

# Causes (Factors)

1. The mountains of Greece made it very hard to travel back and forth, so people settled in smaller city-states.



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2. Greeks only had 20% arable (usable) land for growing crops, and that was very rocky. And growing crops was difficult when there was often war going on!

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3. The city states were really never united. They lacked a national identity. Greeks identified as “Spartan” or “Athenian” not “Greek”. There was no Greek army.



ARGOS



ATHENS



CARTHAGE



CORINTH



CRETE



CROTON



EPIRUS



ETRURIANS



ILLYRIANS



IONIANS



LOKRIANS



MACEDONIA



PERSIA



RHODES



SPARTA



SYRACUSE



TARAS



THEBES



THESSALY



THRACIANS



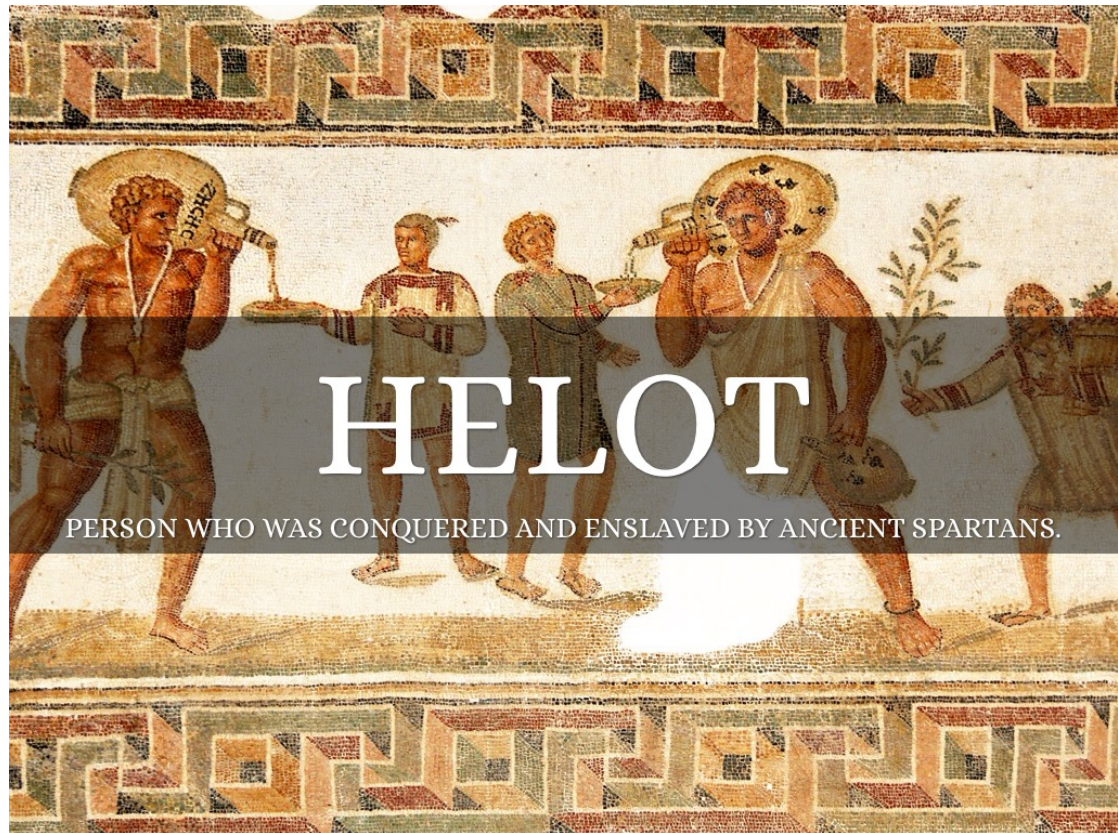
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4. Athens was becoming very wealthy from their arrangements, while many other Greeks were suffering, often from starvation or disease. People started hating the Athenians for their wealth.

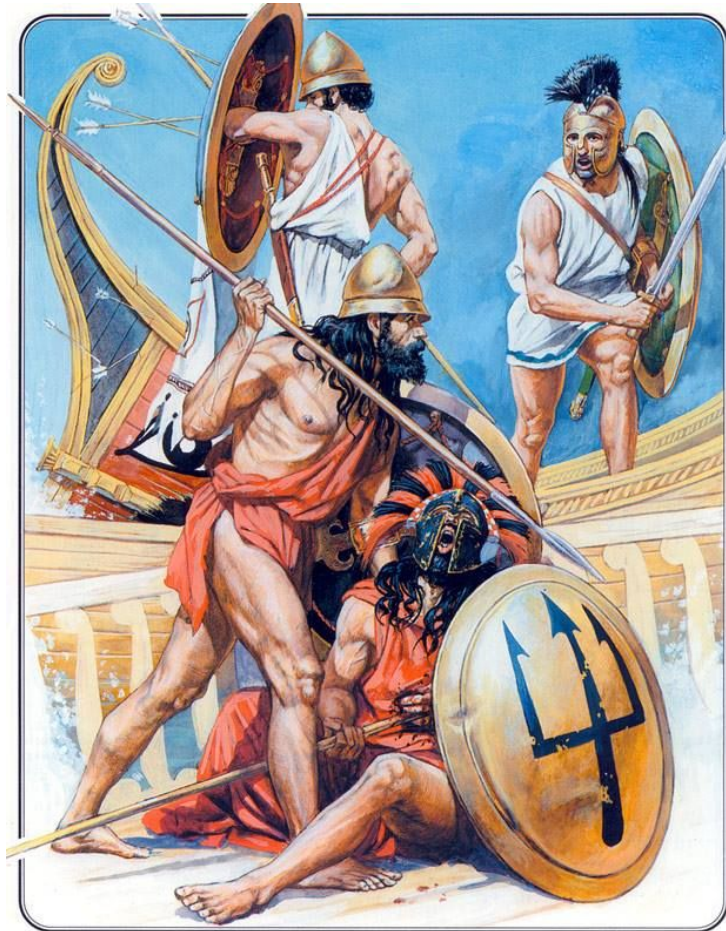
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5. Slavery: In Sparta, ratios of helots to citizens was 8:1. In Athens, most families owned 3-4 slaves. A census in Attica showed 21,000 citizens and over 400,000 slaves. Most people in Greece were born free, but were sold by parents into slavery because times were so hard.





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6. The Persians were a constant threat. To speed up the Greeks' decline, they offered to help the Spartans in the Peloponnesian War. It seemed smarter to help them fight each other, rather than try to beat both of them alone!

\* These wars between Athens and Sparta were called the Peloponnesian Wars, because they took place on the Peloponnesian peninsula, where Sparta is.