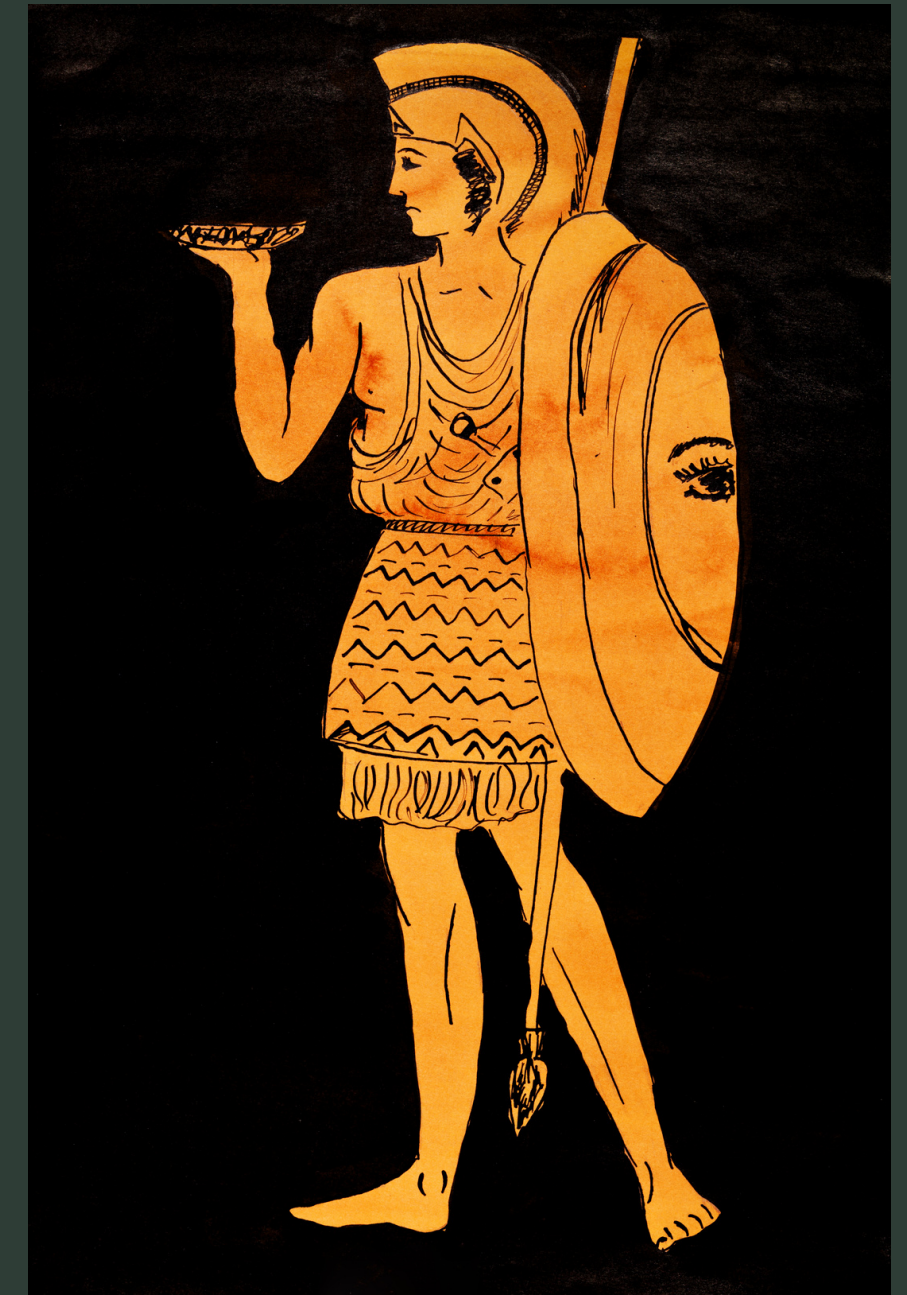

CULTURE TALK

Tyranny



WHAT IS TYRANNY?

- a governmental form that is known for exercising power without any restrictions or limitations.
- associated with the illegal and illegitimate force of taking power away.
- This word originated in the Greek empire since the Greek word, tyrannos, means person with absolute power.



TYRANNY IN ANCIENT GREECE

- Tyranny was seen in parts of ancient Greece when Phalaris of Akragas took control of Sicily.
 - He would burn his enemies alive.
- Another example of tyrannic leaders would be Peisistratus. He once ruled Athens, which lasted for 30 years.
 - he gained power three times through military coups.
- Tyrants in Greece were known more about getting power to further their needs and interests, not to try to make others miserable.

TYRANNY INFLUENCES

- Tyranny brought awareness to new concepts, such as checks and balances.
 - Checks and balances are used to check the power of each different branch of government.
 - The Founders of the U.S. Constitution wanted to prevent a single person ruling, or a tyrannical rule, so that no one branch of government takes complete control over the country.



EFFECT OF TYRANNY

- Tyranny has had an impact on certain demographics.
 - For example, when Oliver Cromwell came into power in the mid-17th century, he took absolute control, and discriminated against Scottish and Irish residents.
 - Another example of rulers discriminating against different ethnic or religious groups is Enver Pasha, who was the ruler of Turkey in the 20th century. He was known for his vile hatred towards Armenian people, and eventually led to the horrific historical event of killing 2.5 million Armenians in the Armenian genocide.



TYRANNY TODAY

While tyrants are known to carry a negative connotation, they are well known in furthering the interests of the people, such as improving the economic and social well-being of others. However, in certain instances, power gets ahead of the interests of the tyrants, which results in their actions harming groups of people.

