



# THE BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE

## The Battle of Thermopylae

### ΒΑΚΚΕΤΟΡΥ Backstory

The Persians were a great power in the ancient world. They were known for their military strength and their ability to conquer many lands. In 480 BC, the Persian King Xerxes led a massive army of 250,000 men to invade Greece. The Battle of Thermopylae was a crucial battle in this invasion.



### ΔΟΞΑΤΙΟΝ Location

Thermopylae was a narrow strip of land in central Greece. It was a natural choke point, making it an ideal location for a battle. The Persians had to pass through this narrow pass to reach the rest of Greece.



"The Great King Xerxes' arrows will block the light of the sun."  
- A Persian herald

"All the better, we'll fight in the shade"  
- Diemenes



"Lay down your weapons!"  
- Persian messenger

"ΜΟΛΩΝ ΑΒΕΙ"  
("Come and take them!")  
- Leonidas



### ΒΑΤΤΑΛΕ Battle

#### Before the Battle

Before the battle, the Greek army was small and outnumbered. However, they were determined to fight and defend their land.

#### DAY I

On the first day of the battle, the Persians attacked the Greek army. The Greeks fought bravely and held the Persians back for three days.

#### DAY II

On the second day, the Persians continued their attack. The Greeks fought even more bravely and held the Persians back.

#### DAY III

On the third day, the Persians had discovered the secret pass. The Greeks fought to the death and were eventually defeated.

ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ	ΠΕΡΣΙΑΝΕΣ
10000 men	250000 men
10000 shields	100000 shields
10000 spears	100000 spears
10000 bows	100000 bows
10000 swords	100000 swords
10000 daggers	100000 daggers



### ΤΗΣΙΣ Thesis

The thesis of this paper is that the Battle of Thermopylae was a crucial battle in the Persian invasion of Greece. It was a battle of courage and heroism that inspired the Greeks to fight on.

### ΕΦΕΚΤΙ Effects

The effects of the Battle of Thermopylae were significant. It showed the Greeks that they were capable of standing up to the Persians. It also inspired the Greeks to fight on and eventually defeat the Persians.



The Battle of Thermopylae  
1034



# ΒΑΧΚΕΤΟΡΨ

## Backstory

The year was 480 B.C.E. and Persian king Xerxes amassed a gigantic army to continue his father, Darius's, quest to conquer Greece to add to the Persian empire and get revenge for past defeats. ("War" 2003.) When Athens got word of the impending attack, it called on all Greek city-states for help. Seven thousand soldiers from various city-states formed an army led by Spartan king, Leonidas. (Fields, 13-14.)



(Bust of Leonidas. Pub. 2017. TheFamousPeople.com)



(King Xerxes. Pub. 2017. TheFamousPeople.com)



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(King Xerxes, Pub. 2017, TheFamousPeople.com)

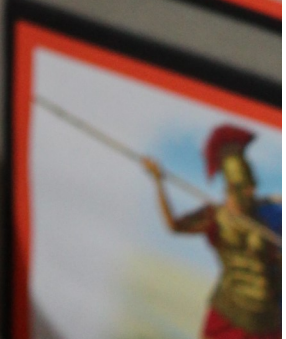
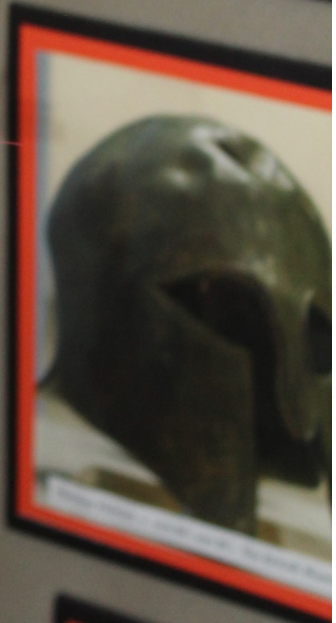
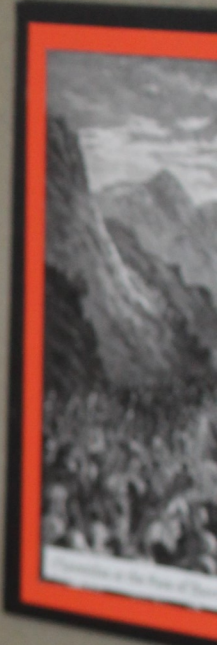
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- Persian messenger

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# LOXATION Location

Thermopylae was a smart choice of location by Leonidas due to its natural topography. The narrow pass of land was lined on one side the Kallidromos mountain range and on the other by the Malian Gulf (Fields, 42.) This configuration made it impossible for Xerxes to use his full force of soldiers to attack. The Greeks were able to use their effective phalanx formation with each flank protected by a natural barrier.



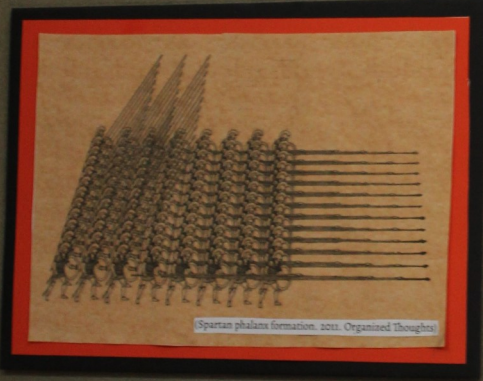




**"The Great King Xerxes' arrows will block the light of the sun."**  
 ~ A Persian herald

(Decisive Battles. 2014. History Channel)

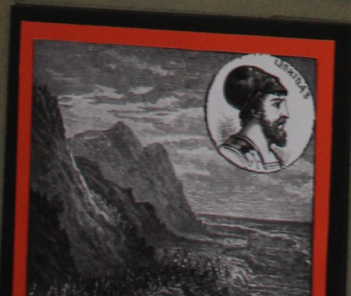
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(Decisive Battles. 2014. History Channel)



## BATTLE

### Battle

**Before the Battle** Xerxes failed to recognise the significance of the superior Spartan position and held his men back for four days thinking the Greek soldiers' small army was a joke. But, he gravely underestimated the Spartan devotion to battle...

**DAY I** Xerxes sent his men forward to try and breach the Greek line, without success. Leonidas used the natural landform of Thermopylae to his advantage - it was a perfect choke point, and prevented Xerxes' troops from using their massive numbers in the attack. The Greek soldiers took down great numbers of Persian fighters.

**DAY II** The second day continued the massive number of Persian casualties and practically none for the Greeks. But that evening a traitor told Xerxes of a secret and lightly guarded mountain pass. The Persians immediately set off for the path to attack the Greek Army from behind.

**DAY III** When Leonidas heard the Persians had discovered the secret pass he sent most of his 7,000 soldiers...





(Spartan phalanx formation. 2011. Organized Thoughts)

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~ Persian messenger

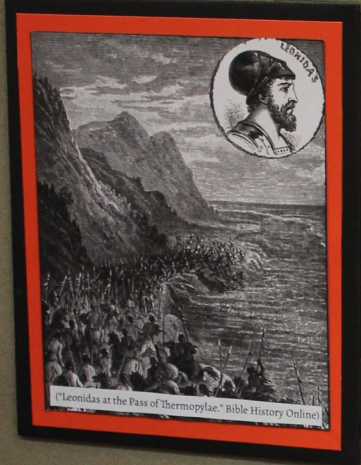
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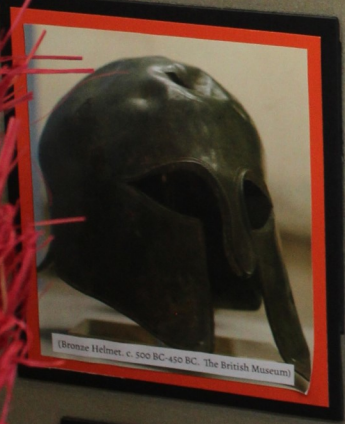
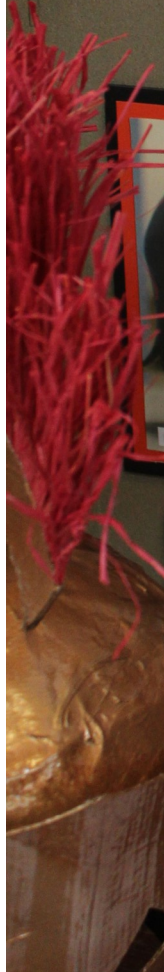
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**DAY II** The second day continued the massive number of Persian casualties and practically none for the Greeks. But that evening a traitor told Xerxes of a secret and lightly guarded mountain pass. The Persians immediately set off for the path to attack the Greek Army from behind.

**DAY III** When Leonidas heard the Persians had discovered the secret pass he sent most of his 7,000 soldiers home, while he and 300 of his elite Spartan soldiers stayed back to fight to the death. By the time the Spartans were finally defeated by Persian arrows, they had inflicted almost 20,000 casualties and greatly demoralized the Persian army.



(Leonidas at the Pass of Thermopylae." Bible History Online)



(Bronze Helmet. c. 500 BC-450 BC. The British Museum)

Greeks	Persians
Inferior Numbers	Massive army
Bronze armour	Leather armour
Bronze shields	Wicker shields
Phalanx Formation	Mass infantry
Disrespected archers	Skilled bowmen
Long spears & swords	Short spears, axes, & swords



(Persian warrior tiles. 2003. Shamma)



(Greece. 2013. Ancient History Encyclopedia)



(Persian Immortal. 2016. Grimmjock)



## ΤΗΣΙΣ Thesis

The Battle of Thermopylae epitomized conflict when a brave group of Greek warriors used strategy, patriotism and self-sacrifice to protect the early ideals of democracy against Persian imperialism, setting in motion the basis for the government we have today and numerous contributions passed down by Greek innovators that are still relevant in our modern societies.

## ΕΦΦΕΧΤΣ Effects

Thermopylae represented a pivotal moment in morale, for both the Greeks and the Persians. The conflict left the Persians in disarray. Had the Spartans not been betrayed they might have won the battle; even so, for the Greeks, Thermopylae became a symbol of patriotism and bravery. It inspired subsequent victories that expelled the Persians from Greece once and for all. As a result, democracy, science, architecture, literature and much more evolved into what we know today. (Mark, 2009).





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Pericles & Democracy 1842, Philipp von Polze

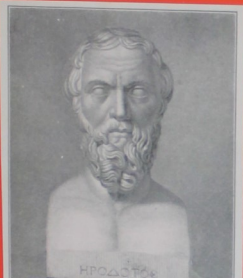
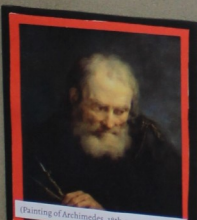


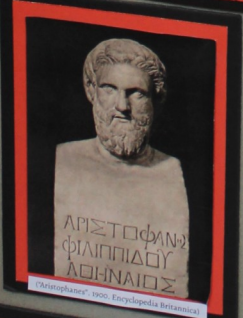
Illustration of Herodotus. New York Public Library



Painting of Archimedes, 16th century, Nogari



Bust of Aristotle, c. 320 BC, Encyclopædia Britannica



Philostrate, 300, Encyclopædia Britannica



Parthenon, Encyclopædia Britannica Online



Trojan War (c. 1200), Shamma



Greek Hoplite (c. 500), Comstock