

- 490 - 470 B.C. - The PERSIAN WARS (Herodotus) - Athens (navy) and Sparta (army) join as allies against Darius and Xerxes - Aeschylus fights at the Battle of Marathon -
- 431 - 404 B.C. - The PELOPONNESIAN WARS (Thucydides) - Athens versus Sparta - Athens finally surrenders to Lysurgus -
- 429 B.C. - Sophocles: OEDIPUS REX
- 415 B.C. - Euripedes: THE TROJAN WOMEN
- 401 B.C. - Sophocles: OEDIPUS AT COLONUS
- 399 B.C. - Trial and execution of Socrates
- 388 B.C. - Philip of Macedon defeats Athenians at Chaeronea
- 325 B.C. - Alexander burns the city of Thebes
- 33 A.D. - Trial and execution of Jesus of Nazareth
- 1431 A.D. - Trial and execution of Joan of Arc
- 1630 A.D. - Trial and acquittal of Galileo
- 1692 A.D. - Trial and execution of Bridget Bishop

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GNOTHI SEAUTON - know thyself (Delphic Oracle)
TO TI - what is it? - (definitional)

Sophists had destroyed faith in Olympian gods; moral code thus freed from fear of gods. (Athens turned navy into merchant fleet, becomes one of greatest trading cities of ancient world; traders are sceptics.) Moral code based on intelligence, not gods - SIN IS IGNORANCE (of one's own self-interest).

The accusers: MELETUS - leads the attack, represents the poets
ANYTUS - democratic leader, his son a student of Socrates - represents the craftsmen and politicians
LYCON - represents the rhetoricians

400,000 inhabitants of Athens (250,000 slaves; 150,000 freemen or citizens)

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The trial and death of Socrates took place in 399 B.C., and is represented in three of Plato's dialogues: the APOLOGY, CRITO, and PHAEDO. In the APOLOGY, Socrates presents the homely spirit of persistent honest inquiry which has emerged as the real genius of western civilization - as it is manifest in such other figures as Leonardo, Galileo, Darwin, Einstein, and Freud.

Socrates did not pretend to know anything, and therein lies his special claim to a searing intellectual honesty. He mercilessly baited anyone who made any pretense of knowledge - whether that person be senator or teacher or citizen, and whether that claim be in the field of virtue or justice or wisdom.

The searing honesty of Socrates is a beacon which cuts through the fog and foolishness of officialdom and professorial pretense in our own time. It is a light to all our lives.