

# The Peloponnesian War: A Comprehensive History



## The History of the Peloponnesian War: With 18 Illustrations and a Free Online Audio File.

by Fugu-Fish Publishing

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

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The Peloponnesian War was a conflict fought between the Peloponnesian League, led by Sparta, and the Delian League, led by Athens. It lasted for 27 years, from 431 to 404 BC, and was one of the most destructive wars in Greek history.

## Causes of the War

The Peloponnesian War was caused by a number of factors, including:

- The growing power of Athens
- The fear of Sparta over Athens' growing power
- The rivalry between Athens and Corinth

- The outbreak of the Corcyraean War

## **Course of the War**

The Peloponnesian War can be divided into three phases:

1. The Archidamian War (431-421 BC)
2. The Peace of Nicias (421-415 BC)
3. The Ionian War (415-404 BC)

### **The Archidamian War**

The Archidamian War was named after the Spartan king Archidamus II, who led the Peloponnesian League into Attica, the territory of Athens, in 431 BC. The Spartans hoped to crush Athens quickly, but the Athenians were able to withstand the siege. The war dragged on for ten years, with neither side able to gain a decisive victory.

### **The Peace of Nicias**

In 421 BC, the Peace of Nicias was negotiated between Athens and Sparta. The peace treaty lasted for five years, but it was ultimately broken by the Athenians.

### **The Ionian War**

In 415 BC, the Athenians launched an expedition to Sicily to help their allies in the city of Segesta. The expedition was a disaster, and the Athenians were defeated by the Syracusans. The defeat of the Athenian expedition marked the beginning of the end of the Peloponnesian War. In 404 BC, Athens surrendered to Sparta, and the war came to an end.

## Consequences of the War

The Peloponnesian War had a profound impact on Greece. The war led to the decline of Athens and the rise of Sparta. It also led to the weakening of the Greek city-states, which made them more vulnerable to invasion by foreign powers.

## The Peloponnesian War in History

The Peloponnesian War has been studied by historians for centuries. The war is often seen as a turning point in Greek history, and it has been compared to other great wars in history, such as the American Civil War and the World Wars.

The Peloponnesian War was a complex and destructive conflict that had a profound impact on Greece. The war is still studied today by historians, and it continues to provide insights into the nature of war and the human condition.

## References

- Thucydides, The History of the Peloponnesian War
- Victor Davis Hanson, A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the World's First Superpower
- Donald Kagan, The Peloponnesian War



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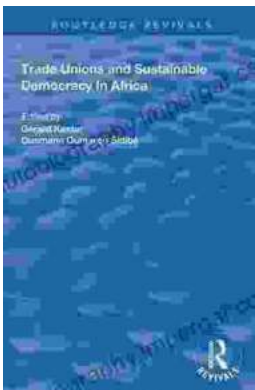
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