



Democracy top to bottom:
462 – 450 BC



IAP in Ancient Italy

January 10-18, 2008

Informational Meeting:
Thurs., Sept. 27
5:15 pm



600 BC

NARROW OLIGARCHY

594

Reforms of Solon

508

Reforms of Cleisthenes

462-450

Reforms of Ephialtes and Pericles

450 BC

RADICAL DEMOCRACY



Ostraka

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RADICAL DEMOCRACY



Athenian Constitution 25

- For about 17 years after the Persian Wars the constitution in which the Areopagus was dominant persisted, though it gradually declined. As the masses increased, Ephialtes son of Sophonides became champion of the people, a man who appeared to be uncorrupt and upright in political matters. He attacked the council of the Areopagus. First he eliminated many of its members, bringing them to trial for their conduct in office. Then in the archonship of Conon (462/1) he took away from the council all the accretions which gave it its guardianship of the constitution, giving some to the council of 500 and some to the people and the jury-courts.

Plutarch, *Cimon* 15

When [Cimon] sailed out on campaign again, finally the many were unleashed, and overturned the established order of the constitution and the traditional observances which they had previously followed; and with Ephialtes as leader they took away from the council of the Areopagus all but a few of its judgments; and, making themselves masters of the lawcourts, they pitched the city into undiluted democracy.

Powers removed from the Areopagus in 462 BC

- *Eisangelia* – (roughly) impeachment
- *Dokimasia* – Scrutiny of candidates for office
- *Euthyna* – ‘straightening’, examination of accounts

Athenian Constitution 27

- Pericles was the first man to provide payment for jury service, as a political measure to counter the generosity of Cimon.

Raaflaub's 'democracy'

- '...through the Assembly, Council, and law courts, the demos, including *all* citizens of all classes, directly controlled the entire political process from election, deliberation, and decision-making to supervising the execution of decisions and the officials involved in doing so.'

Solon's Property Classes

Pentekosiomedimnoi	500 bushel men
Hippeis	300 to 500 bushels
Zeugetai	200 to 300 bushels
Thetes	less than 200 bushels