



The Athenian Way: For Our Allies, Subjects and Neighbours

By: Pericles

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Excerpt

In my years of service to the Athenian *demos* I have been asked by many men both worldly and intelligent how the Athenian system works, and why? Ironically, I must begin my explanation by discrediting myself in many people's eyes. I am asked habitually “as Athens’ ruler why” and I am no such thing. Athens has no ruler, I am merely a citizen who has had the honour to serve as one of ten *strategoi* several times throughout my career. I know no offence is meant by these allegations, but still I must fervently diminish them. My fellow Athenians do not take kindly to such ambitions and I have no aspirations to be ostracized. Nonetheless, I will attempt to explain the ways of my people and justify my fondness for them.

About the Author

Mary Harper is a MA candidate at the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Her undergraduate studies were completed at the University of Waterloo (2021-2025) with a major in Political Science and minors in Classical and Legal Studies. She is particularly interested in the political systems of Classical Greece and Republican Rome.

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