

# 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.

source: [www.emersonkent.com](http://www.emersonkent.com)

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

- \* invited invasions, internal strife and creation of factions*
- \* frequent migrations 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.*

