

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Dates are approximate in some cases; all are before the common era.)

- Aeschylus**, Athenian poet and tragic playwright, probable author of *Prometheus Bound*; lived 525 to 456.
- Aesop**, legendary name given to an author of fables; the ones under his name were composed and collected over a period much longer than a human life; some of them come from the period of democracy.
- Alcibiades**, Athenian aristocrat and general, handsome, talented, and unprincipled; brought up as a ward of Pericles; proposed the Sicilian expedition, but on being charged with impiety escaped to assist the enemies of Athens; lived 450 to 404.
- Antiphon**, Athenian speechwriter and sophist, backer of the oligarchic coup in 411, critic of law as unnatural; lived 480 to 411.
- Archidamus**, one of the kings or hereditary war-leaders of Sparta; spoke against the war with Athens; took pride in Sparta's nonintellectual training system.
- Archinus**, the man who opposed Thrasylbulus' attempt to make citizens of the slaves who had fought to restore democracy.
- Aristogiton**, Athenian tyrant slayer, who with Harmodius cut down Hipparchus in 514, and was subsequently executed.
- Aristophanes**, Athenian poet and comic playwright, author of an attack on Socrates, the *Clouds*, produced in 423; lived 450 to 385.
- Aspasia**, brilliant, well-educated noncitizen who lived with Pericles, was mother to one of his sons, and apparently helped craft his speeches.
- Athenagoras**, Sicilian democratic leader, spoke of the power of democracy in war.
- Cleocritus**, Athenian herald of the Eleusinian Mysteries, spoke of the common background of men on the two sides of civil war, in 403.
- Clisthenes**, Athenian aristocrat and reformer, who called the *demos* to his side—the people—in a bid to outdo his aristocratic rivals; took first major steps towards democracy in 508.
- Cleon**, a leader in Athens after Pericles' death, one of the new politicians, known for his flamboyant style of public speaking.
- Creon**, in Sophocles' play *Antigone*, a ruler of Thebes who has tyrannical tendencies.
- Critias**, Athenian aristocrat and poet, cousin of the mother of Plato, a leader of the Thirty Tyrants; lived 460 to 403.
- Democritus**, philosopher who developed the theory of atoms, probable leader in early attempts at anthropology; lived in the fifth century.
- Demosthenes 1**, a general in the Athenian army outside Syracuse, colleague of Nicias; died in 413.
- Demosthenes 2**, Athenian statesman, spoke for democracy and warned against the threat of Macedonian tyranny; took own life to prevent execution by supporters of that tyranny; lived 384 to 322.
- Ephialtes**, democratic reformer, architect of fifth-century democracy, mentor to Pericles, murdered (probably by aristocrats) in 462.
- Euripides**, Athenian poet and tragic playwright, author of many plays supporting democratic ideas; lived 485 to 406.
- Gorgias**, traveling teacher of rhetoric and philosopher, came to Athens asking for help when his home city in Sicily was attacked by Syracuse; made strong claims for the power of expert public speaking; lived 483 to 376.
- Haemon**, in Sophocles' play *Antigone*, the son of Creon.
- Harmodius**, Athenian tyrant-slayer, who with his lover Aristogiton cut down Hipparchus in 514 and was himself killed by the tyrant's guards.
- Hermes**, in mythology, the messenger god who serves Zeus.
- Hesiod**, poet whose main themes were justice and the divine order; probably wrote in the seventh century.
- Hipparchus**, younger son of Pisistratus, ruled with his brother Hippias until murdered by Harmodius in 514.
- Hippias 1**, son of Pisistratus and tyrant of Athens from 527 to 510.
- Hippias 2**, traveling teacher and sophist, spoke of common human nature, visited Athens during Socrates' lifetime.
- Homer**, legendary poet of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.
- Nicias**, Athenian general and diplomat, opposed the war in Sicily, led the Athenian army gallantly in battle, but was afraid of the voters at home; lived 470 to 413.
- Pericles**, Athenian aristocrat and democratic leader, architect of the Athenian Empire and of the fee for jury duty; delivered the famous Funeral Oration; lived 495 to 429.

- Pindar, lyric poet, author of the famous line "Custom is king"; lived 518 to 438.
- Pisistratus, tyrant of Athens from 560 to 527 (with a brief interlude about 555); father of Hippias 1 and Hipparchus.
- Plato, Athenian philosopher, author of many dialogues featuring Socrates and others; an opponent of democracy; lived 429 to 347.
- Prometheus, in mythology, the giant who gave fire and technology to human beings.
- Protagoras, traveling teacher and sophist, active in Athens during the age of Pericles; one of the early anthropologists.
- Socrates, Athenian philosopher, tried and executed on charges of corrupting the youth and inventing new gods, in 399.
- Solon, Athenian poet and lawgiver, who lived about 640 to 560, and warned of the danger coming from Pisistratus.
- Sophocles, Athenian poet and tragic playwright, author of *Oedipus Tyrannus* and *Antigone*, 495 to 406.
- Theramenes, Athenian leader who played both sides in the civil wars and was killed by order of Critias for opposing the Thirty Tyrants (of whom he was at one time a member), in 404/403.
- Thersites, in Homer's *Iliad*, an ugly commoner who violates decorum by speaking up in Assembly and opposing the leadership.
- Theseus, legendary king of Athens and hero of the city.
- Thirty Tyrants, ruled Athens for 18 months, under Critias' leadership, in 404 to 403.
- Thrasylbulus, general who led democratic army against the Thirty Tyrants, in 403, and later wanted to make citizens of the slaves who fought by his side.
- Thucydides, general in the Peloponnesian War, exiled in 424 for a defeat that was not his fault; wrote the history of the war down to 411.
- Xenophon, soldier, philosopher, historian; carried on Thucydides' *History* under the title *Hellenica*, down to 362.
- Zeus, in mythology, the king of the gods.

First Democracy

The Challenge
of an Ancient Idea

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