

TIMELINE OF ATHENS DURING THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

	POLITICAL & MILITARY EVENTS	CULTURAL EVENTS
432	Revolt of Potidaea. The 'Megarian decree' passed at Athens. Peloponnesian League declares for war.	Phidias completes the Parthenon frieze and the pediments of the Parthenon; he dies soon after this date. Empedocles dies. Athens bans teaching of atheism.
431	<i>First year of the Peloponnesian War.—The Archidamian War (431-421).</i> Theban attack on Plataea (March). First Peloponnesian invasion of Attica (May) under Spartan Archidamus . Athens wins Soilion and Cephallenia; takes Thronion and Atalanta; expels Aeginetans from Aegina.	Thucydides begins work on <i>Histories</i> . Euripides: Medea (3rd), < <i>Philoctetes, Dictys</i> >
430	Plague strikes Athens (430-427). Second invasion of Attica. Expedition of Pericles to Argolis and failure at Epidaurus. Pericles deposed from <i>strategia</i> , tried, fined, and reappointed <i>strategos</i> . Phormio operates in the west.	Euripides: Heraclidae . Stesimbrotus writes critique of Athenian power, <i>On Themistocles, Thucydides, and Pericles</i> ; he will also compose important works on Homeric allegory and Orphic practices. The important Sicilian historian Philistus of Syracuse born.
429	Capitulation of Potidaea; Pericles reinstated and dies, who for more than thirty years has guided the policy of Athens. Peloponnesians besiege Plataea. Sea-victories of Phormio in the Corinthian Gulf.	Sophocles' Oedipus Rex and <i>Trachiniae</i> after this date (?). First performance of a comedy by Eupolis . Lysias moves to Thurii after death of father Cephalus , whose house is the setting for Plato's Republic
428	Third invasion of Attica. Revolt of Mytilene from Athens. Introduction of war tax (<i>eisphora</i>).	Euripides: Hippolytus (1st). Plato and Xenophon born this year or the next or the next. Anaxagoras dies in Lampsacus. Herodotus' Histories likely completed.
427	Fourth invasion of Attica. Surrender of Mytilene. Surrender of Plataea. Oligarchic revolution on Corcyra suppressed with Athenian aid. Athens captures Minoa. Expedition of Laches to Sicily. Aetolian expedition of Demosthenes . Battle of Olpae. Unsuccessful attempt by Athens to win Melos. Athenians purify Delos. End of the Athenian plague.	The visit and public speeches of Gorgias of Leontini (Sicily) to Athens promotes popularity of Sophism. Aristophanes < <i>Daitales</i> > (2nd), his 1st presentation; Eupolis < <i>Taxiarchoi</i> >
426	Foundation and occupation of Heracleia in Trachis by the Peloponnesians	Aristophanes < <i>Babylonians</i> > prompts lawsuit by Cleon .
425	Fifth invasion of Attica. Athenians send reinforcements to Sicily. Athenians occupy of Pylos and capture of Spartans on Sphacteria (August). Triumph of the democracy in Corcyra. Athens wins Anactonon, and occupies Methone. Athens more than doubles the tribute of her allies. Cleon introduces the <i>triobolon</i> for jurors. Cleon charges Laches of Aexonae with embezzlement. Congress of Gela.	Aristophanes: Acharnians (1st), his earliest comedy to have come down to us. The comic playwright Cratinus is active at Athens; Euripides: Andromache ; < <i>Thyestes</i> > predates this year.
424	Thucydides , as <i>strategos</i> , fails to relieve Amphipolis from Brasidas' attack; exiled. Athens wins Oeniadae; captures Nisaea, with the Long Walls of Megara, and Cythera. Reorganisation of the tribute assessment among the members of the Maritime League by Cleon (so-called Cleon assessment); occupation of Cythera by Nicias ; Brasidas' march to Chalcidice (autumn); Boeotians, using an improvised flamethrower, defeat of the Athenians at Battle of Delium, during which Alcibiades rescues Socrates; Congress of Gela. Revolt of Acanthus, Amphipolis; Peace of Callias renewed between Athens and Persia.	Herodotus dies; possibly in Thurii [420]. Aristophanes: Knights ; Euripides: Hecuba ; <i>Supplices</i> [421]; < <i>Helots, Erechtheus</i> >; Eupolis < <i>Golden Age</i> >
423	Negotiations for peace. One Year's Truce (March). Revolt of Scione. Leontini annexed by Syracuse.	Aristophanes: Clouds (3rd); Cratinus wins last comedic victory for < <i>Pytine</i> >
422	Battle of Amphipolis. Death of Brasidas and Cleon .	Aristophanes: Wasps , < <i>Proagon</i> >; Euripides < <i>Theseus</i> > performed before this date.
421	Peace of Nicias (March) ends the Archidamian War (431-421). Capture of Scione. Defensive alliance between Athens and Sparta.	Aristophanes: Peace (2nd) to Eupolis < <i>Kolakes</i> >. Construction of Erechtheum begins (421-405)
420	Alliance of Athens with Argos, Elis, and Mantinea. Treaty concluded between Sparta and Boeotia. Elis bans Spartans from Olympic Games	The sculptor Polycleitus , artist of the Doriphorus, flourishes during these years (420-417); Isaeus , rhetorician, speechwriter, and teacher of Demosthenes , born in Athens or Chalcis. Building of the Temple of Apollo at Bassae begins (420-400)
419		Antiphon: On the Choreutes .
418	Battle of Mantinea. Argos forms alliance with Sparta.	Euripides: Ion
417	Ostracism of Hyperbolus . Nicias in Chalcidice.	Antiphon: Against the Stepmother . Euripides: Electra [413?]; <i>Hercules furens</i> [421-415], first extant tragedy to show trochaic tetrameters.

416	Conquest of Melos. Embassy of Segesta to Athens.	Euripides: <i>Epitician</i> for Alcibiades' victory at Olympia. Agathon wins first tragic victory at Lenaea - the celebration of this triumph provides the setting for Plato's Symposium .
415	Mutilation of the Hermes. Athenian Sicilian Expedition begins. Recall of Alcibiades . Alcibiades defects to Sparta.	Euripides: < <i>Alexander, Palamedes</i> >, <i>The Trojan Women</i> . Andocides testified against mutilators of the Hermes; banned from Athenian temples and agora. Antiphon: <i>On the Murder of Herodes</i> . Sophocles: <i>Electra</i> [410s]
414	Athenian siege of Syracuse.	Aristophanes: <i>Birds</i> (2nd at Dionysia); < <i>Amphiaraus</i> > at Lenaea
413	Spartans occupy Decelea beginning the <i>Decelean or Ionian War</i> (413-404). Second Athenian expedition to Sicily. Great battle in the Syracusan Harbour (September 9). Destruction of the Sicilian Expedition; Council of Probouloi established at Athens	Euripides: <i>Electra</i> [417?]; <i>Iphigenia in Tauris</i> . Lysias expelled from Thurii; returns to Athens.
412	Revolt of Athenian allies. Treaty of Miletus between Sparta and Persia. Alcibiades leaves Sparta.	Euripides: <i>Helen; Phoenissae</i> [c. 412-408]; < <i>Erechtheus</i> >. Sophocles serves as <i>proboulos</i> . Eupolis dies; < <i>Demes</i> >.
411	Philosopher Melissus leads Samians to victory over Athenians. Persia begins to support Spartan navy. Battle of Syme (January). Revolt of Rhodes. Revolt of Abydos and Lampsacus (April). Assembly at Colonus and provision made for a new Constitution (May). Revolt of Thasos. Council of Four Hundred comes into office (early in June), and governs till September. Revolt of Euboea (September). Four Hundred overthrown and Polity established (September); the government in the hands of the Five Thousand.	Aristophanes: <i>Lysistrata</i> and <i>Thesmophoriazusae</i> . Thucydides: narrative of <i>Histories</i> breaks off in this year. Work on text continued after end of Peloponnesian War; continued by < Cratippus and Theopompus > and Xenophon's Hellenica . Hellanicus's Atthis likely published; first in line of Athidographers the runs to Philochorus in 3 rd BCE; his work <i>Victors at the Carneia</i> and <i>Priestesses of Hera</i> establish chronological framework utilized by later historians. Antiphon champions revolution; tried and executed. Andocides unsuccessful in attempt to regain civil rights.
410	Battle of Cyzicus. Restoration of Democracy at Athens. Athens decrees that a list of existing state laws be published (410-401)	[Pseudo-Lysias]: <i>For Polystratus</i> . Herodotus of Heraclea Pontica , author of rationalizing <i>Story of Hercules, Argonautica, Pelopea</i> , active. Demastes of Sigeum writes mythological work on heroes of Trojan War and <i>On Poets and Sophists</i> – first identifiable works of sustained literary criticism. Glaucus of Rhegium: <i>On the Poets and Musicians</i>
409	Athens recovers Colophon: loses Pylos & Nises. Invasion of Sicily by Carthage. Destruction of Selinus and Himera.	Sophocles: <i>Philoctetes</i> (1st prize)
408	Athens recovers Chalcedon and Byzantium. Warfare of Hermocrates in western Sicily.	Andocides unsuccessful in attempt to regain civil rights (<i>On his Return</i>) [407]. Euripides: <i>Orestes</i> ; travels to court of Archelaus in Pella. Aristophanes < <i>Plutus</i> >
407	Athens recovers Thasos. Alcibiades at Athens. Cyrus comes down to the coast. Death of Hermocrates . Foundation of Thermae. Lysander navarch.	
406	Battle of Notion. Alcibiades deposed. Battle of Arginusae Trial of the Generals. Capture of Acragas by the Carthaginians; ensuing Sicilian crisis leads to rise of Dionysius I . Conspiracy of reed-bearers at Chios.	Euripides dies in Macedonia; his last tragedies, from this year, are <i>Iphigenia at Aulis</i> and the <i>Bacchae</i> - likely performed in 405. The Erechtheum on the Acropolis of Athens is finished [405]
405	Lysander 'assistant' navarch. Cyrus called to Susa. Battle of Aegospotami (end of summer). Dionysius becomes tyrant of Syracuse; and makes peace with Carthage. Blockade of Athens (405-404)	Sophocles dies. The <i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> will be performed posthumously. Aristophanes: <i>Frogs</i> (1st at Lenaea); honored with 2nd presentation; < <i>Muses</i> > (2nd at Dionysia)
404	The Peloponnesian War ends with the victory of Sparta over Athens. Long Walls pulled down (April). Psephism of Dracontides (summer) and rule of the Thirty. Thrasybulus seizes Phyle (December). Alliance of Catane and Leontini. First expedition of Thirty against Thrasybulus . Death of Theramenes .	Thucydides: Projected end of <i>Histories</i> . Lysias property confiscated and his brother killed by the Thirty.
403	Lacedaemonian garrison at Athens. Second expedition against Thrasybulus (May). Thrasybulus seizes Piraeus. Battle of Munychia. King Pausanias at Athens. Fall of Thirty (September). Recall of Lysander . Revolt at Syracuse against Dionysius . Archonship of Euclides . Sicel war of Dionysius . Reduction of Naxos and Catane (403-400). Pay for Athenian assemblies (re-?)instituted [403-399]	The orator Lysias delivers <i>Against Eratosthenes</i> , one of his most famous speeches; opens schools [403-401]. Around this time Thucydides dies. Euclides adopts Ionian alphabet as official script in Athens. Andocides regains his civil rights.

KEY

[403-399]: date of even uncertain; range given.

(403-399): event lasted several years; range given.

<*Plutus*>: this work is lost.