

# 10.4- Oligarchy in Sparta

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# Key Terms

Ephor- representatives in the Spartan assembly that were responsible for the day-to-day operation of the govt

Helot- ppl conquered by Spartans that were forced to farm for the whole *polis*

Military state- a society organized for the purpose of waging war

Barracks- military housing

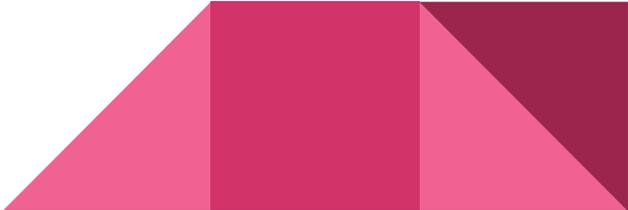


# The Spartan State

- Sparta was a particularly unique city-state compared to others
  - Lead by **two kings** who were military leaders
  - A **council of elders**: 28 men over 60 years old, elected for life
  - Sparta had an assembly, but it had less power and less ppl than Athens
    - Elected **5 ephors** who made sure the council was just.
- Sparta conquered Messenia and their ppl became helots who were forced to produce food for the polis
- The helots revolted, forcing Sparta to become a military state and declare war on them to keep the food they provided



# A Disciplined Society

- Spartan means “highly disciplined or lacking in comfort”
  - Spartans valued discipline over luxury
  - Boys were taken at 7 to be educated for the military
    - Focused on exercising, hunting, & fighting
    - Taught to obey orders, not think for themselves
  - When they turned 18 they could marry, but still spent most of their time training in military camps
  - To be full citizens, men had to gain entry into a men’s club of soldiers
    - If they did, they were known as “equals”
    - If they didn’t, they became “inferiors”/outcasts
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- Women were raised to be strong and vigorous so they could have healthy babies who would grow into good soldiers
  - Women had a lot of freedom & responsibilities b/c their husbands were often away

