

EARLY CITY-STATES—TIMELINE

ANCIENT GREECE—800 TO 500 B.C.

RISE OF SPARTA TO REFORMS OF CLEISTHENES

- 884 [Lycurgus](#) establishes the Laws of Sparta.
- 776 **First Olympiad.**
- 743-742 **First Messenian War:** Sparta conquers Messenia, enslaves Helots.
- 680 King Pheidon leads Argos to power, encourages Helots to revolt against Sparta.
- 685-668 **Second Messenian War:** Sparta reconquers Messenia.
[Aristomenes](#), Messenian hero, holds out for eleven years on Mt. Ira.
- 621 [Draco](#) writes down the Laws of Athens.
- 594 [Solon](#) **revises the laws of Athens to relieve debtors.**
- 561-510 [Pisistratus](#), and his sons rule as populist tyrants in Athens.
- 550 Pisistratus returns to power after his first exile.
Pisistratus patronizes the arts, reduces taxes, and makes Athens a center of culture.
- 528 Death of Pisistratus, power falls to his sons [Hippias](#) and Hipparchus.
- 514 Hipparchus is assassinated during Panathenaic festivities.
- 510 **Sparta helps drive [Hippias](#), tyrant of Athens, out of the city.**
- 508 [Cleisthenes](#) makes democratic reforms to laws of Athens.
- 538-522 [Polycrates](#) reigns as tyrant of Samos.
- 540 [Pythagoras](#), renowned mathematician and philosopher, teaches in Samos.