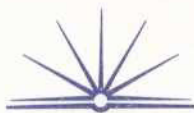




The development of the Athenian naval power in this period was due to a variety of different reasons. With the Persian King Darius furious about the burning of Sardis during the Ionian Revolt he vowed to avenge this by attacking the Greeks. The Persian force, as supported by Heracles, was known for its strength in numbers & its invincibility. The ~~attack~~ ^{lead up to the} Battle of Marathon in 490 BC, the ~~feature~~ ^{feature} pending attack foreseen by Themistocles, the Persian Wars & the Delian League to some extent were all main features of the development of Athenian naval power in this period.

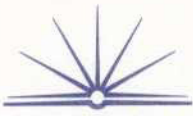
In 494 BC when the Ionian Revolt was laid to rest by the Persians, Darius swore revenge for the burning of the town of Sardis. As his troops sailed for Greece in 490 BC they were unopposed & as Ennenberg states their progress was deliberately slow because the Greek force, while powerful in its own right, was not a match for the Persian forces. This led to the attack on Naxos & the ^{seize} capture of Eretria.



After the battle of Marathon in 490 BC which was considered ~~a~~ an Athenian victory many believed that there would be no more threats from ~~the~~ the Persians. However, as Herodotus & other scholars state, Themistocles foresaw that the Persians would indeed be back & that the pending battles would need to be fought on both land & sea.

With this in mind Themistocles went to the people to argue that the money from the surplus from the silver mine should be to fortify the Piraeus port & for the building of ~~the~~ triremes. Ennenberg states that Themistocles proposed this to them with the Aegina War as an argument but actually with the pending Persian attack in mind. This forward thinking of Themistocles was an important main feature in the development of Athenian naval power in this period as he used the rare opportunity of silver surplus to create a more sufficient naval fleet.

This was also a main feature in the development



of Athenian naval power as the now larger fleet was able to practice & strengthen their forces in the Aegean War in preparation, as Thucydides saw, for the pending Persian attack. Thucydides states Thucydides

needed them
on
readfast
splits
to
a-
ssed
rains.

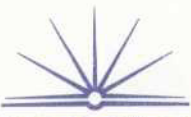
In the first ~~seen~~ naval battle with the Persians at Artemisium in 480 BC the outcome of the battle was indecisive. It was unclear whether they had developed into a naval power despite, as Hornblower states the loss of 50% of the Persians ships due to the weather.

The Battle of Salamis was a main feature of the development of Athenian naval power later in 480 BC. This was due to the fact that this was considered the turning point in the Persian Wars. This is supported by Plutarch who states that it was their prowess at sea which saved the Greeks. Many historians also agree with this statement as it was a well known fact that without the Athenian navy the Persians would have been able to raid the Greek coastline at will. These two, ~~the~~ Battle of Salamis & fact, were also features of the development of Athenian naval power.



The final battle of the Persian Wars, the Battle of Mycale in approximately 479 BC was also a main feature in the development of Athenian naval power in this period. The end of this battle was marked with the capture & burning of Persian ships which saw the Greeks, led by the Athenians on sea, as the only naval power in the Mediterranean, as supported by Ennenberg. Without the Persian naval power in the area the Athenian naval power was able to then capture the influential Persian town of Sestos.

Another main feature of the development of Athenian naval power in this period was the fact that during the Persian Wars although, as Bury & Meiggs (B&M) state, the Greek forces were under control of the Spartans the navy was actually under the command of the Athenian strategist Themistocles. It was the tactics of Themistocles used in the battle of Salamis that led to the victory. Ennenberg states that in order to trick Xerxes Themistocles sent his personal servant to say the Athenians



would betray the Greeks. Xerxes took the bait & the ensuing battle was successful. Therefore, - another main feature of the development of Athenian naval power was the Athenian strategoi who were responsible for tactics & strategy.

After the Persian Wars the Athenians, as Plutarch states, were praised for their prowess at sea & saving all the Hellenes from the Persians. From this stemmed the Delian League which was also, to some extent, a feature of the development of Athenian naval power in this period. B&M states that the aims of the Delian League was to protect the Greeks from the Persians & to ~~avenge~~ attack the Persians for the suffering that was caused. Because the Spartans were parochial leaders due to the Helot threat & the Athenians had shown their 'prowess at sea', the Greeks placed themselves under Athenian control. This is a feature of the development as the Athenians had at their disposal the ships & help from many Greek



Stoa polis.

Through the Delian League & their naval power many historians such as B&M believe that the Athenians were building an empire & their naval power ~~strength~~ was strengthened through demanded tribute of ships from islands such as Thesbos.

Therefore it can be concluded that there are a variety of main features ~~of~~ the development of Athenian naval power in this period. These features includes personalities such as Themistocles who Thucydides states turned the Athenians from steadfast hoplites into sea-fessed mariners, & also from events, especially naval battles.