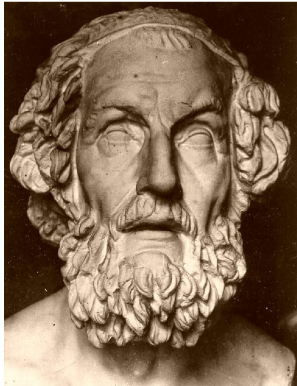


ARCHAIC AGE OF GREECE

(800-500 BC)



Homer, according to legend, was blind. He composed the two epic poems the Iliad and the Odyssey, focusing on the Trojan War and its aftermath. This was the first European literature.

- Adoption of Phoenician alphabet, rapid and widespread use of writing
- Use of the hoplite phalanx formation
- Stasis (civil discord) between rich and poor
 - Gave the Greeks motivation for colonization movement
 - Constitutional reforms
 - Gives rise to tyrannies in many Greek cities
- Expansion of Spartan power
 - Sparta became a boot-camp society, with all Spartan males as soldiers who trained continually for war
 - As such, they formed the best fighting unit in Greece
 - Conquered other Greeks, the helots, who had to support Sparta
- Presocratic philosophers (*phusikoi*)
 - Rejected earlier myths of Homer and Hesiod about gods
 - Insisted upon physical explanations for the creation of the universe, and people
 - Insisted upon using logic, rejected the argument from authority