



Erasmus+

**ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ**  
ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟΣ ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ - ΝΗΠΙΑΓΩΓΕΙΟ



**ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ**  
ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΟ-ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΟ-ΛΥΚΕΙΟ

# Legal system in ancient Greece

**Justice Enforcement Order, Offenses and Sanctions  
In the Ancient Greek Era**



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Cities-States

*The dominant political and social form of organization in ancient Greece*



- participation in welfare

- leading a prosperous and virtuous life

*Aristotle: an ancient Greek philosopher*

# Characteristics of the city - state

✓ the urban center and the countryside

✓ recognition of citizenship

oligarchy, democracy, tyranny

✓ state institutions

assembly, parliament or senate, officials



# Who did not have rights in ancient Greece?

## The woman

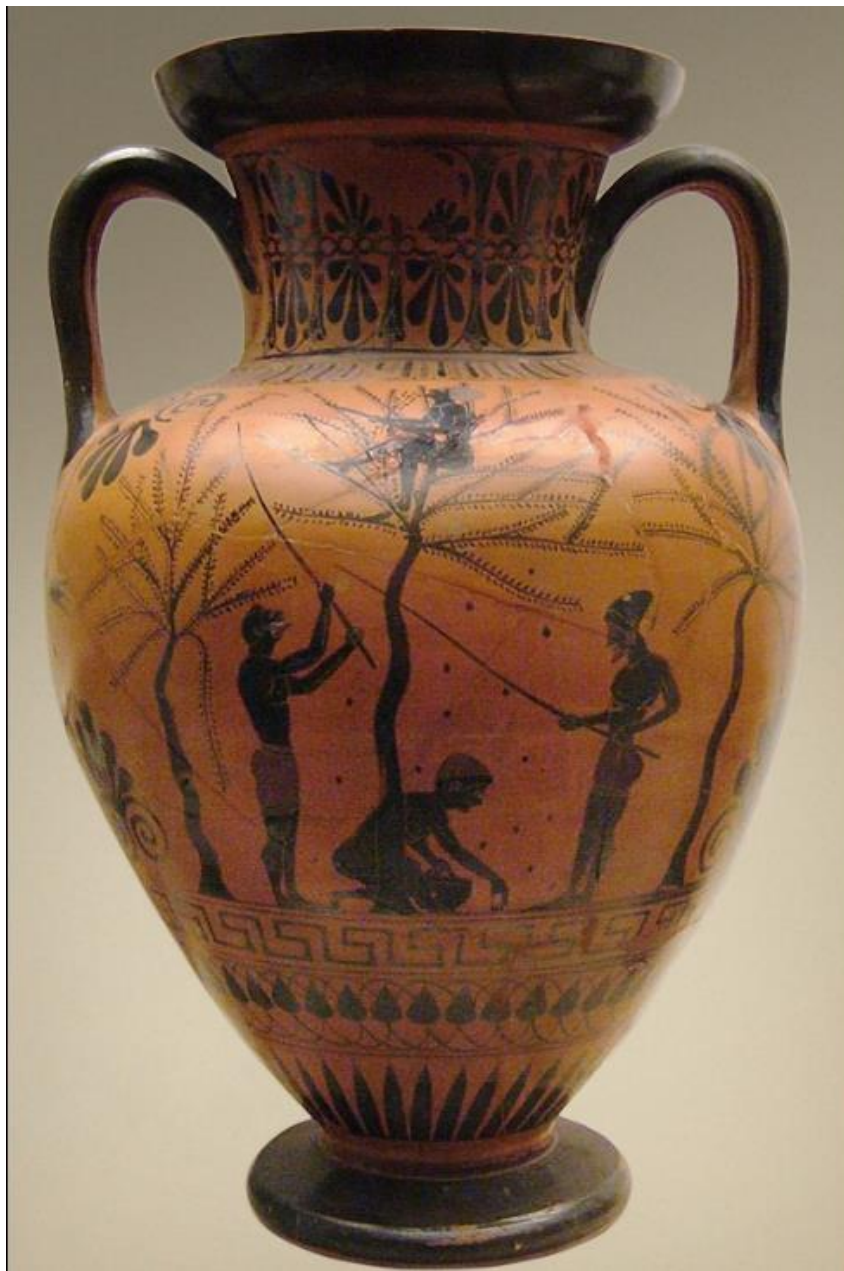
She has no power, not even on her very own existence

## The slave

The testimony of a slave had no legal force



*Women as a spoils of war: after the conquest of Troy, Aia the Locros raped Cassandra. Red-and-white kylix, 440-430 B.C. Louvre.*

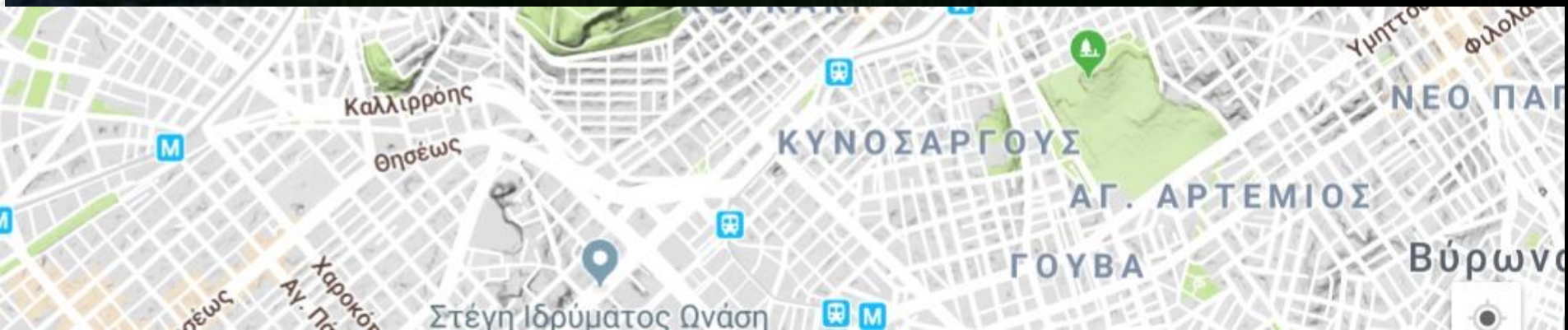


*Olive tree collection scene by young slaves men. Attic black-figure amphora of Zografos of Anteni, 520 B.C.  
British museum*

# State instruments (Athenian democracy)

## Church of the Municipality

1. All citizens could participate; but had to reach 20 years of age
2. Direct democracy
3. The meetings took place on the hill of Pnyx



*Pnyka is the location - the area where the Church of the Municipality, the Assembly of the Athenians, was convened in Ancient Athens from the 6th century to the end of the 4th century BC*



## **Areios Pagos**

- 1. Maintained an oligarchic character; could participate only those who had served as rulers,**
- 2. However it lost its political powers(462 B.C.)**

## **Parliament**

- 1. Five hundred members**
- 2. It introduces laws accompanying the draft laws subjected to voting in the assembly**

## **Officials**

**The choice of the leaders was made by election or draw**

# Rules of law

1. Conducted by people and not by gods,
2. There was a wide variety of issues that were being regulated,
3. To some cities lawmaking was conducted by individuals or groups of people.

# Athenian courts

## Areios Pagos

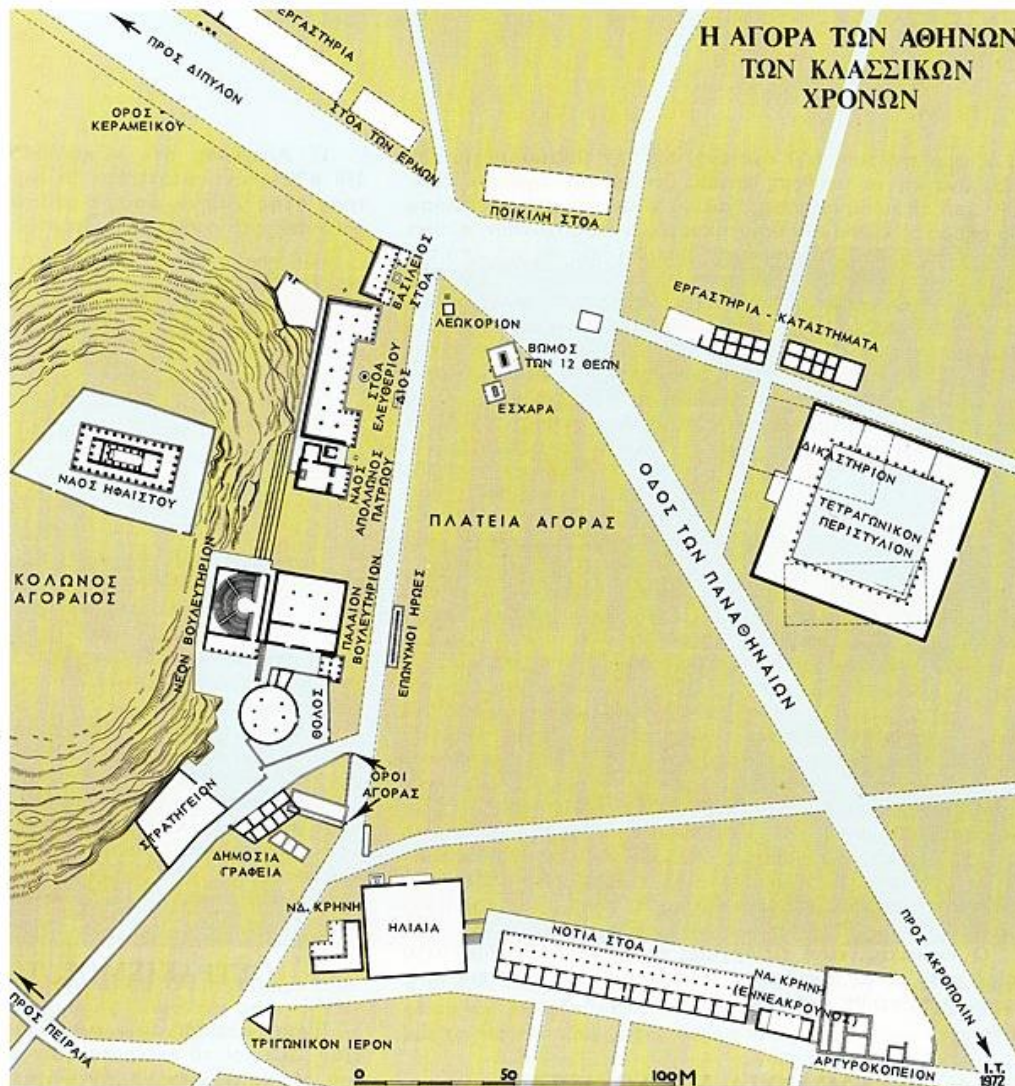
*the oldest and most prominent court in Athens*



*Areios Pagos, from the Acropolis.*

# The Heliaia

*There were several groups of judges (judicial compositions), who were judging cases according to the official who entered the court*



# The “killer” courts

## Prosecution of different types of homicide

- *Areios Pagos*
- *Palladion*
- *Delfinion*
- *An Freati*
- *Pritanion*

**1. Women and children could participate in the justice process through their guardian (main).**

**2. The slaves could not attend.**

# Legislation of Dracon in Athens (about 624 B.C.)

1. He was the first who recorded the laws in Ancient Athens under the command of the Athenians,

2. excessive severity of his sentences:

*The punishments were particularly harsh, for insignificant offenses, such as the theft of an apple or he even had laziness to be punished with death.*



***Draco, the first lawmaker of Athens***



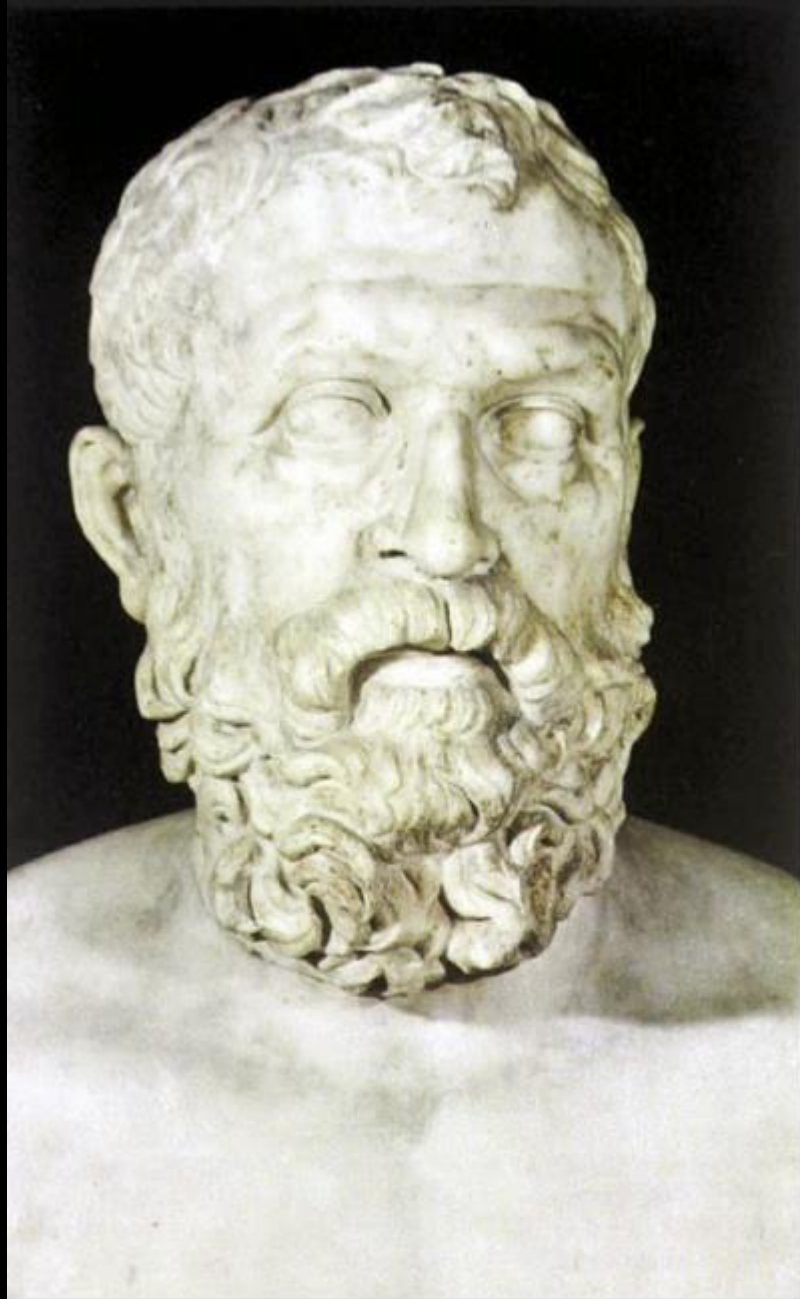
# The reforms of Solon

1. He was elected chief of the municipality of Athens not by the Areopagus, as provided by the Athenian constitution of the time

## 2. *Seisachtheia*

➤ He liberated those Athenians who had become slaves due to their to Athens.

➤ He brought back to the city those who had in the meantime been resold abroad.



*Solon: lawmaker, poet, and one of the Seven Wise Men of ancient Greece*

**All successive laws - resolutions –  
were based on these  
laws (constitution).**