

2020-01-31 - Lecture 11

4.2 Shift from *Classical Greece* toward *Hellenistic Greece*

- 1) How did Greece get to this point?
 - Sparta won the Peloponnesian Wars (431-404 BCE) defeating Athens in 404 BCE
 - Sparta dominates other city-states by oligarchy by force. Democratic Athens greatly diminished. City-states do not like it. Sparta doesn't last long.
 - Thebes defeats Sparta 371 BCE and dominates Greece.
 - Macedonia (farther north), considered by Greeks to be a second-rate tribe, conquers Greece under Philip II in 359 BCE, and he rules to 336 BCE when he is assassinated.
 - **Alexander the Great** comes to power and rules until his death in **323 BCE**

- 2) **Hellenistic Greece** is the period of history when **Greek philosophy, culture, art, architecture, and science was spread to the far ends of the known world** - throughout the Mediterranean region and western Asia.
 - **Hellenistic Greece 330-30 BCE**. It begins just prior to Alexander (Tomb of Mausolus) and extends until the Roman conquest, covering Alexander's rule, as well as the rule of his successors.

After the death of Alexander, his empire was dispersed to four of his principal generals, thus naming the four successor dynasties:

Antigonid Dynasty (Antigonus I asia minor retreats to Macedon)
Seleucid Dynasty (Seleucus in Babylon and Persia)
Ptolemaic Dynasty (Ptolemy in Egypt)
Attalid Dynasty (after death of Lysimachus took control of Pergamon)

- **Hellenistic Greece** was not based on democracy and debate as Classical Greece was. *Hellenistic Greece* occurred under the aegis of monarchical and oligarchical rule, the rule by very few wealthy kings and emperors. It still involved infighting, slavery, domination by force, and imperial trappings and status.

That said... cultural advances during **Hellenistic** times were great:

Euclid - developed geometry (Euclidean geometry)
Epicurus - developed Epicureanism
Zeno - developed Stoicism
Archimedes - calculated π and invented Archimedean Screw
Eratosthenes - calculated the circumference of the earth

- **Hellenistic Greece's** art shifted from concepts of the **ideal** to the **real**
 - **Hellenistic Greece's** architecture shifted from **ideal systems** of classical architecture, which represented Athenian democratic political ideals, to representations of more **imperial** arrangements and systems, that symbolized the central authority of the ruling class. Thus, **Hellenistic architecture in broad terms might be thought of as more flamboyant, more grandiose, more extravagant.**
- 3) **Examples of Hellenistic architecture**
 - **Tomb of Mausolus in Halicarnassus** - a 140-foot tall square-based tomb, which grew to symbolize all subsequent such architectural tombs, thus leading to the use of the word **mausoleum** to represent them. Its base element had square piers, lots of flamboyant statuary, on a rusticated base. Its upper portion was a *peripteral array* of ionic columns, that was rather fancy, but still was a clear display of classical architecture.
 - **Acropolis of Pergamon c 250 BCE** - Attalid Dynasty in Ionia. The Acropolis of Pergamon was a citadel (fortified city) founded in several levels. The upper level was for its rulers; the next level down (30 feet) was the precinct of the Temple of Athena (with a replica of the Athena statue from the Acropolis of Athens); the next level down (80 feet) was great Altar of Pergamon; the next level down (45 feet) from there was the Pergamon *agora*.

Pergamon was excavated by the Germans in the 1870s and thus many artifacts are in a German museum, including the Altar of Pergamon - the hub of the royal city. Its architecture is definitively Greek in its language, yet is arranged in a more grandiose fashion. It's not simple and ideal like the Acropolis of Athens.

- **Colossus of Rhodes - c 280 BCE.** 100-foot tall statue of Helios in bronze to commemorate a Rhodian victory over a Macedonian King Demetrius. Fell down in an earthquake 54 years later. Much myth and speculation surrounds the statue, including the actual form that it took.
- **Athena Lindia at Rhodes - c 300 BCE.** A Doric temple built in a rocky natural setting, where Alexander supposedly made sacrifices.
- **City of Alexandria -** Founded by Alexander in **332 BCE. A great center of Hellenistic civilization** after the conquest of the Achaemenid (Persian) Empire. It was the capital city of the (later) Ptolemaic Egyptian Empire.
- **The Lighthouse of Alexandria -** Probably built by **Ptolemy** c 285-246 BCE
Partly destroyed by earthquake of 956 CE and then again in 1303 CE
- **The Library of Alexandria -** Probably built by **Ptolemy** c 285-246 BCE
May have been destroyed in part by Julius Caesar during the siege of Alexandria in 48 CE (Plutarch). May have been destroyed by Muslim Caliph Umar about 641 CE because the contents of the library were either redundant or contradictory to the Quran and therefore could be destroyed. Neither theory can be proven.