Aim: How do the differences between Athens and Sparta highlight the diverse nature of the ancient Greek civilization?
DEFINE: DEMOCRACY & TOTALITARIANISM
“The fundamental motif through all the centuries has been the principle that force and power are the determining factors. All development is struggle. Only force rules. Force is the first law. . . . Only through struggle have states and the world become great. If one should ask whether this struggle is gruesome, then the only answer could be—for the weak, yes, for humanity as a whole, no. Instead of everlasting struggle, the world preaches cowardly pacifism, and everlasting peace. These three things, considered in the light of their ultimate consequences, are the causes of the downfall of all humanity.” -Adolf Hitler

“We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,* that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

-Declaration of Independence

Describe the meaning of these quotations.

Which political system does each quotation describe?
In groups of two you are to execute the following task:

- Each member has to read one document on Athens & Sparta.
- After the reading the document, you must complete one polis section on your worksheets.
- When you are finished you will teach & argue with your partners about your polis & decide if it was better to live in Athens or Sparta?

**Essential Questions:**

Describe which way of life was better & more progressive: the Athenian or Spartan?

What would you have done to improve Athenian & Spartan Life?

How do the differences between Athens and Sparta highlight the diverse nature of the ancient Greek civilization?
WHERE DO THESE IMAGES DERIVE FROM?
WHAT DO YOU THINK BOTH IMAGES ARE ILLUSTRATING?
DESCRIBE THE COMMONALITIES & DIFFERENCES THEY SHARE.
**LIFESTYLE / VALUES**

**ATHENS**
1. Democratic values
2. Participation in government a civic responsibility
3. Trading empire brought contact with many other cultures

**SPARTA**
1. Militaristic/Totalitarian values - government controls all aspects of society
2. Citizens were not permitted to own luxuries
3. Children were taught to respect elderly, women, and warriors
WHO DOES THE IMAGE REPRESENT?
ATHENS

1. DIRECT DEMOCRACY: Government directed by the people.
2. Elected officials including 10 generals, magistrates
3. COUNCIL OF 500: -citizens over 30 years of age; chosen by lot, fifty from each (demos) region; proposed laws to the Assembly
4. Assembly: Lawmaking body: all male citizens over 20 years of age; enjoyed full and final power.
5. Trial by jury

SPARTA

1. OLIGARCHY: Rule by few
2. Combination of different forms of government.
3. Two kings: led army
4. 5 Overseers: ran day-to-day operations of Sparta; had veto power.
5. Senate: 28 men over 60; elected for life; acted as judges; proposed legislation
6. Assembly: all Spartan males
WHERE DO THESE IMAGES DERIVE FROM? WHAT DO YOU THINK THE BOTH IMAGES ARE ILLUSTRATING?
ATHENS
1. FREEMEN: ARISTOCRATS, SMALL FARMERS, URBAN CRAFTSMEN & TRIREME ROWER
2. METICS - CAME FROM OUTSIDE ATHENS; NOT ALLOWED TO OWN LAND
3. SLAVES - LOWEST CLASS, NO RIGHTS, PROPERTY OF MASTERS

SPARTA
1. SPARTIATES - MILITARY PROFESSIONALS/ CITIZENS
2. OUTSIDERS - FREEMEN; ARTISANS, CRAFTSMEN, MERCHANTS
3. HELOTS - CONQUERED PEOPLES; TREATED LIKE SLAVES; OWED 50% OF PRODUCE TO SPARTIATES
“The father did not decide whether to raise a baby; rather he took it and carried it to some place called Lesche where the elders of the tribes sat and examined the infant, and if it was well built and sturdy, they ordered the father to rear it, and assigned it one of the nine thousand lots of land; but if it was ill born and misshapen, they sent it to the so-called ‘Apothetae,’ a chasm-like place at the foot of Mount Taygetus, thinking that any baby which was not naturally created at the very beginning to be healthy and strong was of no good either to itself or the state. Therefore the women used to bathe their newborn babies not with water but with wine, thus making a sort of test of their constitutions. For it is said that epileptic and sickly infants are thrown into convulsions by the unmixed wine and lose their senses, while the healthy ones are rather hardened by it, and given a strong constitution.”


1. What would happen to a baby that was deemed “unfit”?

2. What does this tell us about Spartan society?
WHO VALUED EDUCATION THE MOST, THE SPARTANS OR THE ATHENIANS?
ATHENS
1. Schools taught reading, writing and mathematics, music, poetry, sport and gymnastics. Ages 5-14 (wealthy went until 18).
2. Academies were set up to study philosophy, rhetoric, and ethics.
3. Girls were taught homemaking skills.

SPARTA
1. Boys: at age 7 they were taken from their parents and taught the art of war.
2. Had to steal to survive.
3. At age 20 males entered the military.
4. Girls: at age 7 they were reading and writing, gymnastics, athletics and survival skills.
Η ΤΑΝ Η ΕΠΕΙ ΤΑΣ
“Ι ΤΑΝ Ι ΕΠΙΤΑΣ”
CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THIS MEANS?
**ROLE OF WOMEN**

**ATHENS**
1. Women were kept at home.
2. Could not participate in athletics.
3. Some women held high posts at religious ceremonies.

**SPARTA**
1. Girls were educated.
2. Could participate in sports.
3. Goal was to produce healthy babies.
5. Enjoyed a great deal of freedom, could own and control their property.
6. Expected to protect land while husband was at war.
ROLE OF WOMEN IN SPARTA:

1. What do you see?

2. What does this picture tell us about the role of women in Spartan society?

"For it was not by imitating other states, but by devising a system utterly different from that of most others, that he [Lycurgus] made his country prosperous... he insisted on physical training for the female no less than for the male sex: moreover, he instituted races and trials of strength for women competitors as for men, believing that if both parents are strong they produce more vigorous offspring..."

(Xenophon, 4th century B.C., Constitution of the Lacedaemonians 1.3-1.4 translation provided in Fantham, 1994, 61)

1. What does this primary source tell us about the women in Spartan society?

2. Why did they want Spartan women to be in good shape?
Concluding Journal Entry

In two to three paragraphs please analytically answer the following question.

How can the social & political systems of Athens or Sparta be compared to China’s Chin & Han Dynasties & India’s Maurya & Gupta Dynasties?