GLOSSARY

agora
A market-place; the civic centre of any town, very similar in function to the Roman forum.

apoikia
A colony; but it was also a totally independent settlement, which had its own government and whose inhabitants were citizens of the colony and not of its mother-state.

archon
This was the name given to the top public officials in Athens before the advent of full democracy in the fifth century. There were the ‘eponymous archon’, who gave his name to the Athenian year; the ‘polemarch’ (war-leader), who was in charge of the army; the ‘basileus’ (king-archon), who was in charge of the state religion; and the six ‘thesmothetai’, who had judicial responsibilities.

archontes
These were Athenian officials who were resident in the cities of the Athenian Empire; it was their role to ensure that local politics reflected Athenian interests, that the ‘phoros’ was collected and despatched to Athens, and that the Athenian ‘proxenoi’ (see below) were protected. They were often in charge of small garrisons of troops and were widely spread throughout the Empire.

Areopagus
The aristocratic council in Athens, membership of which was restricted to ex-archons after their year of office. Ephialtes removed its political powers in 462/1.

Atthidographers
The collective name given to those historians who wrote an ‘Atthis’, a history of Athens.
Glossary

Boule
A Council; in Athens, after the reforms of Cleisthenes (508/7) the Boule consisted of 500 citizens. It had two main tasks: first, to prepare the agenda for the Ecclesia; second, to supervise the administration of the state.

cleruchy
This was a settlement of Athenian citizens who, while retaining their citizenship, were sent out to take over a confiscated portion of allied territory.

Common Peace
This name was given to a series of peace treaties in the fourth century, in which the terms were applicable to all Greek states and not just those who had been in conflict. The first one was the King’s Peace (also known as the Peace of Antalcidas) in 386. These Common Peaces were Persian-backed and allowed the Persians’ favoured Greek ally (Sparta in the 380s and 370s, Thebes in the 360s) to impose their will on Greece, using as a pretext their position as ‘protectors’ of the Peace.

decarchy
A ruling oligarchy of ten men. These pro-Spartan decarchies were set up in the cities of the Athenian Empire by the Spartan commander, Lysander, in the last phase and in the immediate aftermath of the Peloponnesian War (431–404).

deme
Local communities, about 140 in number, which became the basis of political organization in Athens after the reforms of Cleisthenes. Each deme had its own Assembly and officials, including an elected ‘demarch’ (deme-leader); they also had to maintain a register of citizens, since membership of a deme was a necessary requirement for citizenship – every citizen was identified by his deme name as well as his father’s name.

demos
This term has a wide variety of meanings: first, the whole adult male citizen body; second, the common people or the poorer citizens, thus being differentiated from the rich, the aristocracy, etc.; third, the democrats who were in opposition to those who supported other constitutions, usually oligarchs; finally, the Athenian people in the Ecclesia.

dokimasia
A preliminary investigation of an incoming public official with regard to his eligibility to take up a public office.

Ecclesia
The Assembly; the meeting of adult male citizens. It was the sovereign body of state in Athens, regularly meeting four times a month.

Ephor
Five Ephors were elected annually from the whole Spartan citizen body and, by the fifth century, were the most powerful institution in Sparta.
GLOSSARY

episcopos
An overseer; these were Athenian visiting commissioners who were sent out to the cities in the Empire to investigate internal problems and then to report back their findings to the Athenian people. They were also involved in the establishment of democratic constitutions among the allied cities.

euthuna
The examination of a public official’s record and financial accounts at the end of his year of office.

Gerousia
The Spartan council, consisting of the two kings and 28 elders, which prepared the agenda for the Spartan Assembly, acted as a criminal court and was influential in the formation of Spartan foreign policy.

harmost
A controller; a Spartan officer who was sent with a garrison to control cities that had revolted from the Athenian Empire.

hegemon
The leader; this term is usually applied to a state which held the leadership (‘hegemony’) over a number of subordinate allied states.

Heliaea
The People’s courts. From Solon to Ephialtes this institution was the Athenian Ecclesia meeting in a judicial capacity as a court of appeal. After Ephialtes’ reforms its 6,000 jurors (‘dikasts’) were granted primary jurisdiction. Because of the pressure of legal work, the Heliaea was broken down into smaller panels of jurors known as ‘dikasteria’ (singular – ‘dikasterion’).

Helots
The Helots were Greek state-owned serfs who lived in Messenia and Laconia. They had been conquered by the Spartans, and were compelled to farm their land and pay a portion of the agricultural produce to their absentee Spartan landlord, thus allowing the Spartans to devote themselves to the arts of war.

hoplite
Heavily armed Greek soldiers whose strength and effectiveness lay in fighting in a closely packed formation or phalanx. As these warriors had to supply their own armour and weapons, the hoplite army was mainly recruited from the middle classes.

medism
The term applied to individuals who supported pro-Persian policies, and to states which accepted Persian rule.

ostracism
This was the banishment of a prominent citizen from Attica for ten years. The Athenian Assembly was given the opportunity every year to decide if it wished to hold an ostracism and, if it decided to hold one,
citizens voted for the candidate of their choice by writing his name on a piece of pottery ('ostrakon'). The candidate with the highest number of votes recorded with his name was ostracized.

Perioeci
This term means 'those who live around', and refers to the non-Spartan and non-Helot inhabitants of Laconia and Messenia in the Peloponnese. These communities possessed internal autonomy, but their foreign policy was controlled by the Spartans and they were obliged to supply troops for Spartan campaigns. They were important to the Spartan military state, since they supplied the traders and manufacturers – the Spartans were forbidden to engage in such economic pursuits.

phoros
Contribution or tribute; when the Delian League was founded in 478/7, those allies who did not supply ships paid phoros as their 'contribution' to the war effort against Persia. However, when the Athenians turned the League into an Empire, it was this 'tribute', supplied by the vast majority of the subject-allies, which was the financial basis of the Athenian Empire.

phourarch
A garrison commander; such men were in command of garrisons of Athenian soldiers, who were stationed in allied territory. They also had political duties and thus were one of the means by which the Athenians controlled their empire.

polis (plural: poleis)
An independent, self-governing, Greek city-state, each one possessing its own citizenship, law code, coinage, festivals, etc.

proxenos
A citizen of one state who served as a representative of another state, while still residing in his own state.

satrap
This was the name given to a Persian provincial governor, who was in charge of a 'satrapy' (province). Although they owed allegiance to the Persian king, they had and exercised a great deal of independence.

strategos
A general; ten generals were elected annually by the Athenian people, and the 'strategia' (generalship) was open to re-election. Apart from their military duties, the generals were very influential in the shaping of the policies of the Athenian Assembly.

synoecism
This is the name given to the joining of several communities into one city-state ('polis').

thetes
The lowest class of the four Athenian economic classes, as laid down by Solon, which supplied the rowers for the Athenian imperial fleet.
trireme
The standard warship of the fifth century, which had three banks of rowers and was equipped with a ram in the bows.

tyrant
This term was originally used in the seventh century to describe an individual who had seized power unconstitutionally, but did not necessarily reflect the nature of the rule. However, by the fifth century, it had gained its pejorative meaning of an autocratic, brutal ruler.

zeugitai
Literally, ‘those who possessed a team of oxen’; they were the third of Solon’s economic classes, and served as hoplites in the Athenian army, since they could afford to pay for their own armour and weapons.