**Golden age**- an ideal, often imaginary past time of peace, prosperity, and happiness. The period when a specified art, skill, or activity is at its peak

Population in Athens: Citizens (males), women, metics (foreigners), slaves,

Analyze the following documents to determine if Athens really did have a golden age:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Station | Why do historians call this a Golden Age? | Who benefits from this? Who is left out? Why? |
| Government  And  Democracy in the age of Pericles |  |  |
| Classical Art |  |  |
| The birth of written history  Herodotus |  |  |
| Architecture/  The Parthenon |  |  |
| Greek Drama: Comedy and Tragedy |  |  |
| Philosophy |  |  |

“What matters is how important the slaves were to producing the surplus, for without this there could be no life of idleness [not doing hard work] for the ruling class, no freeing of writers and poets from relentless physical toil and no resources for marvels like the Acropolis. The ruling class owed its position to the control of land cultivated mainly by slaves, to such an extent that the classic Greek writers and philosophers saw the ownership of slaves as essential to a civilized life. So Aristotle could lump the master and slave as the essential elements of the household alongside the husband and wife, father and children.”

-Chris Harman on Athens’ golden age, *The People’s History of the World*

Read Chris Harman’s analysis of the “Golden Age of Athens.” Does the fact that Athens excluded women, slaves, a metics [foreigners] from its democratic system make this time period any less of a golden age? Why or why not? Use your analysis of the stations to answer the question:

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