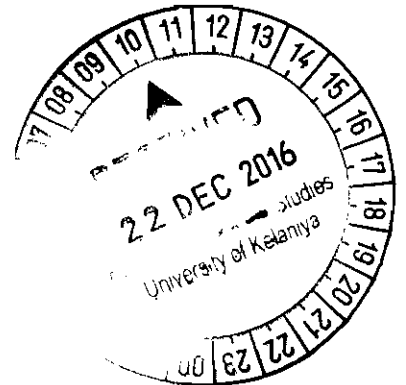


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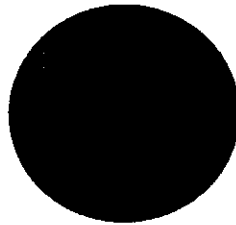


ATHENIAN 'CLERUCHIES' OF THE 5TH CENTURY BCE: AN ANALYTICAL
STUDY OF COLONIZATION AS A POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRATEGY
OF THE ATHENIAN IMPERIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Submitted by
W.M.U.I. Weerakoon
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Abstract

There were two distinct types of colonies established by the Athenian empire of the 5th century BCE. One was the straight-forward Greek colonies while the others were referred to as cleruchies. This study will distinguish, as far as the evidence allows, the cleruchies from the colonies and examine the factors which resulted in the intensive imposition of cleruchies by Athens during the period of her empire. The several historical sources indicate a widespread imposition of cleruchies by Athens in the territories of the subject allies during the period of her empire in the 5th century BCE. The geographical distribution of the identified cleruchies will be analyzed to identify the reason for the creation of this special type of dependent settlements and its significance for the establishment of an empire. The study notes that primary literary evidence is insufficient to specifically differentiate the Athenian imperial settlements as colonies or cleruchies. However Mytilene, Lemnos, Imbros, Melos, Histiaea, Carystus, Naxos, Andros, Chalcis and Eretria can be identified as the Athenian imperial cleruchies from the epigraphic evidence. It will be also observed that discrepancies exist among scholars on the status of the Athenian imperial settlements as colonies or cleruchies. However, the characteristics of cleruchies evident from the historical sources are affirmed in scholarship to a greater extent. It is also identified in scholarship that Athens, which was the earliest western empire, had made most of her colonies into cleruchies based on the benefits provided by this special type of colonies for the furtherance of her imperial interests. It is recognized here that Athens had imposed imperial cleruchy-settlements in both near and distant states of Athens in the Aegean which were militarily and economically of strategic importance to the Athenian empire. While the cleruchies brought a wide variety of military, political and economic benefits to Athens, the grievances caused by the cleruchy-policy led the allies to detest Athens and her empire. The further findings of this research indicate that the unique nature of the cleruchies and their benefits which catered and furthered the imperial interests of Athens led to the "cleruchization" of several of her colonies by the Athenian empire in the 5th century BCE. This study also highlights the significance of cleruchies as a political and military strategy for the building of empires from the time as early as the earliest western empire.

Keywords: Cleruchies, the Athenian empire, the 5th century BCE, political and military strategy