

What Is Cleruchy?

- Cleruchy was a system wherein a body of Athenian citizens were awarded land by the Athenian Government in conquered territory
- The conquered land was divided into lots or *kleroi* and then given to Athenian settlers
- Local inhabitants often stayed non-citizens instead allotted the status of subject or tributary
- Functioned as important military outposts and garrisons
- Often times, poorer Athenians were rewarded with land in exchange for settlement
- Important for projecting and securing military power
- Primarily militaristic in function, agrarian production yielded passive benefit and was not a driving force behind the establishment of new settlements
- Many of these Cleruchies joined the Athenians as voluntary allies while maintaining their status as sovereign poleis and then gradually lost autonomy and/or sovereignty over time (i.e. independent polis joins delian league, pays tributes/military service, revolts or resists, Athens uses military power to overwhelm it and establishes cleruchy by seizing land and implanting Athenian citizens)

Aristotle's *The Athenian Constitution* 24-27:

Sec. 24) Aristotle describes the Periclean imperial system and how Athens had become rich, emboldened from empire and imperial expansion. Pericles persuades Athenians to leave the countryside and move into the city (urban expansion) with the promise of state pay funded by imperial revenue. Generally agreed that unlike later efforts of nations to urbanize, Athens and Pericles primary motivations were the strengthening of military control, and the continuation of empire politics. Urbanization allowed the post-cleisthenes Athenian society the opportunity for mass participation in political and social institutions.

Sec 25) Describes Areopagus' dominated Athens which heavily favored the landed elites, indirect control over society and its institutions, and avoided mass participation/redistribution. Ephialtes overthrew him and removed Areopagus' centralized control, democratizing society with the council of 500, jury courts, and the assembly. Instead of redistributing land inside Attica, Ephialtes' system allowed for citizens of Attica to vote on confiscating land abroad and establishing cleruchy there, thereby lessening the scarcity of land and resources on the mainland.

Sec 26) Athenian democratic power in full force. The people govern without institutional or elitist restraint. This created the perfect political opportunity for citizens of Athens to guarantee themselves the authorization of land confiscation they so desperately wanted.

Sec 27) Pericles reorganizes state around naval power, pay, and mass participation. Aristotle details how Athenian citizens grew accustomed to life in the city and living off of government pay, and how once they grew accustomed to it returning to subsistence farming was near impossible thus creating the demand to provide external outlets for land and income.

Salaminian Decree:

- Oldest Surviving Athenian Decree
- After the Reforms of Cleisthenes and foundation of the Athenian Democracy, the Athenian government sought to establish a military presence in the Saronic Gulf to leverage power over their Peloponnesian adversaries
- Demos: the collective citizen body of Athens; the electorate

- Dated around last quarter of the 6th Century BC
- Addresses the rights and responsibilities of kleruchoi or cleruchs (Athenian citizens dwelling outside Athens) Taxes, Military Service, weapon manufacturing
- Arranged in the Stoichedon Style (capital letters arranged vertically as well as horizontally in a grid like pattern)

"Decided by the demos. Th[ose in S]alam[is who are cleruch]s shall be allowed to reside on Salamis [-15- to the Athe]ni-ans to pay taxes and provide milit[ary service]. [But] what is theirs [on Salamis] shall not be leased, unless a kinsmen(?) is the lessor. [I]-f someone should lease it, [the lessee and the] l-essor shall pay a penalty, each [of them -19-] to the public treasury. [And the transaction shall be handled by the a]-rchon, if [not, he shall be held accountable at his euth]y[na. The]-ir weapons they shall f[furnish themselves]; the cost is th]-irty dr[achmas. Having been armed] the archon [shall review their weapons.] The B[ou]le, [in] the year [- c.11 -]"

