

TEACHING OF SECURITY IN ANCIENT GREECE

A BIZTONSÁGTUDATOSSÁG OKTATÁSA AZ ÓKORI GÖRÖGORSZÁGBAN

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ABSTRACT

Ancient Greek philosophy, art, mathematical sciences and architecture are greatly influencing our societies today. Although the most prominent example of their legacy is the Olympic Game, it is worth mentioning many others which were used in later centuries. They were amongst the first nations who tried to find logic, use reason to understand the world surrounding them, and at the same time encouraged education and innovation. Ancient Greeks believed that philosophy, wisdom and intelligence were not only highly regarded human qualities, but very important in leadership as well. They were determined to make observations and decisions on information rather than on ignorance or on only divine auguries. For this paper I have used literature review of contemporary works and interpretations of original pieces.

Keywords: ancient Greek education systems, Greek influence, physical and academic subjects

ABSZTRAKT

Az ókori görög filozófia, a művészet, a matematikai tudományok és az építészet nagyban befolyásolja mai életünket és szemléletünket. Habár ennek az örökségnek a legjelentősebb példája az Olimpiai Játékok, mindemellett érdemes megemlíteni egyéb tudományokat is, amelyeket a későbbi évszázadokban vagy máig használunk. Az ókori görögök az első nemzetek közé tartoztak, akik megpróbálták a logikus magyarázatot találni, az okokra, hogy jobban megértsek az őket körülvevő világot, éppen ezért ösztönözték az oktatást és az inno-

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vációt. Az ókori görögök úgy vélték, hogy a filozófia, a bölcsesség és az intelligencia nemcsak alapvető emberi tulajdonságok, hanem az államvezetés szempontjából is nagyon fontosnak tartották. Eltökéltek voltak abban, hogy megfigyeléseiket információkra alapozzák, semmint tudatlanságra, vagy kizárólag isteni jelekre, jóslatokra. Ehhez a tanulmányhoz a kortárs művek irodalmi áttekintését és az eredeti darabok értelmezését használtam.

Kulcsszavak: ókori görög oktatási rendszerek, görög befolyás, testedzés és tudományos tárgyak

INTRODUCTION

The political system, farming and social life of the ancient Greeks show special features compared to other ancient societies. Here the pace of development is faster, the division of labor is separated from each other. The sprawling urban life and the widening of the handicraft industry leave less of the celestial rule here. Prosperous trade requires well-built vessels, while knowing the weather and the secrets of the stars helps safe navigation.

The origin of discipline, the beginning of philosophy, cannot be separated from other sciences. Science and philosophy seek the same thing: understanding truth, reality, and reassuring answers to humanity's questions.

HOW AND WHERE GREEK EDUCATION HAS BEGUN?

For the first settlements besides security, a language was necessary to communicate and an alphabet – which they adopted from the Phoenicians -, but formed into their own to write, kept these groups more coherent. For the Greeks language (λόγος) meant a lot. They gave utmost importance for rhetoric, which was a decisive part of their political life, but they also described scientific, philosophical, historical or artistic thesis and thoughts with concise phrases throughout of ancient Greek times.

Slowly when further discoveries have been made and they introduced the coinage in the 7th century B.C. the mercantile class started to arise establishing trade with farther places and foreign groups of people, security became even more important.

Greece geographically is a small country with a vastly curly coastline and interior-cut into a rather huge number of almost isolated valleys. As a result ancient Greece consisted many small regions with its own dialect, cultural identity and peculiarities. In the 6th century BC, the majority of the population lived in the countryside, and only in the following centuries formed these settlements into city-states and became centers of religion, trade, art and education.

The real center of the cities was the agora, which was most frequently marked at the juncture of two main roads. This has become the center of cultural, economic and social life of the

city, where many patron saints have been set up. The agora also served for religious ceremonies and games, but initially the words of the politicians were heard here, as scientists gathered their scholars also here.

According to Greek philosophy, the structure of Greek cities is similar to the system of human organisms, in which not all functions are of equal value, but all of them are needed for a healthy living. In the V. century BC, city-states were clustered into particular ethnic communities. The system of democracy, which has allowed the majority of citizens to participate in the management of their city, has finally gained ground for this century.

After the Persian wars a new realization took place in Greece: they, as a nation had a mission to the world that Hellenism stood for a higher life of man against barbarism. Their efforts for *Arête* or Excellence, raised them above average in many scientific fields, known today. First came their crude patriotism, which regarded every Greek citizen superior to every barbarian. Next with the Greek philosophy's zenith came Plato and Aristotle, while the Stoics introduced a new word to the world: "humanitas". Whether we agree all of their principles in science or in literature or not in the 21st.century, there is a good cause to study the ancient Greek forces how they excelled themselves in numerous fields, holding the light up high. As Euclid put it: "To be a Greek was to seek to know, to know the primordial substance of matter, to know the meaning of matter, to know the world as a rational whole."(Clarke, 2012)

THE IMPORTANCE OF GREEK RELIGIOUS RITUALS AND THEIR POLYTHEISTIC MYTHOLOGY IN THEIR EDUCATION

In classical Greece religion was direct and present in all areas of life; as widespread and influential as to be sufficient enough for the Greek government. Ancient Greek religion consists of rituals, beliefs, celebrations, festivals, cult – practices and mythology. The ancient Greek religion was polytheistic, meaning they believed in many gods and goddesses. Amongst them there was a hierarchy with Zeus on the top. Poseidon ruled the sea and the earthquakes, Hades the underworld. Other deities were responsible for abstract concepts, e.g. Aphrodite controlled love, Nike victory, Dionysius wine and heady emotions while Asphaleia security, safety and defense. Although they were all immortal they had to obey fate. The Greeks also had a complicated and extensive mythology, which encompassed stories and tales of gods and their actions. Various religious festivals and plays colored the ancient Greeks' everyday life, such as the Mysteries of Eleusis, Dionysia, Panatheneae and the most famous Olympic Games. The most extensive work of ancient mythos and religion was Hesiod's Theogony, although it has never been canonized.

The Greek gods had human qualities and emotions therefore were closer to man than to the Olympian divine world, unlike many remote gods of the East. That was the reason Greeks could easily lead an everyday satisfactory life free from the domination of priesthood. Each god had his/her own city, like Athens was Athene's by name, but Poseidon's by its actions, while Olympia was Zeus', Delphi Apollo's and Ephesus is Artemis', just naming a few. (Diószegi, 1988)

Before the actual war religious rituals were exercised and the will of the gods had to be interpreted. Usually this was done by animal sacrifices and oracles at Delphi or Dodona, as these two were the most noted oracles in the classical era. Dodona gained the reputation far beyond Greece. It was said that the appointed priests in the sacred grove explained the rustling of the oak tree leaves to decide the correct actions.



1. Photo The Delphoi Oracle (resource: <http://www.ezomania.hu>)

Delphi was also a famous ancient sanctuary. The Greeks considered Delphi to be the center of the known world. The oracle was designated to Apollo, while the Pythia was the one to be consulted about important decisions, like wars or founding new colonies. The Pythia's ecstatic speech was translated by the oracle's priests – like Plutarch – into elegant yet ambiguous hexameters.

Religious practice was extended to foreigners or fugitives as well. Greeks were safe of authoritative power in their home only. When a stranger or emigrant appeared in peaceful character was protected by the universally diffused piety which gave him a claim to table to protection and security as well. To slay or to injure a guest was a crime. This kind of hospitality wasn't only for heroes, but regular people such as artists, merchants or even laborers enjoyed the privilege of a stranger without the consideration of the foreign state. To afford shelter and assistance to fugitives seeking refuge was a religious duty as all of those under the immediate protection of Zeus.

Based on the wealth of relics and written history and records religion in ancient Greece was a fundamental part of life for its ordinary inhabitants.

THE ETYMOLOGY OF THE WORD SECURITY AND ITS HUMAN ASPECTS

Most modern language adopted the Latin word, - not the Greek - and deity Cura, whose name means care, attention but when it is excessive anxiety or worry. So as long as she does exist we will never be without care. Curiae originated from the same word, stands for the hall of Senate, a political term in antiquity, indicating to take care of state affairs. Curat as verb format represents care for others, a uniquely and deeply human condition and a fundamental value of ours. We care because we are mortal and we also care for what we can easily lose. The word security consists grammatically three parts, originating from Latin: securitas (“se” – away from something or aside of something “cura, ae f.” – concern, care, attention, worry “tas” – state of being)

So the person or the state who is away from any worries or concern is safe. (Hamilton, 2013)

HOW TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN AND SOLDIER? EDUCATION PRACTICES IN ANCIENT GREECE

“Virtue, like any art or faculty, can only be acquired by education. Education must be regulated by the state.” – so said Aristotle.

In ancient Greece the goal of education was to prepare children for adult activities as a citizen. In Sparta the main aim was to train soldiers, who are well-skilled and disciplined. They were required to have a perfect body and simplicity in their life style. While in Athens the citizens were educated both for peace and war. (Murray, 2016)

There are some obvious facts that not only boys, but girls got schooling outside of their houses as well. The most outstanding examples are Sappho and Aspanias who exhibited talents mainly in poetry. While for the boys the gymnasium did exist, for the girls there were choruses, where dance and music possibly taught. Based on Plato (Laws 654) a choir training and drawing are very important for an educated mind. Women were trained - except for music and dance lessons – often by their husbands, brothers or older Greek women. Hetaera had special education, as they learned entertaining, conversation and rhetoric. Some older women learned to help at temples and cult sites with rituals. At home they were taught weaving and many other home chores to be able to run a household and keep its sanctity. (Preston, 2011)

Especially Sparta but also many other polis’ entire life centered on war. A lifelong military discipline, service and precision gave this kingdom a strong advantage. It is impossible to ignore their unique culture, famous austerity and the so-called Spartan character. It was an inflexible military regime, aimed for the highest level of professionalism, intense physical and mental stamina and the defense of their land. Famous artist and philosophers have never been originated from Sparta, unlike from Athens. Other than patriotic poetry there was very little interest in intellectual pursuit. The only time war wasn’t in their focus during Apollo’s festivities, at the Olympic Games and the like, because to interrupt those counted as impious. The ancient world looked at them – depending on the current political situation – either with admiration or fear. While Athens was strong at sea, Sparta was invincible at land. Boys in Sparta were prepared from early age to combat and because of that they belonged to the

state. When facing enemies and in any other cities the Spartan King would offer sacrifices to Zeus Agetor for approval and to ensure divine protection.

In Sparta the education of girls took place in the sanctuaries of Artemis. They had their physical training there, and were instructed through music and dance. Beauty and grace supported by an athletic body was highly regarded value amongst daughters.

Different city-states have different methods of education, but the common acknowledgement was that education an essential component of a person's identity.



2. *Photo An Ancient slate about the Greek education (resource: <http://www.hellenicaworld.com>)*

In classical Athens children had physical education in gymnasiums which followed an ideal military setting with strength, stamina, fighting and preparation for war. These exercises were also to improve the boys' appearance – as it was uniquely important in ancient Greece. Besides physical training there were intellectual teaching as well, where students could study music, dance, lyrics and poetry. Furthermore they received examples of beauty and nobility further and appreciation of harmony and rhythm. They learned to write with stylus, recite respectable authors like Hesiod and Homer. Their formal education ended once they reached adolescence.

In around 420 B.C. higher education became also prominent in Athens. Its followers believed while physical education has the utmost importance in war time, raising intellectuals would provide greater structure and depths. Wealth played an integral role in classical Athens as this type of teaching was mostly completed by paid private tutors. They taught writing which was closely associated with the respective political system.

The polis used writing mainly for the public recording of laws, sacred laws, and treatise and record keepings. There is no regular overall pattern in the use of writing. The decrees and laws prominently displayed around the Acropolis and agora mostly on stone were perhaps the most important written records of the state. Public writing was used in effect to protect and to confirm the values of the city. (Murray, 2016) Besides writing, rhetoric played an important role in truces and treaties as they had political character with a definite military aim in mind. These were to have a more permanent agreement or ending cease. Truces usually were made by highly qualified commanders excelling themselves in political speech and physical stamina. (Clarke, 2012)

THE SCHOOLS OF ANCIENT GREECE

There were numerous educators who established schools without any curriculums to achieve an even higher edification. The most famous of them were: Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle and Pythagoras.

Plato (428-348 BC) is the most influential philosopher and teacher in ancient Athens. He established the Akademos, where he wrote up an educational program. It required elementary education in music, poetry and physical training, 2-3 years of mandatory military training, 5 years of dialectic training and 10 years of mathematics as well as 15 years of practical political training.



3. *Photo Philosophers (resource: Fresco in the Vatican Museum)*

Aristotle (348-322 BC) is one of the biggest thinker of ancient Greece, the educator of Alexander the Great, who helped him establish the Lyceum, which was a research school. It was the first school what had a systematic approach to the collection of information.

Mathematics as a subject has been studied vigorously in classical Greece and counting such names as Euclid, Archimedes, Heron of Alexandria, Pythagoras, Thales or Ptolemy. Plato and Aristotle works have many passages as they laid the terminology of mathematics with concise language. When Pythagoras came so as the Theory of Numbers, with their classifications and definitions of odd, even, prime or composite etc. He was – is said – to figure out proportion as well. His greatest discovery that musical intervals corresponds to certain arithmetical rations between lengths of strings at the same tension. He thought the earth is spherical in shape and is in the center. (Clarke, 2012) Greek geometry and part astronomy begins with Thales. He set the basic rules about triangles also showed how to measure the distance of a ship at sea. He was the scientist to predict a solar eclipse and discovered that four astronomical seasons were unequal. (Clarke, 2012)

In Sparta the requirements of education were different: the Spartans desired that all male citizens should become successful soldiers and members of a Spartan phalanx. Military dominance – at least on land – was extremely important for Sparta, consequently they designed their educational style and method accordingly. In the so-called Agoge, so students were taught to endure hunger, how to survive a sudden attack and maneuverability. While their courage was praised, signs of cowardice and disobedience severely punished. At the age of 18 they would continue their education in the Ephebe, where they learned to use real weapons at planned battles. At their early 20s' they became a member of a phalanx, later the most talented the commanders of those, while at older age they could hold the actual trainings.

CONCLUSION

The awakening of the sciences demanded extensive knowledge of those seeking for wisdom. The study of natural sciences and the research of technical problems belonged the same ancient philosophers, such as the cultivation of the science of politics or the rhetorical construct of the speaker. Ancient Greek philosophers were the first prominent practitioners of mathematics, physics, astronomy, life-cycle studying, and a number of other disciplines. The origins of science and philosophy cannot be separated: they set out on their journey and this has enriched mankind with wonderful results.

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