

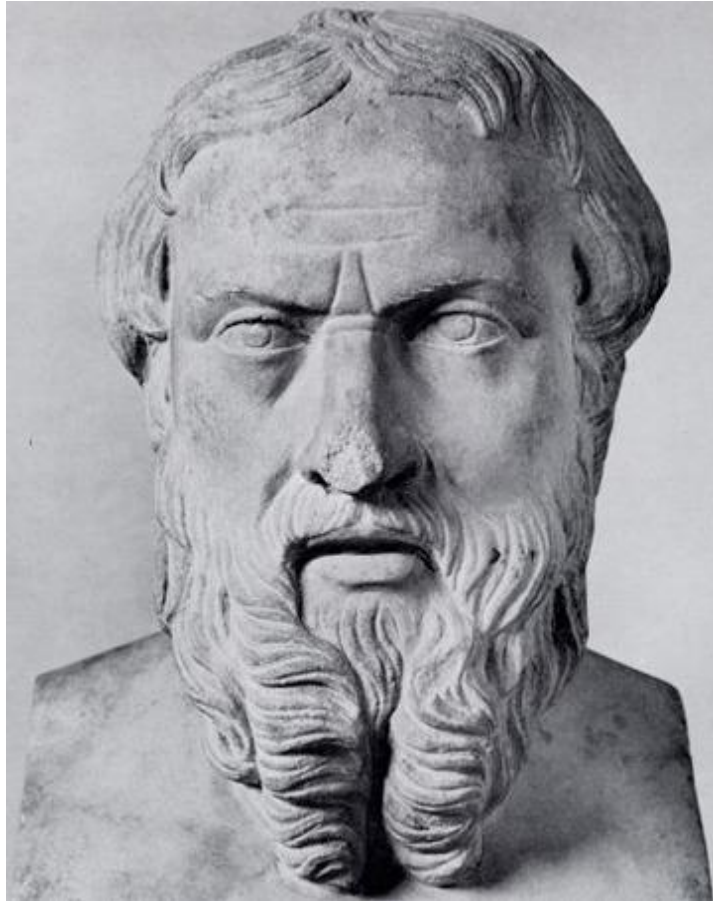


Why does War Happen?

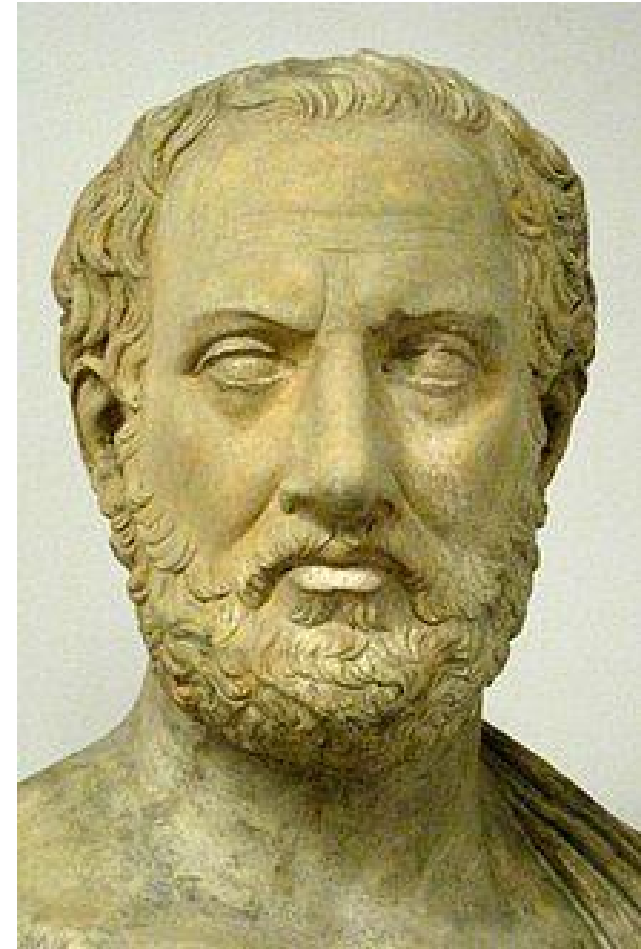
An examination of the Thucydides Trap



To understand the present, we must learn from the past.



Herodotus (484-425 BC)



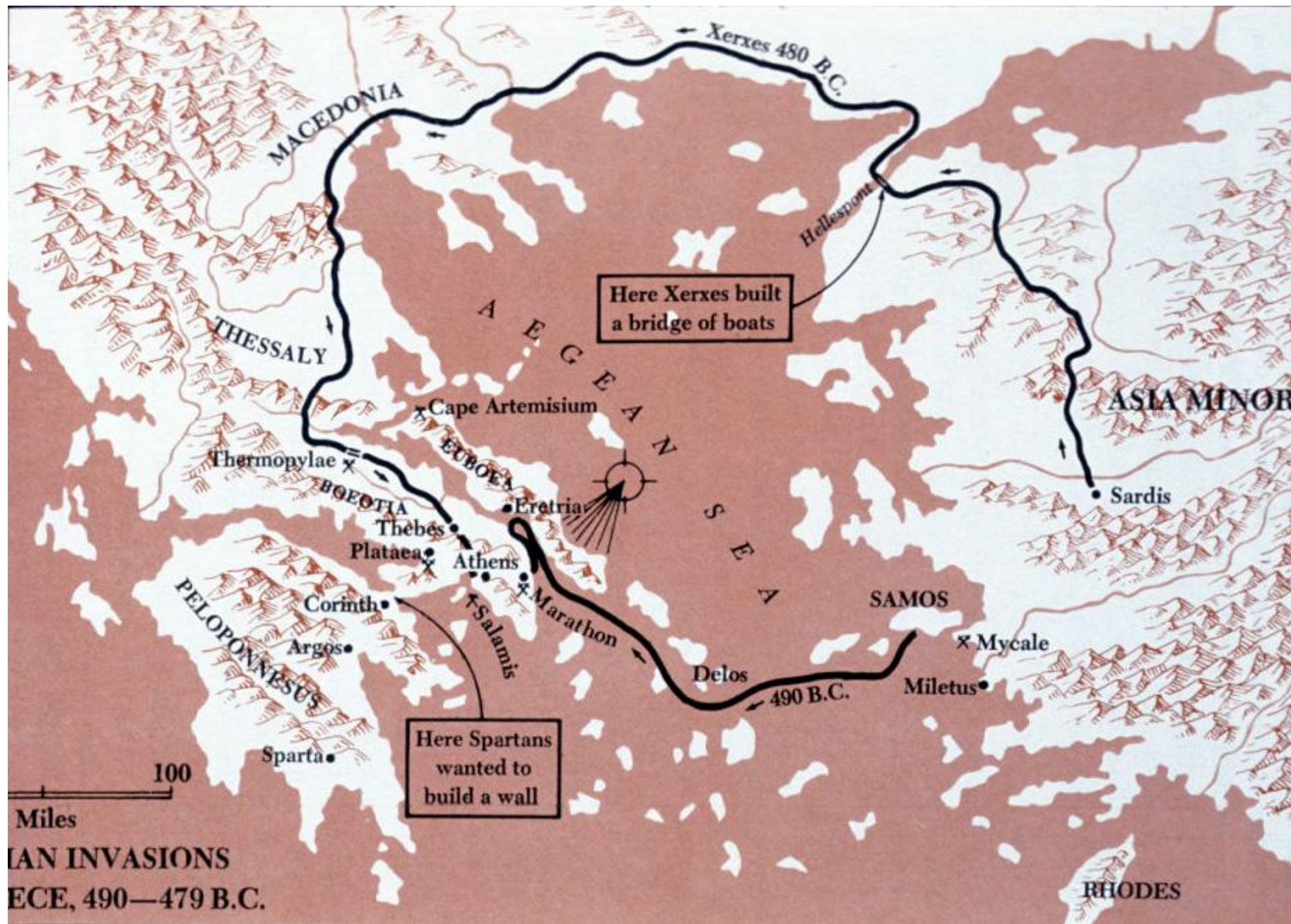
Thucydides (460-400 BC)



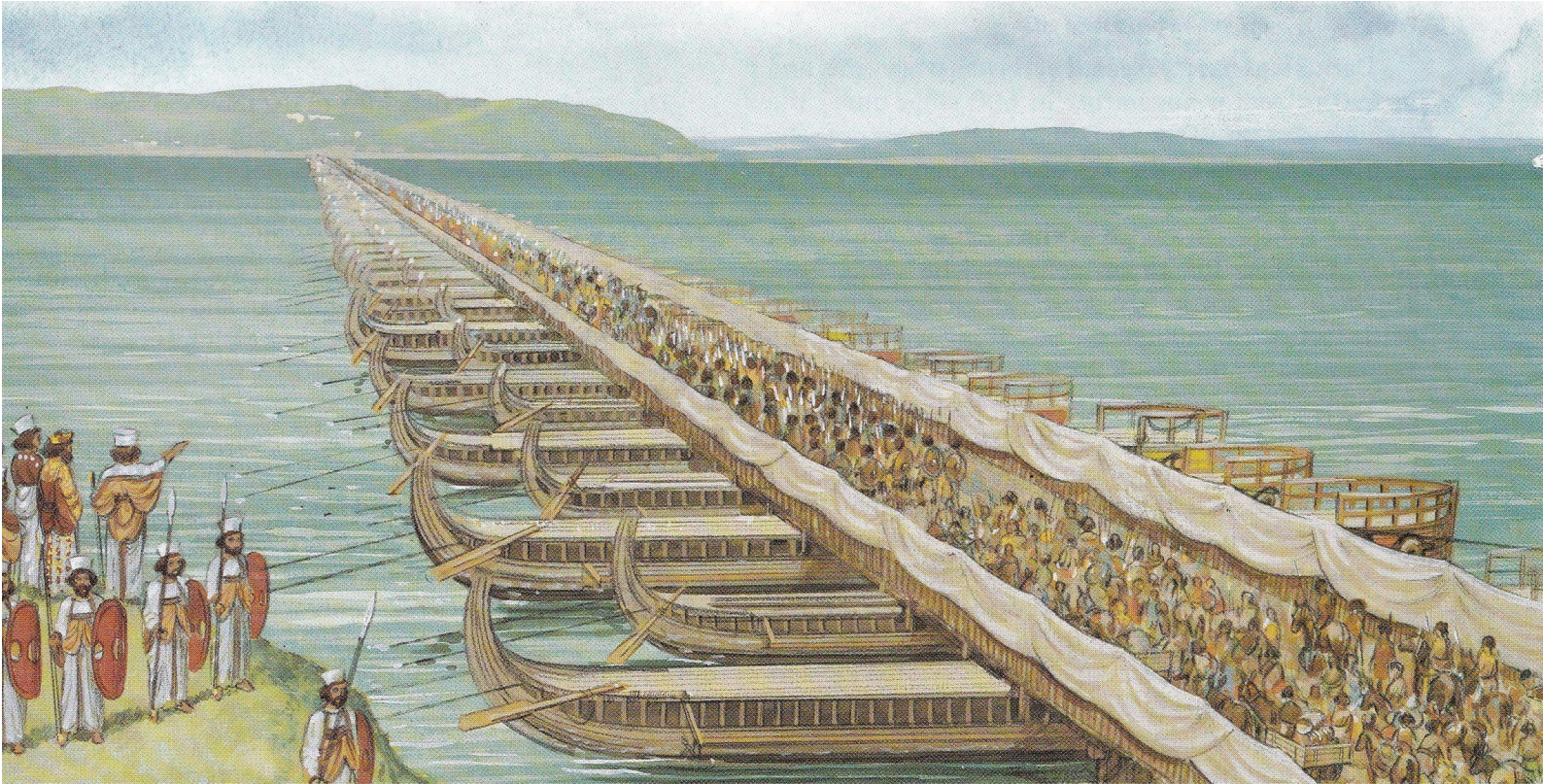
Der arme Sänger
Aquarell von Matthäus Kern, 1841



Roman mosaic, still in situ, Piazzale delle Corporazioni, Ostia Antica.



<https://www.usu.edu/markdamen/1320hist&Civ/chapters/02HEROD.htm>



CONNOLLY/AETHON

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/455356212310598268/>



<http://www.the-persians.co.uk/xerxes2.htm>



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The New York Times

ARCHIVES | 2001

Persian Canal Discovery Is Testament to Ancient Engineering Skills

By YUDHLIJIT BHATTACHARJEE NOV. 13, 2001

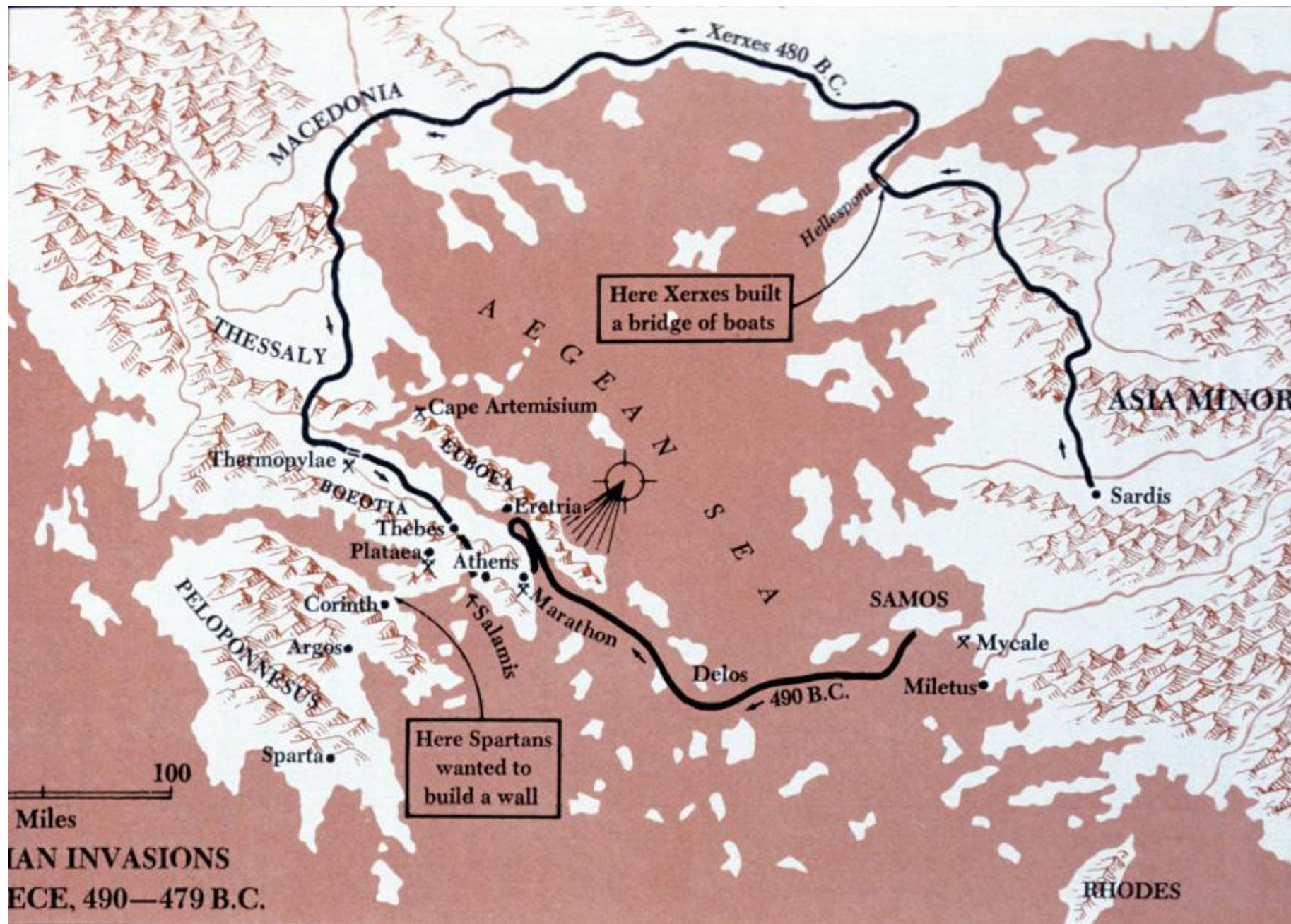


In 480 B.C., King Xerxes of Persia ordered his men to build a canal a mile and a quarter long through a peninsula in northern Greece -- conceivably one of the biggest engineering assignments of its time.

The canal was critical to Xerxes' plan of invading Greece, a goal that his general, Mardonius, had unsuccessfully attempted 12 years earlier. Mardonius' fleet was destroyed in a storm while sailing around the tip of the peninsula, and Xerxes wanted to avoid a similar setback by building the canal.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/13/science/persian-canal-discovery-is-testament-to-ancient-engineering-skills.html>

<https://www.world-archaeology.com/features/xerxes-canal/>



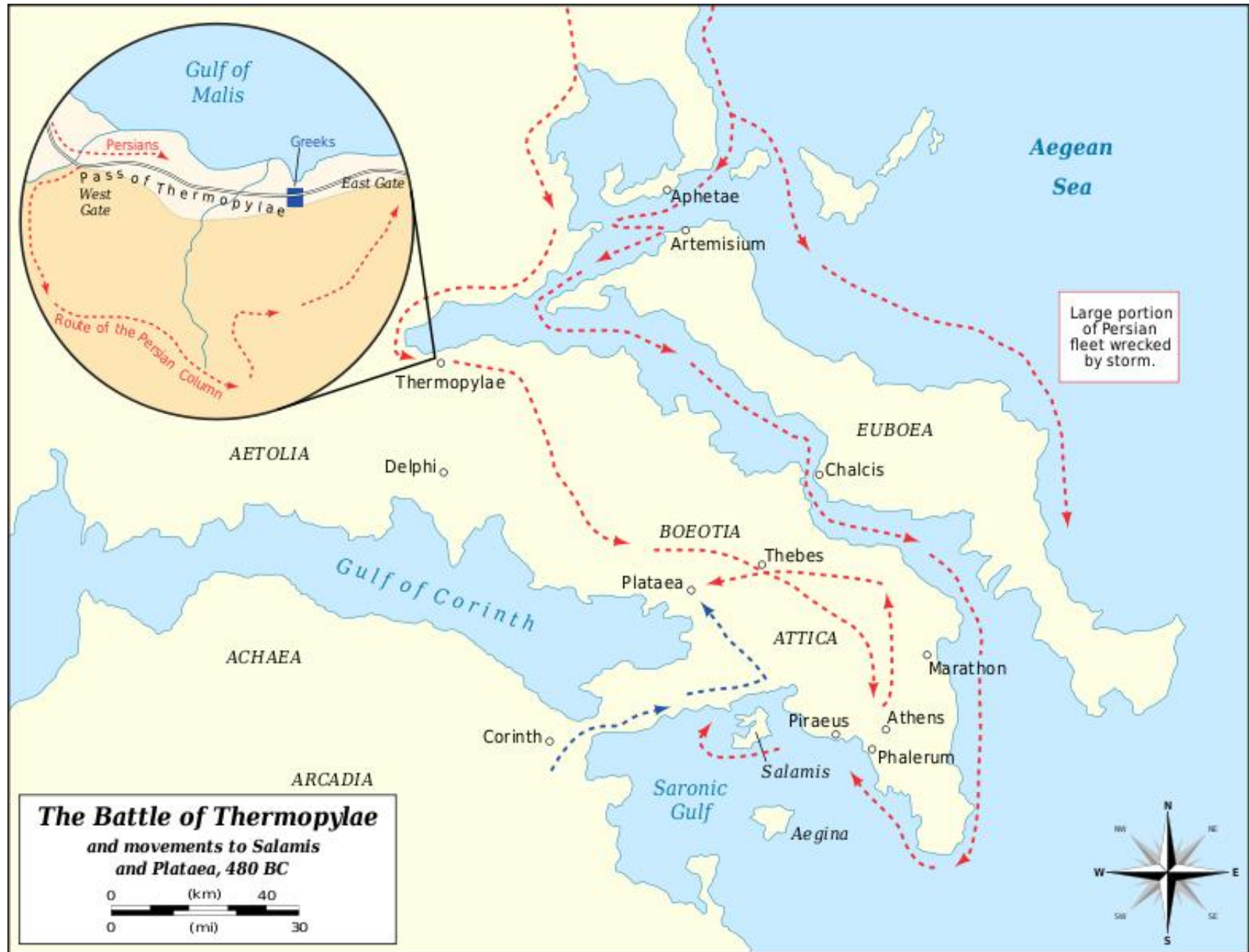
<https://www.usu.edu/markdamen/1320hist&Civ/chapters/02HEROD.htm>



From IMDB



<https://associatesmind.com/2013/06/25/the-great-conversation-battledebate-strategy-force-equalizer/>





Pentecontaetia (Interbellum)

- Fall of Themistocles and Pausanias
- The reign of Cimon, followed by Pericles
- Alliance with Megara leads to war with Sparta
- After lots of fighting, 30 year peace treaty between Athens and Sparta





What now?

The Thucydides Trap

“The growth of the power of Athens, and the alarm which this inspired in Lacedaemon, made war inevitable.”

(Thucydides Book 1 Chapter 3)

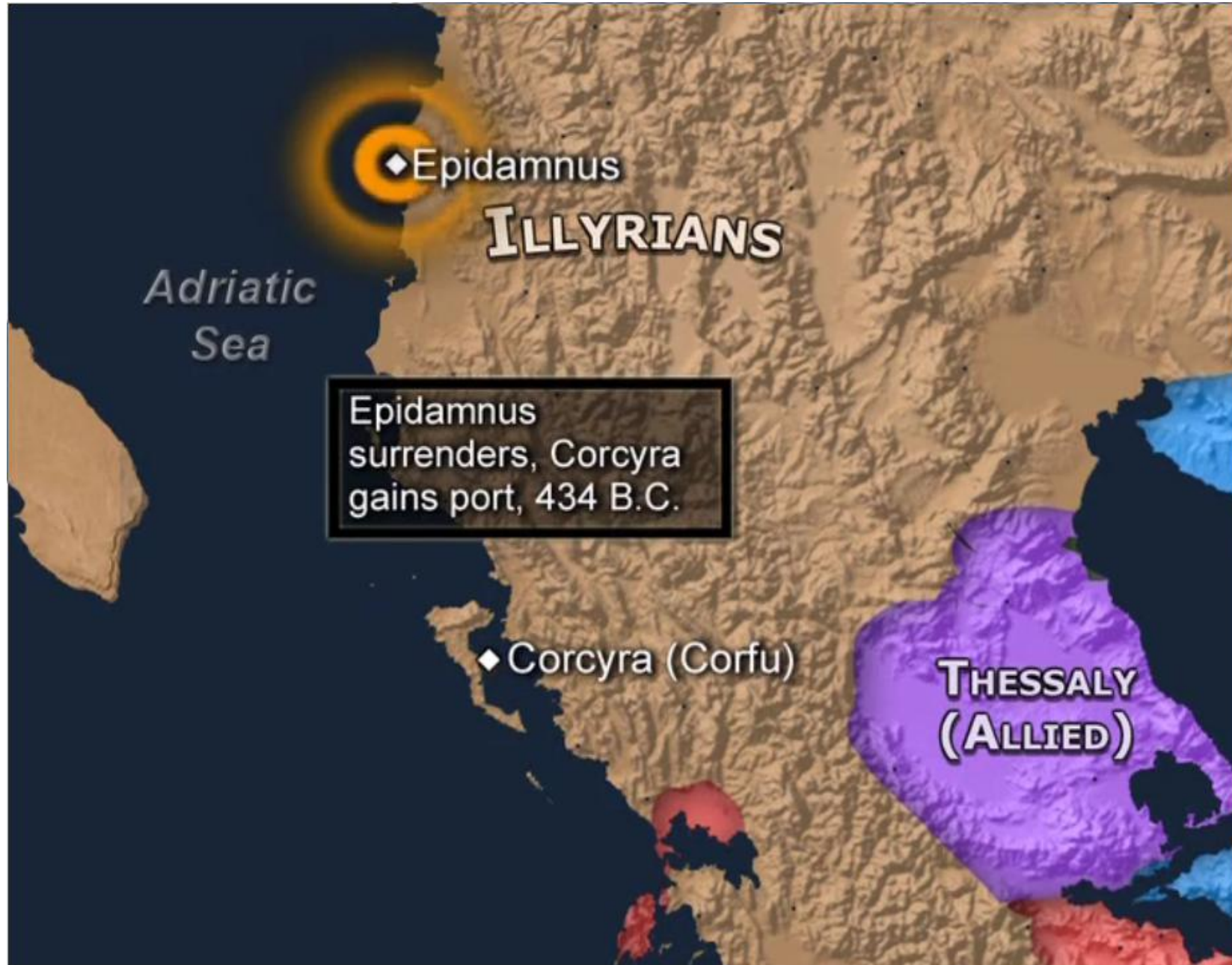


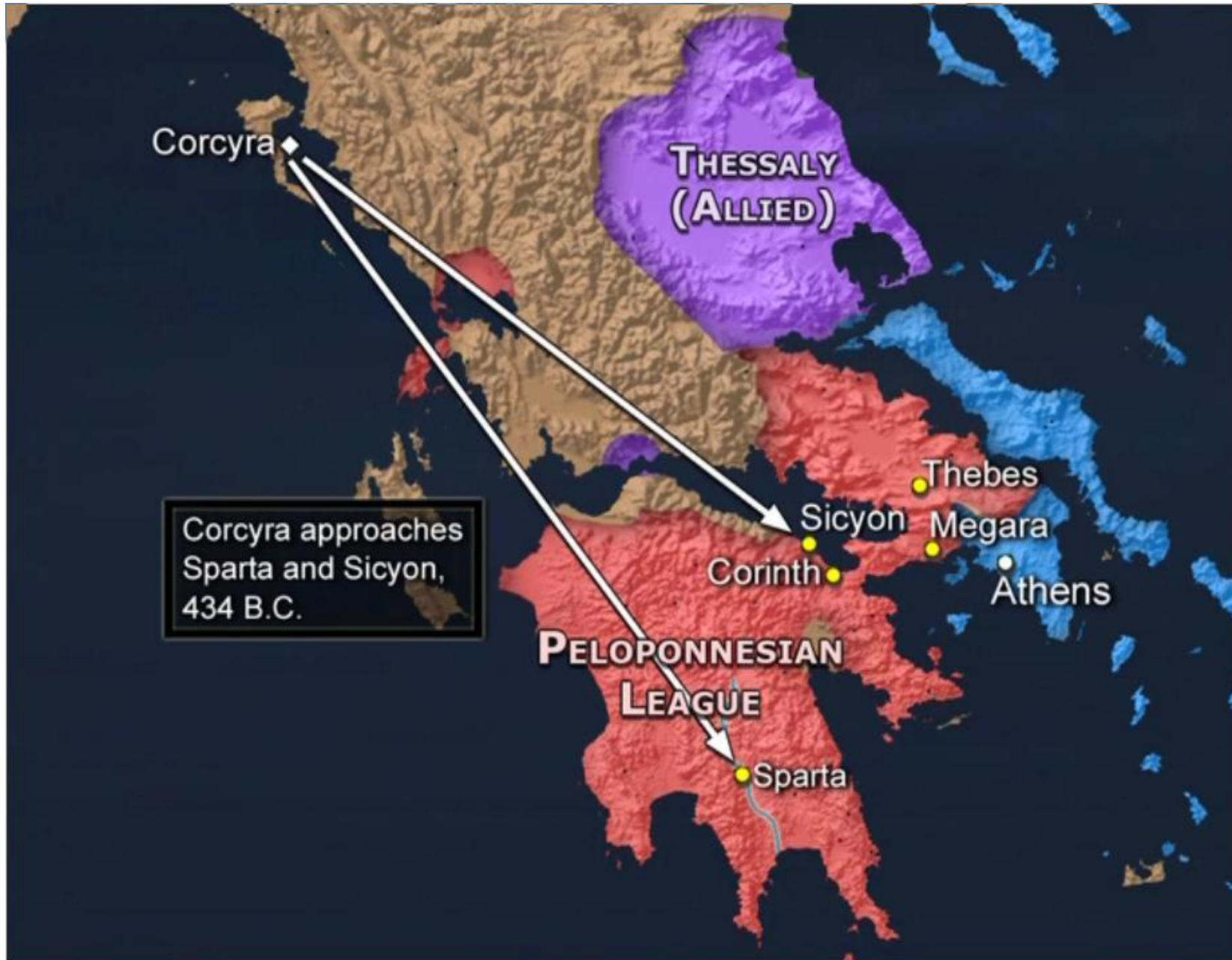
Related Images from The Teaching Company course "The Peloponnesian War" by Kenneth Harl















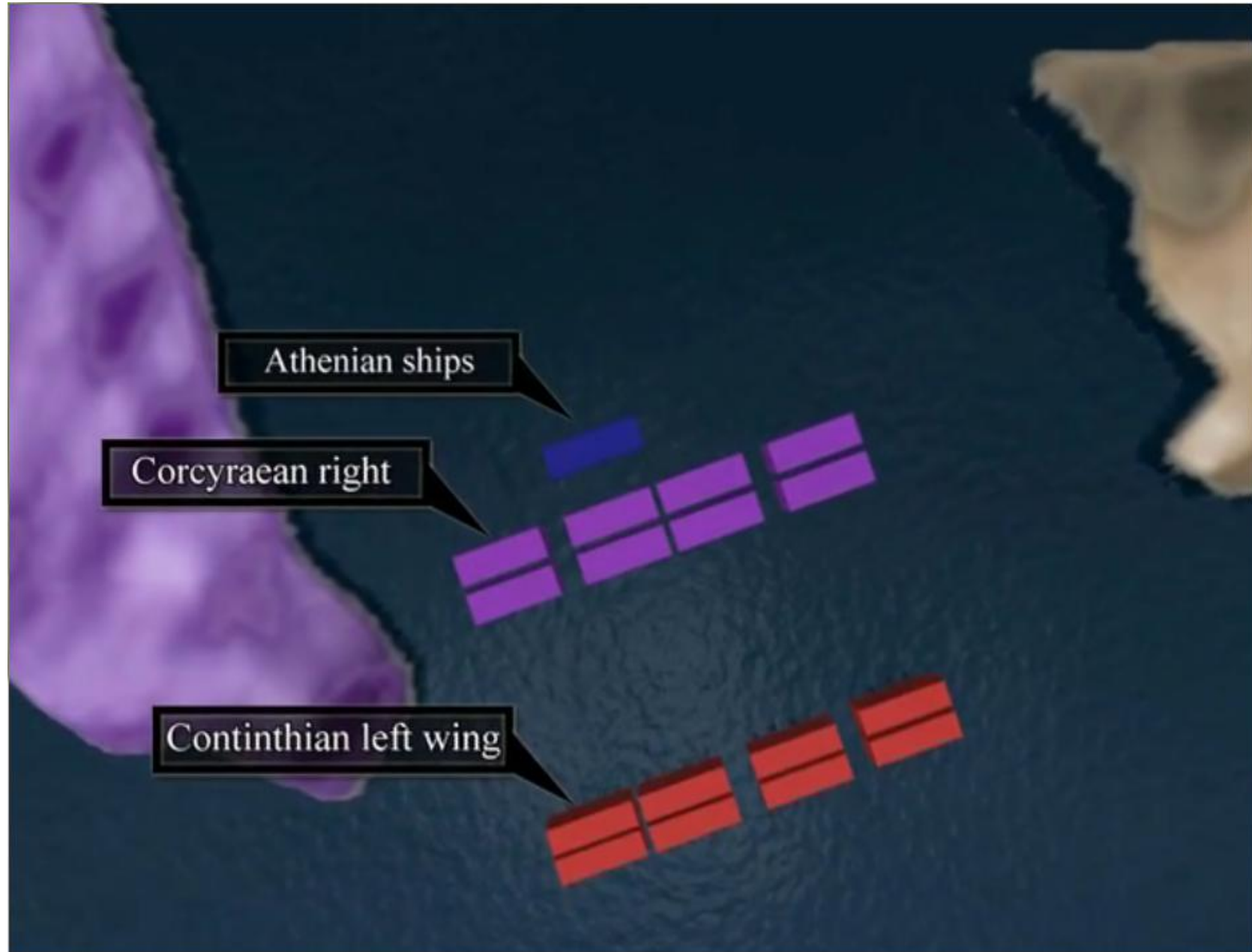
Video from “The War that Never Ends”



Reasons this was an issue

- Peace treaty between Sparta and Athens
- Megaran decree
- Naval power of Corinth and Cocyra
- Trade route to Sicily
- Trade route to Hellespont
- Mutual respect of sovereignty







Points for Reflection



- Principles vs necessity



Points for Reflection

- Principles vs necessity
- How **should** we handle power?



Points for Reflection

- Principles vs necessity
- How **should** we handle power?
- What is a war?



Points for Reflection

- Principles vs necessity
- How **should** we handle power?
- What is a war?

Primary takeaway from this talk:

War is complex, and sometimes there is no winning move.



Sources used

- The Histories by Herodotus
- History of the Peloponnesian War by Thucydides
- Herodotus: The Father of History* by Elizabeth Vandiver
- Peloponnesian War* by Dr. Kenneth Harl
- Thucydides Lectures at St. John's College by Leo Strauss
- <http://bookcents.blogspot.com/2011/02/peloponnesian-war-summary.html>

* Lecture series from The Teaching Company



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