



**A FUTURISTIC LOOK THROUGH  
ANCIENT LENSES—  
A SYMPOSIUM ON ANCIENT  
GREECE, 2012**

**BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTING  
PRACTICES IN ANCIENT GREECE**



**BUSINESS PRACTICES IN  
ANCIENT GREECE**

Dr. David Boggs

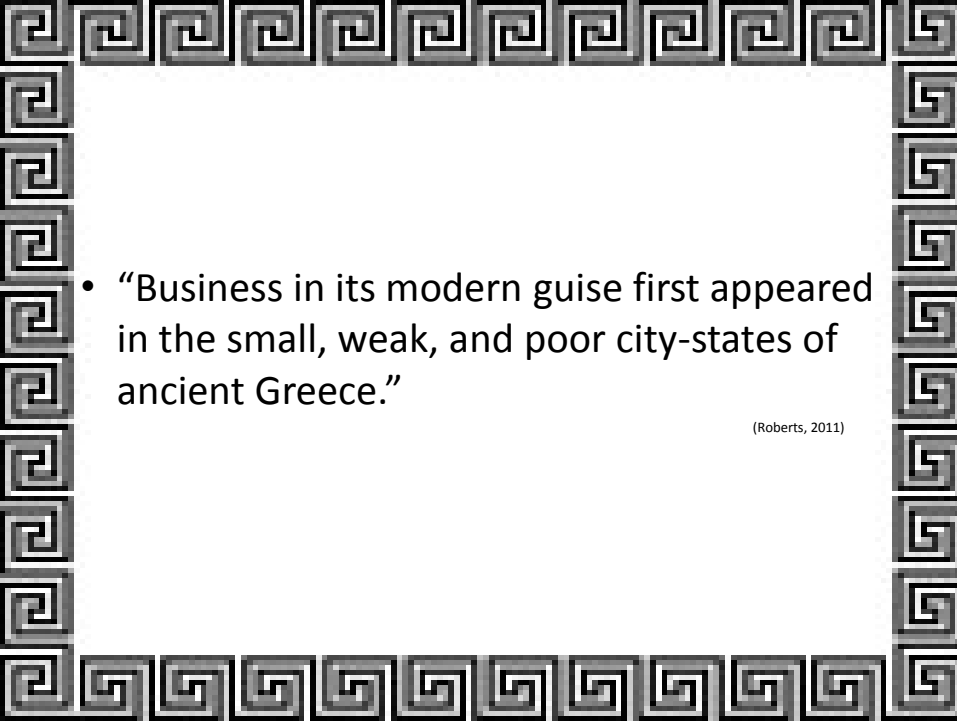
- Greek peoples, places, times, and dynamics
- International trade in Classical Greece

Dr. Cheryl Noll

- The labor force
- Buying and selling in local markets

Dr. Bill Wootton

- Record-keeping systems
- Lending practices

- 
- “Business in its modern guise first appeared in the small, weak, and poor city-states of ancient Greece.”

(Roberts, 2011)



## Ancient Greece

- Archaic
- Classical\*
- Hellenistic
- Roman
- Christianization

\* Our focus

## Greeks (Hellenes)

- Peoples (Dorian, Ionian, Aeolian, Achaeon)
- Places and Regions (e.g. Attica, Ionia, Peloponnese, Thessaly, Macedonia, Delos, Naxos)
- City-States or Poleis (e.g. Athens, Sparta, Thebes, Corinth, Argos)
- Leagues (e.g. Peloponnesian, Hellenic, Delian, Corinthian)
- Defeat Persians in 490 and 480 B.C.



<http://www.oxfordtutorials.com/GreeceMap.jpg>

## Greek Trireme



[http://telias.free.fr/gallery\\_01/greek\\_trieme\\_2.JPG](http://telias.free.fr/gallery_01/greek_trieme_2.JPG)

## Greek Merchant Ship

“specialized merchant ships came into being”

(Roberts, 2011)



<http://www.mlahanas.de/Greeks/Ships/KyreniaShip2.jpg>

## Trading Partners

- Greek peoples and settlements
- Persians
- Assyrians
- Phoenicians
- Egyptians
- North Africa

## Eastern Mediterranean Map



 Greek and Phoenician Colonies and Trade. The Western Mediterranean was first colonized by Phoenicians and Greeks who together controlled trade throughout the region.

<http://apworld.mrsburnside.org/images/maps/trade1ancientgreece.bmp>

## Traded Goods

- Food
  - grains, olives, oil, wine, cheese, fish, fruits, animals
- Luxuries
  - art, sculpture, decorative pottery, perfumes, spices
- Materials
  - wood, pitch, leather, papyrus, textiles, dye, glass
- Metals
  - gold, silver, tin, copper, bronze, iron
- Other
  - slaves, arms and weapons, amulets and religious artifacts

## Greek Amphorae

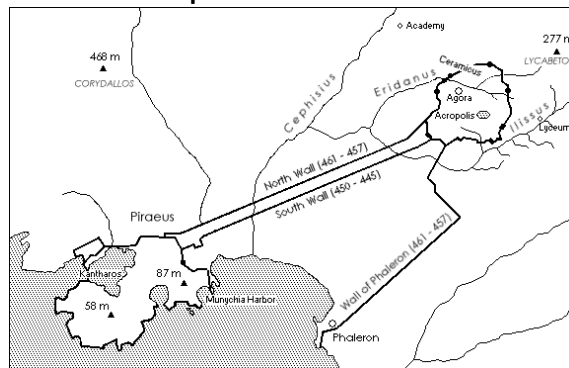


## Concerns

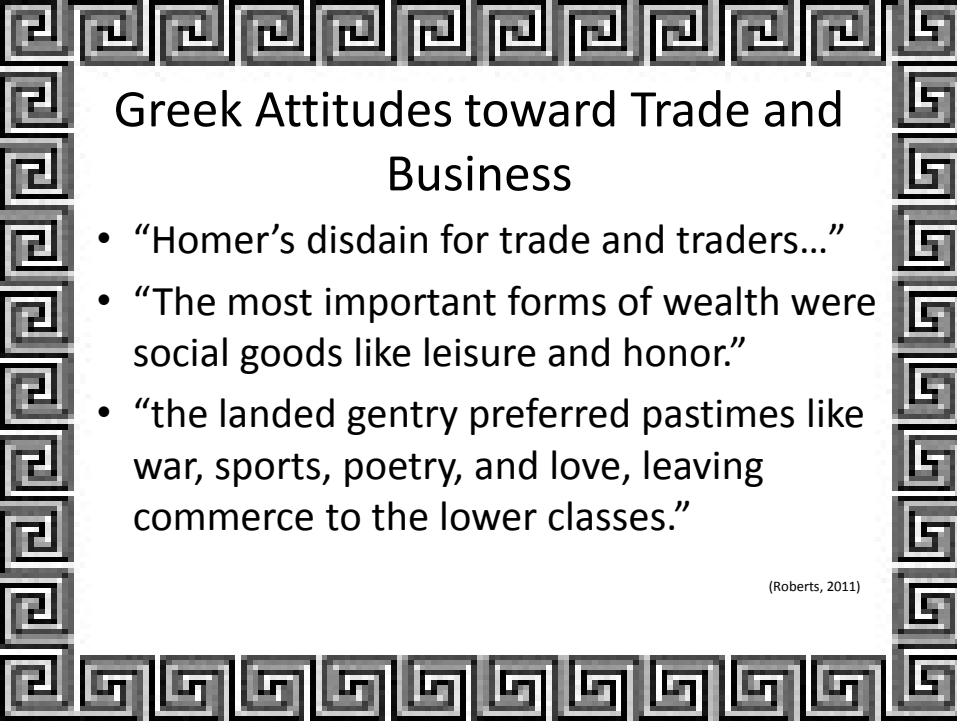
- Piracy
- Weather
- Trade barriers
- “Greek colonial trade was private, voluntary, and competitive.” (Roberts, 2011)

## Two Short Stories of Trade

- The Long Wall
- A Scuttled Ship



<http://faculty.saintleo.edu/reynolds/hon150-f03/classwork/athensonline/Walls.htm>



## Greek Attitudes toward Trade and Business

- “Homer’s disdain for trade and traders...”
- “The most important forms of wealth were social goods like leisure and honor.”
- “the landed gentry preferred pastimes like war, sports, poetry, and love, leaving commerce to the lower classes.”

(Roberts, 2011)

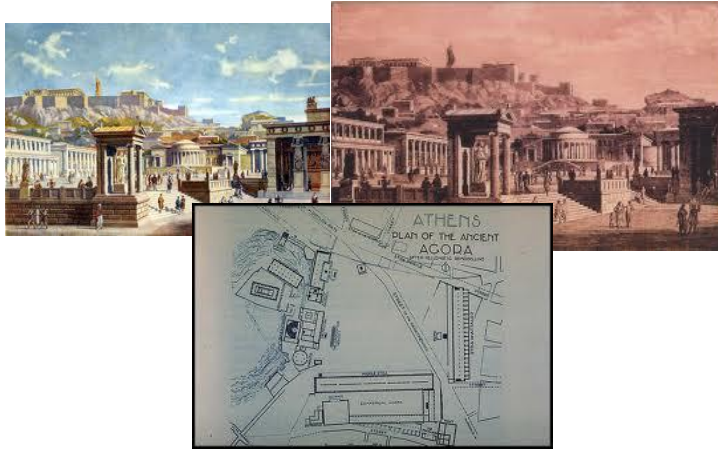


## The Labor Force

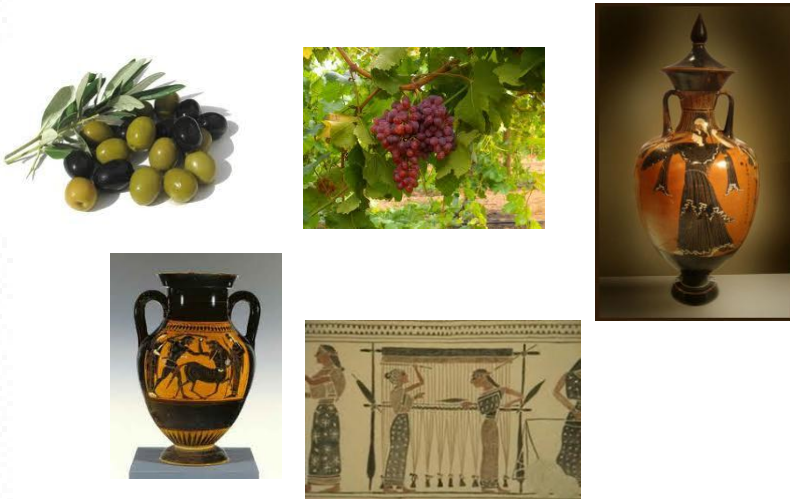
- Family
- Men, Women, and Children
- Slaves



## The Agora



## At the Market



## What Did People Do for a Living?

- Physicians
- Sculptors
- Boatwright
- Teachers/tutors
- Actor
- Athlete
- Blacksmith
- Merchant
- Banker
- Farmer
- Landowner

## Innovation in Warfare



## Record Keeping and Accounting



## The Impact on Modern Business

- Creation of material wealth
- Market-created demand
- International trade
- Purchasing power
  - Credit
  - Trust



Το τέλος  
(The End)