These conflicts, including the famous Battle of Marathon and the Battle of Thermopylae, symbolized the resilience and determination of the Greek city-states in the face of overwhelming odds. The victories of the Greek city-states during the Persian Wars solidified their sense of unity and contributed to the eventual rise of Classical Greece.

The Archaic period of ancient Greece was a time of new reckonings, as the city-states emerged, democratic principles took shape, art flourished, philosophical thought emerged, trade expanded, and the Persian Wars tested the mettle of the Greek world. It laid the foundation for the fascinating journey of Ancient Greece towards becoming a cultural marvel and a cornerstone of Western civilization.

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An introductory guide to the Archaic period in ancient Greece—the people, their society, and their culture. Excerpts from literary and other texts give voice to the interests, concerns, and emotions of the Archaic Greeks themselves.

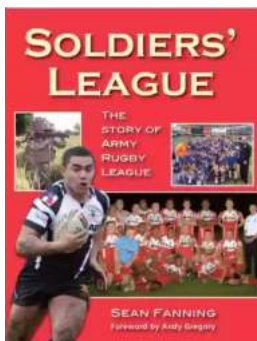
This book provides a brief but comprehensive to the society and culture of the Archaic period in the Greek world from c. 750 to c. 480 BCE. It focuses on the persistent and often-conflicting themes, topics, and controversies of the Archaic Age (e.g., elite and non-elite, religion and science, tradition and humanism). It seeks to lead the reader to a broader and deeper understanding of the period by placing themes and topics in a mutually supportive contextual network that will underscore their significance.

Archaic Greece: The Age of New Reckonings begins with a chapter on how sources for the period are evaluated and deployed, and goes on to offer a concise yet thorough historical overview of the Archaic period. Subsequent chapters cover polis and politics; war and violence; religion; science; philosophy; art; literature; festivals and games; social forces, values, and behaviors; and gender and sex.

The book:

- Offers a novel approach to a very significant period that foregrounds literary evidence and the words voiced by Archaic Greeks, combining scholarship with readability;
- Conceptualizes Archaic Greek culture and society by focusing substantially on topics that supplement the history of the period;
- Combines diverse elements of society and culture, including religion, art, literature, games and festivals, gender, sexuality, and politics in order to develop a unique picture of Greece during the Archaic period;
- Includes a summarizing essay that draws chapters together, emphasizing the implications of their topics and themes.

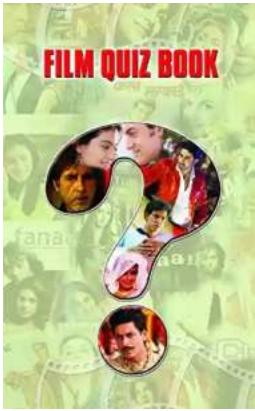
Archaic Greece: The Age of New Reckonings should appeal to college-level instructors as a book to assign to students enrolled in courses involving Archaic Greece and to others interested in this intriguing and pivotal period in ancient Greece.



## **Soldiers League: The Story of Army Rugby League**

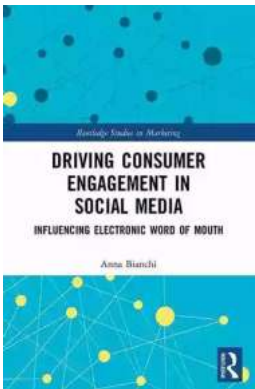
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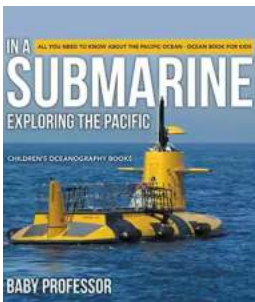
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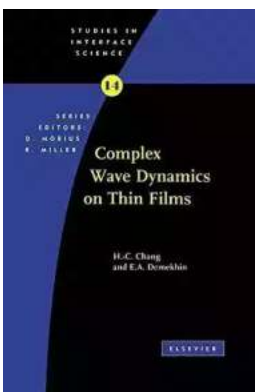
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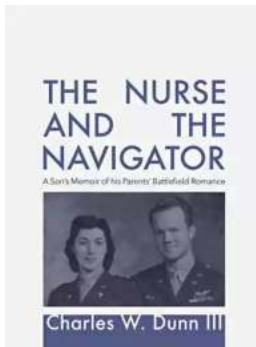
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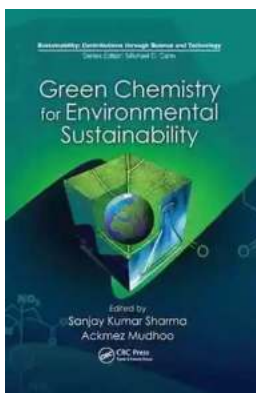
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