Lesson 2  Peloponnesian War

MAIN IDEAS

Government  Athens and Sparta and their allies fought a war over Athens’ growing power.
Government  Athens lost the Peloponnesian War.
Government  More than 25 years of war weakened all of the Greek city-states.

The Outbreak of War

ESSENTIAL QUESTION  What led Athens and Sparta to fight a war?

Causes of the War

• Many differences between Athens and Sparta
  - Athens had democracy, Sparta had military-led government
• Three main reasons for war
  - some city-states feared Athens’ grab for power, prestige
  - under Pericles, Athens built a naval empire
  - some Athenian settlers moved into other city-states’ lands

Athens Disliked

• Other city-states resented Athens spending Delian League money
  - some tried to break away from Athens control
  - Pericles’ punished city-states that resisted Athens
• Sparta headed Peloponnesian League that opposed the Delian League
  - many of its city-states were located on Peloponnesus
• Sparta declared war on Athens in 431 B.C.; began Peloponnesian War

REVIEW QUESTION
What were the causes of the war between Athens and Sparta?
The War Rages

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What happened during the Peloponnesian War?

**Strategies of War**
- Sparta had better land forces and city was safe from sea attack
- Athens had better navy, could attack Sparta’s allies from sea
- Sparta captured land around Athens, destroyed crops, food supply
- Athens’ strategy was to avoid land battles, rely on sea power
  - Pericles persuaded Athens to let Sparta destroy crops
  - brought people inside city walls, brought food in by sea

**Disaster Strikes Athens**
- Under Pericles’ plan, Athens became overcrowded
- In second year of war, a **plague** broke out in Athens
  - disease that spread easily, often led to death
  - city lost up to third of its people and army, including Pericles
- In 421 B.C., Athens signed **truce**—agreement to stop fighting
  - Athens surrendered to Sparta in 404 B.C.

**REVIEW QUESTION**
What caused Pericles’ strategy to fail?
Consequences of the War

ESSENTIAL QUESTION  What was the result of the Peloponnesian War?

The Aftermath
• Peloponnesian War lasted over 27 years
• Cities, crops were destroyed; thousands of Greeks died
• All the Greek city-states suffered economic, military losses
• King Philip II of Macedon came to power in 359 B.C.
  - Macedon was kingdom north of Greek city-states
  - Philip planned empire, looked south to weakened Greek city-states

REVIEW QUESTION
What was the long-term effect of the Peloponnesian War?

Lesson Summary
• The wealth, prestige, policies, and power of Athens caused resentment among other city-states.
• A plague that killed many Athenians helped Sparta defeat Athens.
• The Peloponnesian War weakened all of the Greek city-states for 50 years.

Why It Matters Now . . .
The Peloponnesian War shows that countries that wage war may lose power and prestige instead of gaining it.