

Spartan Empire

Colton Koosman

Mr. Mantei

The Spartans one of the strongest and one of the most fascinating military cultures that ever existed. In this paper the following topics will be addressed, religion, technology, political, and their culture.

The Spartans believed in polytheism, which means they believed in many gods. The main gods were Apollo, Artemis, Athena and Zeus. They symbolized skill, strength, wisdom, and victory. They also believed in a military type of religion. Zeus is the god of the sky he is symbolized by an eagle. Poseidon is the god of the sea; his symbol is a three pointed trident. Ares is the god of war he is either symbolized by a bloody spear, or a wild boar. Athena is the god of wisdom, useful arts, and war; she is symbolized by an owl. Apollo is the god of archery, music, poetry, prophecy, and medicine; he is symbolized by a lyre, laurel wreath.

The Spartans were known for their phalanx. They would tightly group up in a rectangle shape, and would slowly advance towards the enemy. The soldiers up front would be literally pushed forward by the shields behind them. The first line would strike the enemy as fast as they could, then the line behind them would quickly get in front of the first line to block the enemy from striking them with their shields and this cycle would repeat. The Spartans used the spear at it varied in length from 6 to 10 feet the broad head was either bronze or iron, the spears were also called a dory. Short sword, and their shields in battle they would ram into the enemy to disorient them and then they would attack with a spear or their short sword.

The Spartan government was very interesting because they had a two king system but from two different families. The council of elders was a group of 28 people that were 60 years old or older; they would hold a citizen assembly they would propose issues that needed to be voted on. They also had an executive committee of five Ephors.

Battle of Thermopylae was Leonidas led a Spartan army of 300 against the Persian army. The Spartans held the Persians off for three days. The immortals were real as well, there king would pick them and send them off but there numbers were never less than 10,000 or more than. The Persians preferred long range attacks with bows and arrows to then be followed up by cavalry and foot soldiers. It was said that there was so many arrows that it darkened the sun. This meant that the Spartans would have the upper hand in the battle, because the arrows were to light to pierce through the bronze shields. So close quarter combat was ideal. Alcibiades was born around 450 B.C. His family was very wealthy when he was growing up. He was an amazing general, he would swap sides between Sparta and the Athenians, and whatever side he was on that side would win.

Peloponnesian War, started because Athens and Sparta were two different countries and they were two very different types of government. The Spartans set Athens fields on fire which also started the war, and then Athens navy would guard the peninsula and sometimes raid parts of Sparta. Grain shipments were contaminated with plague, leading the people of Athens to get sick and would eventually die. It was estimated that one in four Athenians would die. Pericles and his sons died due to the plague. Mercenaries refused to fight for Athens and the Spartans refused to fight the Athenians in fear of catching the plague. Spartans during this time didn't receive any of the plague.

The culture and lifestyle of the Spartans was military based. Boys would be raised by their mothers until the age of seven. They then would be separated and be put into a school called Agoge. The school was set up like a military, they were trained to fight but would also learn to read and write. Their living quarters were set up like a barracks. The boys were often beaten, and were given little food so it would simulate what it would be like in battle. They were encouraged to fight each other because it would improve their hand to hand combat skills and reaction timing. Once the boys became 20 they would then be put in the Spartan army.

Girls also went to school at the age of seven. Their schools weren't as tough as the boys. The girls did train in athletics and exercise, it was important for women to have strong sons so the army would continue to grow. The girls have more education and freedom compared to other countries at the time. Boys were strongly encouraged to steal, but if they were caught they wouldn't get punished for what they stole but for allowing themselves to get caught. The men were required to stay in shape until they could retire which was the age of 60. Olympic Games, the type of games that they held consisted of boxing, chariot racing, long jump, javelin, discus, wrestling, pankration, and other equestrian events. The first written records of the Olympic Games was dated to 776 B.C. when Coroebus won the only event at the time a 192 meter footrace, it was called a stade. When the games were first held married women weren't allowed in to attend even as a spectator, and the only event at first was a 192 meter footrace. The ancient Olympic Games did end for Greece only for a while though because the Romans invaded Greece in 85 B.C. but the games continued just under Roman rule. The first Olympic Games were held in Olympia. The people who could attend were Greece and people who did not commit crimes, or their city state agreed to participate in the Olympic truce. The ancient Olympic games were

originally a festival or celebration held for Zeus. The victor of the Olympic Games would receive a crown made out of olive leaves and a statue would be made.

The Spartans are still one of the most fascinating military cultures to this day. The Marines have adopted the Spartans warrior mentality. In this paper the following has been addressed religion, technology, political and culture.

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