

C. The Life of a Spartan

1. Youth

- a) Male Spartans were raised by their mother only until age seven.
- b) They lived the rest of their lives in a “public school,” where they were prepared to become warriors through mostly *physical* education.

2. Manhood

- a) At age 20, a Spartan male “graduated.” He then joined a *platoon* of Spartan soldiers. He would spend most of his life with them for the next ten years.
- b) Only when a Spartan soldier had served in the military for ten years, he earned the right to join the government, and participate in the making of the laws.
- c) If he survived the next thirty years, he might be able to become an ephor or a member of the high aristocracy that served the kings and ephors.

D. The Life of Spartan Women

1. Spartan girls were also educated by the government, however they did not train to become soldiers. Spartan women had one role only: to manage the land of their families.
2. Spartan men and women did marry, however, the choice of a husband was made by a woman's father, or, if the father was dead, by the government.

E. The Essence of Spartan Government

1. Spartan government was part duarchy, part aristocracy, part other things. It even has a set of laws that every one had to follow, which we call a “constitution,” but there is one best term for its form of government.
2. Every stage of a Spartan's life (from birth!) was controlled by the government, or the “state.”
3. A system of government in which the individual must live for the state, which controls his life in the name of the “common good,” is known as “Communism.” This is the best term to use to describe Sparta.

F. The History of Sparta (c.776-c.500 BC)

1. Sparta conquered its neighbor Messenia in the First Messenian War (c.735-715 BC), and started to forge an alliance called the “Peloponnesian League.”
2. One way they made allies was to help aristocracies to regain control when they were kicked out of power by commoners and tyrannoi, as we saw in Athens. They did the same thing in Elis, Corinth, and Megara, which created a powerful alliance.
3. This alliance, which the Greeks called “Sparta and its allies,” was the most powerful military alliance in Greece by 500 BC.