History of the Peloponnesian War Thucydides 431 BC $Book\ 1$

Chapter 1

The State of Greece from the earliest Times to the Commencement of the Peloponnesian War

Motivation of Thucydides



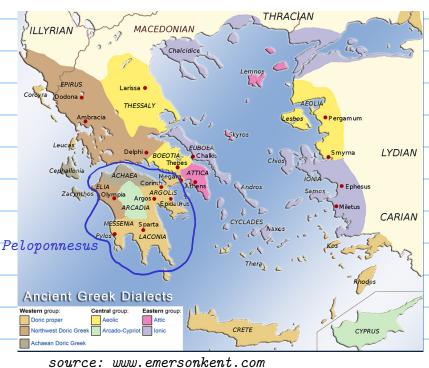
"This was going to be the greatest movement yet not just in the Hellenic history, but also in a large part of the barbarian world."

Why?

* Heavy preparations from both sides (the Peloponnesians and the Athenians)

* rest of the Hellenic races taking sides in the quarrel source: commons.wikimedia.org

Ancient, Ancient Hellas



Lands with rich soils

Boeotia, Thessaly, most of Peloponnese (Arcadia excepted) etc.

Lands with poor soils

Attica, Arcadia etc.

Fertility of these regions became the very reason for their instability.

- * invited invasions, internal strife and creation of factions
- * frequent migartions under the pressure of superior numbers

⇒ no settled population in the fertile lands!

and hence no large, planned cities

The victims of these conflicts took refuge in the region of Attica, since its poor soil ensured some stability.

And whenever the population of Attica increased to a height, they would send out colonies to Ionia.

