The Democratic Revolution

Image courtesy of Giovanni Dall'Orto.
Source: Wikimedia Commons.
'These victories of Cimon’s humbled the king’s pride so much that he undertook, in the terms of the famous peace, always to keep at least a day’s ride away from the Greek Sea.'

From *Greek Lives* by Plutarch. Translated by Robin Waterfield. © 2009 Oxford University Press.
Pericles
495-429 B.C.
Solon’s Economic Reform

The *seisachtheia* – ‘shaking off of burdens:

1. Cancellation of debt

2. Abolition of debt-bondage
Solon’s Constitutional Reforms

1. Creation of property classes
2. Creation of Council of 400 (Boulé)
3. Changes to eligibility and election of archons
# Solon’s Property Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Property Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pentekosiomedimnoi</td>
<td>500 bushel men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hippeis</td>
<td>300 to 500 bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeugetai</td>
<td>200 to 300 bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thetes</td>
<td>less than 200 bushels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Solon’s Legal Reforms

1. New code of laws
2. The *ho boulomenos* reform
3. Creation of a public court (*eliaia*)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>561/0</td>
<td>First coup of Pisistratus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>546/5 – 528/7</td>
<td>Tyranny of Pisistratus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>528/7 – 511/0</td>
<td>Tyranny of Hippias</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ostraka

Image courtesy of Giovanni Dall'Orto. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/).

Image courtesy of Giovanni Dall'Orto. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/).
The supremacy of the Areopagus lasted for about seventeen years after the Persian wars, although gradually declining. But as the strength of the masses increased, Ephialtes, son of Sophonides, a man with a reputation for incorruptibility and public virtue, who had become the leader of the people, made an attack upon that Council. First of all he ruined many of its members by bringing actions against them with reference to their administration. Then, in the archonship of Conon, he stripped the Council of all the acquired prerogatives from which it derived its guardianship of the constitution, and assigned some of them to the Council of Five Hundred, and others to the Assembly and the law-courts.
Powers removed from the Areopagus in 462 BC

- *Eisangelia* – (roughly) impeachment
- *Dokimasia* – Scrutiny of candidates for office
- *Euthyna* – ‘straightening’, examination of accounts
Pericles
495-429 B.C.
• Pericles was also the first to institute pay for service in the law-courts, as a bid for popular favour to counterbalance the wealth of Cimon.