



by Rick Chersicla

From 431 BC to 404 BC, the two preeminent Greek city-states of the time engaged in what would be a generational struggle. This war (really a period of intermittent conflict with the occasional stretches of peace) commonly known as [The Peloponnesian War](#), was a struggle for hegemony between the land power of Sparta, and the rising master of the sea, Athens. The best account of the war is that written by [Thucydides](#), himself a veteran of the fighting. Thucydides' [sweeping work](#) (one he wrote with the intent that it be a “work for all time”) contains a [multitude of lessons](#) in diplomacy and international relations.

Beyond its obvious utility for historians, diplomats, and the strategists, the nearly 2,500-year-old work also holds relevant lessons for any boardroom or operations center given its timeless lessons on communications and leadership.

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