



UNLOCKING
CONSCIOUSNESS



BRIAN MIND FORUM

Appendix 020

Contribution of Greece

Concept of numbers, but not zero: patterns of measurement
Alphabet : refined : added vowels: lasted 2000+ years, so far.

Atom

Heliocentric Universe

Earth a sphere

Measured diameter of earth. Eratosthenes

<http://www.juliantrubin.com/bigten/eratosthenes.html>

Democracy

Architecture

1st Academy

Humanism (De rerum Natura)

Stoics

Compilation of Histories

Drama

Ways to think

Conscious mind

Medicine

Archimedes: beginning of Physics

First computer Antikytheron. <http://epod.usra.edu/blog/2007/03/antikytheron-mechanism.html> C Archimedes. Mentioned by Cicero et al. [Michael Wright Science Museum]

First steam engine http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steam_engine

Hero: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero_of_Alexandria

Oxyrhynchus. Papyri found near Cairo

Herculaneum papyri. Fragments of Zeno and Epicurus 'on Nature'

Greece thrived on debate, difference, argument, and understood 'uncertainty' (basis of wisdom).

Greek Qualities Edith Hall: *Introducing the Ancient Greeks*, Bodley Head 2015

1. Seagoing
2. Suspicious of authority
3. Individualistic
4. Inquiring
5. Open to new ideas
6. Witty
7. Competitive
8. Admired excellence in talented people
9. Misogynist
10. Elaborately articulate
11. Addicted to pleasure

Personalities Timeline

1550 Mycenaean Greek civilisation begins

776 Olympic Games at Isthmia

770 Palamedes Troy Addition of vowels Phoenicians alphabet

600 Lydia
Ionia
First coins minted
Phonetic Alphabet, (from Phoenicians)
Physical Science
Poetry, Prose
Rational Medicine
Philosophy (wisdom knowing)
Mathematics
Political theory
Ethnography
Geography
Writing History
Drama, plays, (behaviour by analogy.)

625 Birth of Thales of Miletus
material
Primary constituents of the universe are
Substances. Earthquakes were the 'rocking of
the boat'. Hence world rested on water.
Navigation by stars.

	Anaximander		Half Ionian Greek, half Phoenician. Map of physical world. Land and Sea must be surrounded by something else. <i>Apeiron</i> .
	Anaximenes		Fire wind cloud water earth stones. All created by condensation or sublimation
	Heraclitus	Ephesus	Cosmic Fire: Everything in a state of Flux. Abstract forces beyond the physical. (metaphysical), perception, principles of human behaviour. Had to invent new words. Everything could be measured in the equivalent of cosmic money.
534 Foundation of Elea in Italy			
510	Parmenides	Elea (Italy)	Way of Truth. Nature of existence (Ontology). Everything has a reason. Therefore can be learned or discovered. Truth Continuity. Learn by argument. Identify contradiction.
	Zeno (pupil of Parmenides)		Achilles and the Tortoise
494		Marathon	
480		Thermopylae	
484		Salamis	
499	Anaxagoras	Clazomenae (emigrated to Athens).	Material universe governed by principle of Mind, Reason or <i>nous</i> . First description of ' <i>Intelligence</i> '.
	Democritus	Abdera (emigrated to Athens).	World made of Atoms
	Protagoras		Man is the measure of all things. Existence of god unverifiable. Civic concord 'social contract'. Ideas recorded in <i>Prometheus Unbound</i> by Aeschylus
450	Hippocrates	Cos	Medicine Physical rather than supernatural explanations for natural phenomena. Probability: Empirical experience to suggest what is likely to happen. "study the antecedents, know the present, foretell the future"
444	Herodotus	Thurii	History. Father of European Prose
432		Athens	Completion of Parthenon

- 430 Pericles Funeral Oration
- 400 Xenophanes Colophon, emigrated to Southern Italy
 No absolute truth
 Differences between belief and knowledge
 Balance of Probabilities
 First skeptic. Derided prophets and miracles
 No Gods. Entire Universe. (*see quote*)
- 400 Pythagoras Samos, emigrated to Croton (Italy).
 Studied in Babylon with Zoroaster
 Vegetarian, metempsychosis, reincarnation.
 Relationship between music and mathematics.
 Famous theorem to prove Babylonian and
 Egyptian 'triples'. (1800 BC or before).
 Sect, Men and Women equal & bisexual.
 Believed knowledge should be kept secret.
- Empedocles Akragus (Sicily) Earth Air Fire Water. Brought together.
 Love and Strife pull apart.
- 399 Execution of Socrates
- 390 Plato Athens
 Founds the Academy: Induction
 The Republic. A benevolent Tyrant and
 guardians still the basis of corporate governance
 to this day: CEO + directors
 Symposium.
 Thinking and argument. Dialectic process
- 384 Aristotle Born in Stagira Athens Lesbos Pella
- 343 Tutor to Alexander Deduction
- 335 Founds the Lyceum Physica
- 336 Alexander Crowned King of Macedonia
- 323 Death of Alexander
- 321 Ptolemy I of Egypt
- 306 Epicurus founds School of Philosophy in Athens** Concept of Atoms
- 301 Zeno starts Stoic School at Athens
- 297 Construction of the Library of Alexandria. Demetrius first Director
- 323–283 Euclid Geometry

- 245 Eratosthenes Third Director Calculates circumference of world to within 50 miles
- Hero First Steam Engine
- Cratus Head of the Library of Pergamun
First Spherical model of earth showing known land masses.
- Philo Survey of mechanics (levers, harbour construction)
- 287-212 Archimedes Syracuse. Laws of Hydraulics. Calculus, Pulleys,
Screw pump revolutionised irrigation of farms
Area of Circle. Volume of Sphere
Antikythera
- Aristarchus Samos Earth revolves around sun.
- Hypsicles Divided circle into 360° after Babylonians.
- 146 Battle of Corinth
- 99 BC – 55 Titus Lucretius Carus '*De Rerum Natura*' Epicureanism **
- 30 Death of Caesarean (son of Cleopatra by Caesar) Catallus, Virgil, Horace, Ovid
all studied in Alexandria

Christian era

- 37- 10 Josephus Jewish War 66-73
- 146-120 Plutach Delphi Biographies of Pericles, Alexander,
Cleopatra, Caesar
- 129 -200 Galen Pergamum Physician. On Therapeutic Method
- Pausanias Guide (travels in Greece) Hadrian
- 325AD Nicea
- 380 Closure of the schools of Athens.

Quotations

From earth are all things and to earth all things return. From earth and water come all of us....No man hath certainly known, nor shall certainly know, that which he saith about the gods and about all things; for, be that which he saith ever so perfect, yet does he not know it; all things are matters of opinion Men imagine gods to be born, and to have clothes and voices and shapes like theirs Yea, the gods of the Ethiopians are black and flat-nosed, the gods of the Thracians are red-haired and blue-eyed. ' ... Yea, if oxen and horses and lions had hands, and could shape with their hands images as men do, horses would fashion their gods as horses, and oxen as oxen Homer and Hesiod have ascribed to the gods all things that are a shame and a disgrace among men, theft, adultery, deceit, and other lawless acts "

Xenophanes of Kolophon, Southern Italy 500 BC .
Fragments John Burnet, *Early Greek Philosophy* London 1908. p 126

Rome wanted organisation, efficiency, law, certainty (basis of prejudice & intolerance).

Steadily closed down thinking. Took over Christianity at Nicea, organised, codified it, converted it from a search for an Aristotelian 'Good life' into a rigid belief system and political force. Augustinian Catholicism shifted responsibility for human behaviour onto inherited 'original sin' and opposed all research or efforts to improve the state of the human condition which might destabilise the status quo in favour of a possibly better after life. Christianity closed down Western civilisation for 1000 years.

Currently formulating arguments against human enhancement: fitter bodies, better brains, boosting intelligence, longer lives, expansion of knowledge, tolerance of variant people, freedom to control reproduction and population growth.

Fortunately, the Moslem World respected Greek learning and preserved some of its wisdom, if not its form of government, nor its development of humanism. Although the Christians burned the libraries of Constantinople, Alexandria and Toledo, the Norman Kings of Sicily copied many Muslim Greek manuscripts. The Medici bankers bought many collections of Greek manuscripts when the Christians expelled the Moslems from Spain and conquered Constantinople. They had them copied and in due course printed, helping to stimulate and support the Renaissance.

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