

# Studying Greek History through Inscriptions

## Athenian History through inscriptions

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- Rhodes, P. J. – Osborne, R., Greek Historical Inscriptions, 404-423 B.C. Oxford 2003
- Osborne, R. – Rhodes, P. J., *Greek Historical Inscriptions 478-404 BC*. Oxford 2017

1. Athenian legislation in the Archaic period (text 1)
2. Persian wars (texts 2, 3)
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Athenian Confederacy and the Athenian Hegemony in the 5<sup>th</sup> c. (texts 4, 5)
4. Peloponnesian war (text 6)
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Athenian Confederacy in the 4<sup>th</sup> (text 7)
6. Athens and the Macedonians (texts 8, 9)

## Athenian Hegemony, 478-431 BC

- Delian League: association of Greek city-states (between 150 and 330 members) founded in 478 BC under the leadership of Athens. Purpose: to continue fighting the Persian Empire after the end of the Second Persian invasion of Greece.
- **In 454 B.C. the allied treasury was transferred from Delos to Athens.** Athens began to use the League's funds for its own purposes, which led to conflicts between Athens and the less powerful members of the League.
- **Cleruchies of Athens in the allied regions.**
- **Trials concerning federal matters took place in Athens.**
- In 449 B.C., Athens issued a decree **banning the mining of silver by the allied cities**, thus imposing the circulation of its own coinage, weights and measures. Establishment of the Athenian coin for federal transactions.







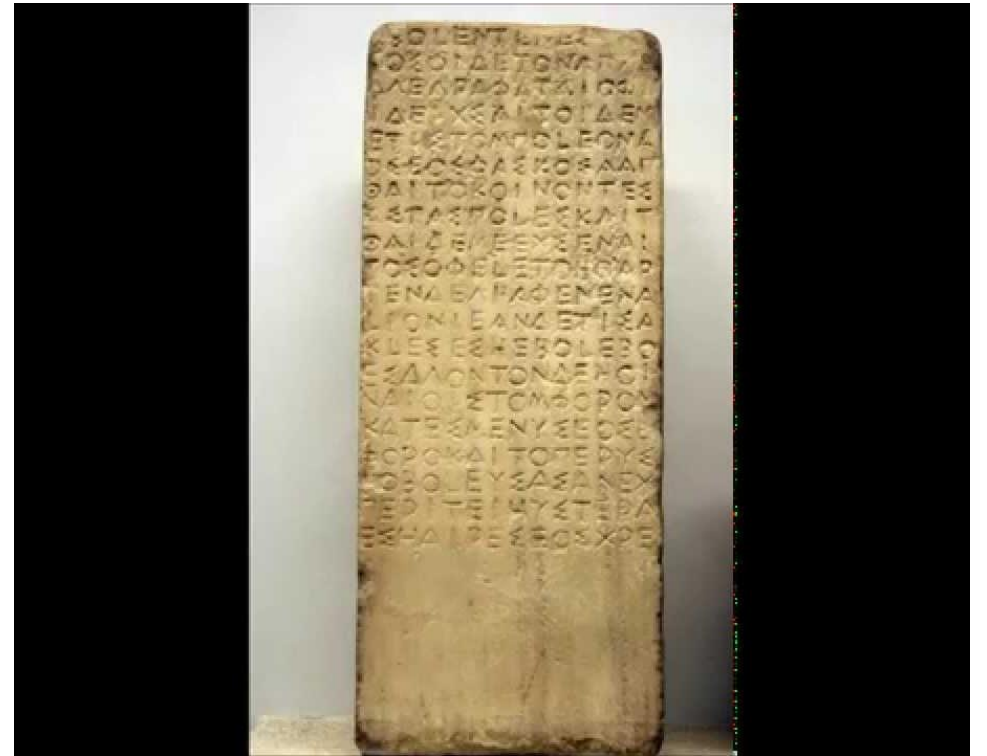


# The Kleinias' decree

*IG I<sup>3</sup> 34, Athens*

448/7 or 425/4 BC ?

- Control of the collection of the tributes and of the collected sums (writing tablets, seals)
- Accusations about wrongdoing and punishments
- Athenian magistrates, Athenian council, Athenian assembly, Athenian festivals (Dionysia, Panathenaia)
- Athenian emissaries
- Bringing of cow and panoply to the Panathenaea





## The Kleinias' decree, IG I<sup>3</sup> 34, Athens, 448/7 or 425/4 BC ?

Gods. The Council and the People decided. Oineis was the prytany; Spoudias was secretary; [such-and-such) was chairman. Kleinias proposed: the Council and the officials in the cities and the overseers shall manage that the tribute is collected each year and conveyed to Athens. Tokens shall be made for the cities, so that it shall not be possible for those conveying the tribute to do wrong. Let the city write on a writing tablet the tribute which it is sending, and seal it with the token and send it to Athens; and those conveying it shall hand over the writing tablet in the Council to be read when they hand over the tribute. Let the prytany hold an Assembly after the Dionysia for the Greek Treasurers to reveal to the Athenians those of the cities which have paid the tribute in full and, separately, those which have fallen short, [and those?] which [have not paid it or they are?]. The Athenians shall elect four men and send them to the cities, to give receipts for the tribute which has been paid and to demand what has not been paid. [Of those elected] two shall sail to [Ionia, Caria

and the Islands?] in a fast trireme, [and the other two to the Hellespont and?] to Thrace. . . . to the Council and the People . . . deliberate about [these matters continuously until they are settled]. If any Athenian or ally does wrong concerning the tribute which the cities are required to write on a writing tablet for those conveying it and to send to Athens, whoever wishes of the Athenians and the allies shall be permitted to write an accusation against him to the prytany; and let the prytany introduce the accusation into the Council [within a certain number of days from when] it is made, or they shall be penalised at their accounting for bribery, [a thousand or ten thousand] drachmas each. Whomever the Council condemns . . . for him the judgement shall be valid . . . refer him to . . . . When he is judged to be in the wrong, let the prytany formulate proposals about what he should suffer or pay. And if any one does wrong with regard to the bringing of the cow and panoply, the accusations against him and the punishment shall be handled in the same manner. The Greek Treasurers shall write up on a whitened board . . . of the tribute and . . . . .

# The Athenian tribute lists







B. D. Meritt, H. T. Wade-Gery, and M. F. McGregor, *The Athenian Tribute Lists*, 4 vols. (1939–1953)

For the most recent edition of the texts see *Inscriptiones Graecae* 1<sup>3</sup> 259–290.



# Acrophonic Greek numerals

I	1	H	100
II	2	HΔ	110
III	3	HϞ	150
IIII	4	HH	200
Π	5	Ϟ	500
ΠII	6	ϞH	600
ΠIII	7	X	1,000
Δ	10	XH	1,100
ΔII	12	Ϟ	5,000
ΔΠ	15	M	10,000
ΔΠII	16	Ϟ	50,000
ΔΔ	20		
ΔΔΠ	25		
ΔΔΔ	30		
Ϟ/Ϟ/Ϟ	50		
ϞΔ	60		



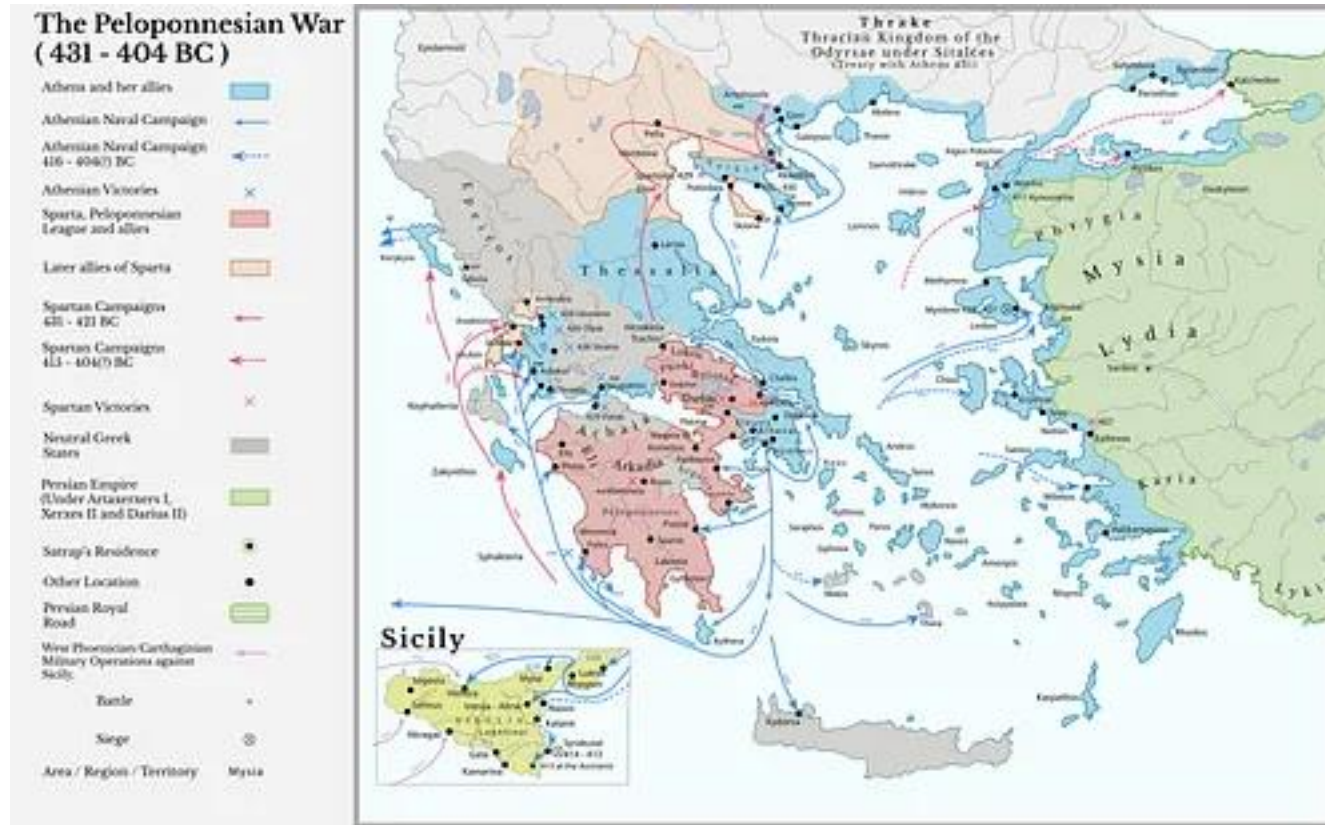
# The Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC)

between the Delian League, which was led by Athens, and the Peloponnesian League, which was led by Sparta.

## Phases

- 1) Archidamean war (431-421 BC), peace of Nicias (421 BC)  
[a group of Spartan soldiers trapped on Sphakteria, 425 BC]
- 2) Sicilian expedition (415-413 BC)  
[the oligarchic coup, 411 BC]
- 3) Deceleian war (412-404 BC), defeat of the Athenians in the Aigospotamoi (405 BC), surrender of Athens (404 BC)

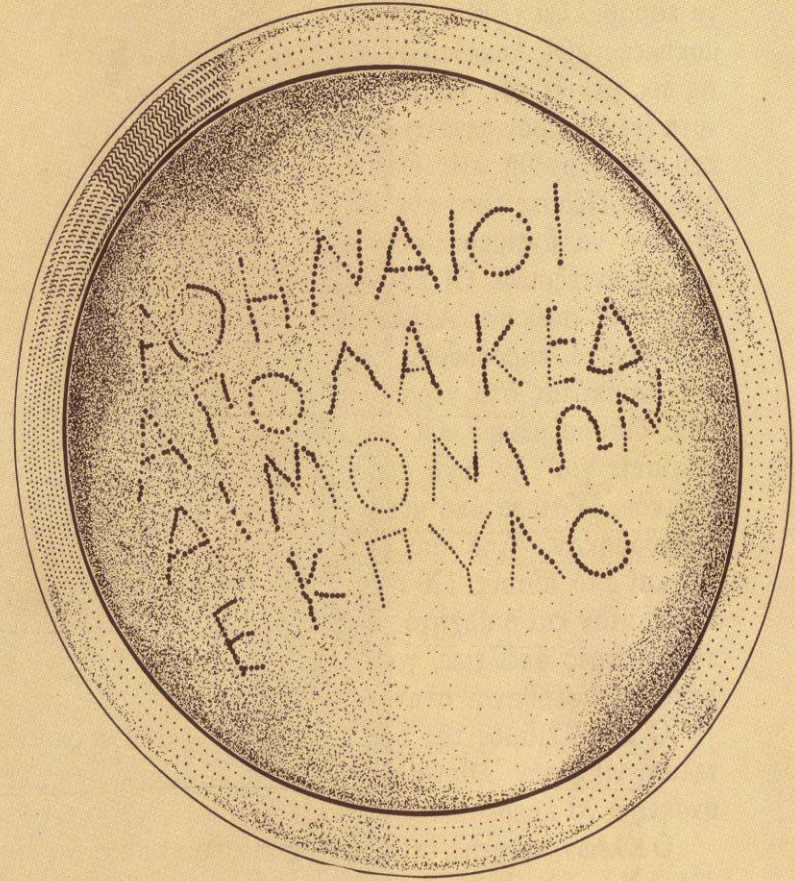
# Allies and Campaigns



# Sphacteria 425 BC









# Honorific decree for Thrasyboulos and seven others who acted against the oligarchy of the Four Hundred

IG I<sup>3</sup> 102 = OR 182, 410/0 BC

In the archonship of Glaukippos; Lobon from Kedoï was secretary. The Council and People decided. Hippothontis was the prytany; Lobon was the secretary; Philistides was chairman; Glaukippos was archon. Erasinides proposed: to praise Thrasyboulos, who is a good man concerning the Athenian People and keen to do all the good he can; and in return for the good he has done for the Athenian [city or Council] and People, to crown him with a gold crown; and to make the crown from a thousand drachmas; and let the Greek treasurers give the money; and [to announce at the Dionysia] in the competition [for tragedies] the reason why the People crowned him.

Diokles proposed: In other respects in accordance with the Council, but Thrasyboulos shall be an Athenian and be enrolled in whichever [tribe] and phratry he wishes; and the other things that [have been voted by the People are to be valid] for Thrasyboulos; and it shall be possible for him also to obtain from the Athenians whatever else may be deemed good concerning his benefaction to the Athenian People; and the secretary shall write up what has been voted; and to choose [five? men from the Council] immediately, [to adjudge the portion?] accruing to Thrasyboulos; and the others who did good [then] to the Athenian People, -is and Agoratos and Komon and . . . and Simon and Philinos and -es, the secretary of the Council shall inscribe them as benefactors on the acropolis on a stone stele; and they shall have the [right to own property] as for Athenians, [both a plot of land] and houses, and to dwell at Athens, and the Council in office and the prytany shall take care that they suffer no harm; and the official sellers shall let the contract for the stele [in the Council]; and the Greek treasurers shall give the money; and if it decides that they [should obtain something else in addition?], the Council shall formulate a proposal and bring it to the People.



# Rebirth of the Athenian Hegemony?

## Second Athenian League

### Confederacy and not hegemony

Meetings would be held in Athens, but **every city would enjoy one vote no matter its size.**

The allies have the right to **self governance.**

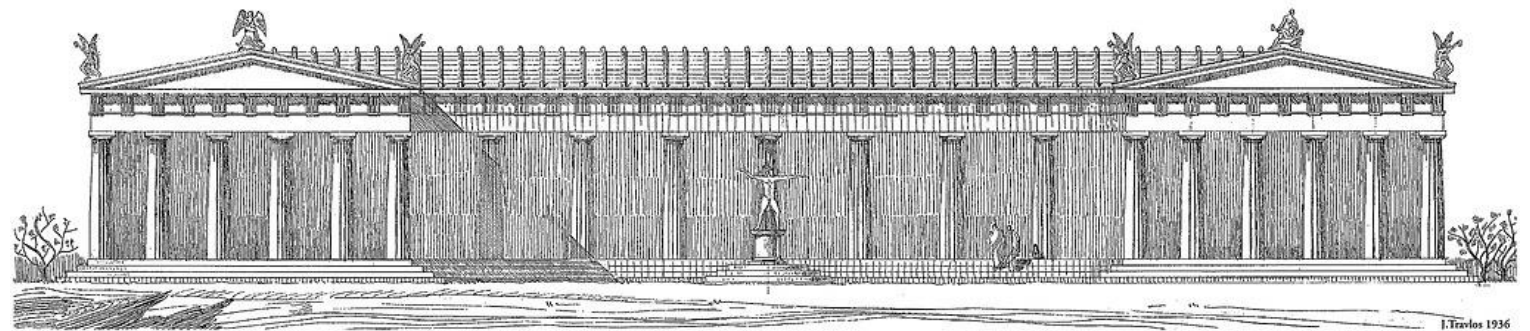
**No forced garrisons or tribute.**

The Athenians shall **renounce whatever possessions** there happen to be whether private or public in the territory of those who make the alliance

It shall **not be permitted either privately or publicly to any of the Athenians to acquire in the territory of the allies either a house or land**

**Military defense of other states in the League**

Reconstruction  
of the Doric  
Stoa of Zeus  
Eleutherios, ca.  
430–420 B.C.



# Decree relating to the Foundation of the Second Athenian Confederacy or “decree of Aristoteles” IG II<sup>2</sup> 43 = RO 22, 378/7 BC

In the archonship of Nausinikos. Kallibios son of Kephisophon of Paiania was secretary. In the seventh prytany, of Hippothontis. The Council and the People decided. Charinos of Athmonon was chairman. Aristoteles proposed: for the good fortune of the Athenians and the allies of the Athenians: so that the Spartans shall allow the Greeks to be free and autonomous and to live at peace, possessing securely all their own (territory), [[and so that [the peace and the friendship which the Greeks] and the King [swore] shall be in force [and endure] in accordance with the agreements]], the People shall resolve: if any of the Greeks or of the barbarians living in [Europe] or of the islanders who are not the King's, wishes to be an ally of the Athenians and the allies, it shall be permitted to him, being free and autonomous, living under the constitution which he wishes, neither receiving a garrison or a governor nor paying tribute, on the same terms as the Chians and Thebans and the other allies. For those who make an alliance with the Athenians and the allies the People shall renounce whatever possessions there happen to be whether private or public of the Athenians in the territory of those who make the alliance, and concerning these the Athenians shall give a pledge. For whichever of the cities which make the alliance with the Athenians there happen to be *stelai* at Athens which are unfavourable, the Council in office at the time shall have authority to demolish them.

From the archonship of Nausinikos it shall not be permitted either privately or publicly to any of the Athenians to acquire in the territory of the allies either a house or land either by purchase or by taking security or in any other way. If anybody does buy or acquire or take as security in any way at all, it shall be permitted to whoever wishes of the allies to denounce it to the representatives of the allies; and the representatives shall sell it and give half to the denouncer, and the other half shall be the common property of the allies. If anybody attacks those who have made the alliance, either by land or by sea, the Athenians and the allies shall support the latter both by land and by sea with all their strength as far as possible. If anybody proposes or puts to the vote, whether an official or a private citizen, contrary to this decree that any of the things stated in this decree should be annulled, let it fall to him to be dishonoured and let his property be public and a tenth for the goddess, and let him be convicted by the Athenians and the allies for dissolving the alliance. Let them punish him with death or exile from territories that the Athenians and the allies control. If he is condemned to death, let him not be buried in Attica or in the territory of the allies. This decree let the secretary of the Council inscribe on a stone stele and set it down beside Zeus of Freedom. The treasurers of the goddess shall give the money for inscribing the stele, sixty drachmas from the ten talents (fund). On this stele shall be inscribed the names of the existing allied cities and of any other (city) which becomes an ally. These things are to be inscribed; and the People shall elect three ambassadors (to go) immediately to Thebes, in order to persuade the Thebans (to do) whatever good they can. These were chosen: Aristoteles of Marathon, Pyrrhandros of Anaphlystos, Thrasyboulos of Kollytos. These cities are allies of the Athenians:

# Athens and the Macedons, end of 4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> c. BC

Chr. Habicht, *Hellenistic Athens*, 1997

323-307 BC: Athens under Kassandros, Demetrios of Phaleron

307-287 BC: Athens between freedom and unfreedom, Demetrios Poliorketes and Lachares

267-261 BC: Chremonidean War

261-229 BC: Athens under the Antigonids

229 BC: liberation of Athens







# Alliance between the Athenians and the Spartans against the kingdom of Macedonia = “Chremonidean decree”

*IG II<sup>3</sup> 912 ll. 70-97, 269/8 BC*

Treaty and alliance between the Spartans and the allies of the Spartans with the Athenians and the allies of the Athenians for all [time: each shall have their own, being free] and autonomous, [with their] traditional [constitutions]; and if someone makes war on the territory of the Athenians or subverts their laws or makes war on the allies of the Athenians, the Spartans and the allies of the Spartans shall come to their aid in full strength as far as possible; and if someone makes war on the territory of the Spartans or subverts their laws or makes war on the allies of the Spartans, the Athenians and the allies of the Athenians shall come to their aid in full strength as far as possible . .

..... Spartans and their allies to the Athenians and their allies; and there shall swear for the Athenians to the Spartans and to the representatives of each city the generals and the Council and the other officials, and the commanders of tribal contingents of cavalry and the commanders of tribal regiments and the [cavalry commanders]: 'I swear by Zeus, Earth, Sun, Ares, Athena Areia, Poseidon, Demeter, to be steadfast in the alliance that has been made; may there be many good things for those that are true to their oath, and the opposite for those who swear falsely'. And the Spartan kings and ephors and elders shall swear to the Athenians in the same terms, and in the same terms the archons from the other cities shall swear; if the Spartans and allies and the Athenians decide that it is better to add or remove something concerning the alliance in terms both sides agree, it shall be sworn to; and they shall inscribe the alliance on bronze stelai and stand them in a sanctuary of their choice.



Rhamnous

## Decree of the deme of Rhamnous awarding divine honours to King Antigonos Gonatas, *I.Rhamnous* 7, 262-240 BC

Elpinikos son of Mnesippos of Rhamnous proposed: since Antigonos the king, and saviour of the People, continues to be a benefactor of the Athenian People and because of this the People honoured him with honours on a par with the gods, for good fortune, the Rhamnousians shall decide: to sacrifice to him on the nineteenth of Hekatombaion, at the gymnastic competition of the great Nemesia, and to wear crowns, and the market tax shall provide the means for the demesmen to make this sacrifice; the demarch and whoever is appointed treasurer shall take care of the sacrifice; and (they) shall inscribe this decree on a stone stele and stand it [by the altar?] of king Antigonos . . .