The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization

As you watch the documentary film produced by PBS, complete the table below.

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| **Famous Greek** | **Biographical Details** | **Significant Accomplishments** | **Notable Failures** |
| Cleisthenes | * Athenian nobleman
* grew up with great privilege
* was raised to be a leader
* grew up in Athens before it was a regional power and when aristocrats lived lives of privilege and non-aristocrats lived difficult lives
* became archon during the reign of Hippias
* was exiled during the reign of Hippias but then convinced Spartans to help remove Hippias from power
* influenced by Homer’s stories
 | * brought political reforms to Athens
* re-distributes population into ten tribes, making it unlikely that citizens would act according to family and geographical loyalties
* introduced the practice of ostracism
* known of the Father of Democracy
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| Themistocles | * Athenian statesman and general
* came from a middle-class family (not an aristocratic family)
* liked to write and perform speeches in his youth, but not a gifted student
* was an archon and later the leader of Athens after the Battle of Marathon
 | * convinced Athenians to build a powerful fleet to guard against Persian invasion
* used the discovery of silver to finance the building of triremes (from 70 to 200)
* ordered the evacuation of Athens after the Battle of Thermopylae
* commanded the Greek fleet at the Battle of Salamis, defeating the Persian fleet
 | * was exiled from Athens after the Persian Wars for corruption and bribery
* travelled to the Persian Empire and was perceived as a traitor in Athens
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| Pericles | * statesman, general and orator during Golden Age of Athens
* name means “surrounded by glory”
* Thucydides called him the “first citizen of Athens”
* born into an aristocratic family
* read widely in his youth, was introverted
* had a romantic relationship with Aspasia of Miletus, who was a talented writer and teacher
 | * increased power of Athens through the Delian League
* promoted arts, literature and philosophy
* saw philosophy as practical discipline
* delivered Funeral Oration after the First Peloponnesian War
* oversaw the rebuilding of the Acropolis and the addition of the Parthenon
* extended democratic reform, include paid service for public office
 | * ordered the retreat on Athenians behind the long walls during the Second Peloponnesian War, after which the plague ravaged the citizens and killed Pericles
* his death marks the start of the decline of Athens’ power and influence
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| Socrates | * son of a sculptor
* called the wisest man by the oracle at Delphi
* questioned the wisdom of elders in Athens, attracted young students
* defended six generals put on trial for abandoning men stranded at sea during the Second Peloponnesian War but lost
* accused of corrupting youth of Athens and put on trial (might have been a scapegoat for Athens’ decline after the Peloponnesian War)
* sentenced to die by drinking hemlock
 | * Father of Western Philosophy
* All his students (e.g., Plato, Xenophon) founded important schools of philosophy)
* used the Socratic method: questioning pre-suppositions of people
* concerned with how to life a good and virtuous life
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