

Name _____

Eurasian History Homework: Comparison of Ancient Athens and Sparta **Due:**

Directions: For Part I, read the text below and respond to the question. For Part II, go to the recommended website, complete the work related to the website and answer the prompts.

Rationale: Thus far we have looked at power and the transition of political systems in Ancient Athens. Now we will look at two contemporary but very different civilizations: Athens and Sparta. This homework was created to fulfill two purposes. The first part will prepare you for a discussion of proximal and ultimate causes for the differing evolutions of Athens and Sparta. The second part will prepare you for a discussion of the structure of each society and an evaluation of the two differing, yet contemporary, city-states.

PART I

From L.S. Stavrianos' *A Global History*:

"...Sparta [compared to Athens], in the southern Peloponesus, was the classic example of the opposite trend – away from democracy. About 1,000 B.C. the Dorian forefathers of the Spartans had overrun the rich valley of the Eurotas and reduced the native population to the status of *helots*, or serfs [they were essentially agricultural slaves]. Later in the eighth century the Spartans conquered the rich plains of neighboring Messenia, so they had no need for overseas expansion. But the price paid for their security was heavy and inevitable. Sparta was deprived of the economic and intellectual stimulus of foreign contacts and condemned to a static and rural existence. In addition, the Spartans were forced to organize their state along strict military lines to keep down the large subject [enslaved] population. Everything was subordinated to military needs: Only healthy infants were allowed to live, with the sickly ones left to die of exposure in the wilderness. From the age of seven, boys lived and trained in the barracks. Until age sixty all men remained under military discipline. Private life was all but abolished and luxury was frowned upon...."

"...Meanwhile the Athenians had been developing an altogether different type of society. Far from being a band of invaders camped amid a hostile population, the Athenians prided themselves on their status as native inhabitants of Attica [their city-state]....In contrast to Sparta...the evolution of Athens was toward increasing democracy. The burgeoning trade created a strong middle class that joined forces with the dispossessed peasantry and demanded political reform."

According to the text above, what were the primary causes for the differing evolutions of Athens and Sparta?

PART II

Please go to the following website:

<http://www.pbs.org/empires/thegreeks/educational/lesson1.html>

Scroll down until you find the chart that compares aspects of Athens and Sparta and use it to fill out the chart below. If there is one answer put a check in the appropriate box.

There may be some answers that you believe apply to both city-states. If so, please check both boxes.

<i>city--state</i>	ATHENS	SPARTA
Social Structure: Which had the largest slave-citizen ratio?		
Social Structure: Which had the largest total population?		
Government: Which was a limited democracy?		
Government: Which was a military oligarchy?		
Government: Which had two kings?		
Government: Which had an assembly?		
Social Structure: Which had citizens as the upper class?		
Social Structure: Which had foreigners as a working class?		
Social Structure: Which had slaves?		
Allies: Which was the leader of the Delian League?		
Allies: Which was the leader of the Peloponnesian League?		
Military Strength: Which had the strongest navy?		
Military Strength: Which had the strongest army?		
Lifestyle and Values: Which had militaristic values?		
Lifestyle and Values: Which had "the most" democratic values?		
Role of Women: Which limited women's role in politics?		
Role of Women: Which gave the most freedom to women?		
Education: Which system valued coral music?		
Education: Which valued athletics?		
Education: Which gave more education to girls?		
Education: Which gave the most education to boys?		

If you were transported back in time and had to choose which society to live in, which would you choose? Explain your reasoning. (Please remember your gender, class position, etc., when making your decision.)