

THE ANCIENT GREEK CONTRIBUTIONS TO MODERN SOCIETY

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Rezumat

Articolul dat conține informație despre contribuțiile grecilor antici aduse societății moderne. În rezultatul cercetărilor efectuate s-a stabilit că Grecia antică a adus contribuții considerabile societății contemporane. Grecii antici au contribuit enorm în toate domeniile, inclusiv în domenii precum știința, medicina, politica și sportul. De asemenea cuvintele și expresiile de origine greacă au contribuit imens la formarea și diversificarea limbilor europene. În baza celor expuse putem constata că Grecia antică a pus bazele civilizației moderne europene.

The ancient Greek civilization made significant contributions to modern society. They made contributions practically to all the fields of the modern world. The ancient Greeks made considerable contributions to the vocabulary of many languages, to modern government, to modern medicine, to modern history and science and to modern sports [1, p. 175].

Today the ancient Greek terminology can be found in different areas. Medicines are named after the characters of famous myths. Morphine, a pain reliever, dates back to the mythology of the Greeks. The name of this popular narcotic is derived from the Greek God of Sleep, Morpheus. Chronic is another medical term that derives from the Greek „khronos” which means „time”. It’s interesting to point out that the word „aphrodisiac” roots back to the Greek goddess of beauty , Aphrodite. The modern atlases received their name from the Titan who held the Earth upon his shoulders. The term „Herculean task” came from the feats accomplished by the famous demigod. It means a task that is very hard to perform. And this is only a small part of the ancient Greek words and phrases that are used in different fields of the modern world [2].

The ancient Greeks invented a new form of government called „democracy”, which means „power to people”. In the year 507 BC the Athenian leader Cleisthenes introduced a system of political reforms that he called „demokratia”. There were no representatives in the Greek system of government. Instead the citizens of Athens ruled themselves directly, each man was a life long member of the decision making body, called Assembly. This was almost a total democracy except for the fact that women and slaves (over 50 % of the population) were not considered citizens and were not allowed to vote. Despite this, many later civilizations have incorporated this Greek idea as part of the foundation for their government [3].

The Greek contributions to modern medicine are connected with Hippocrates. Hippocrates, often called the father of medicine, was the first to separate the magic from medicine. For the first time a new framework was introduced based on reason and scientific knowledge. Besides the new approach of treating illnesses, Hippocrates was also the author of the Oath which bears his name. The Hippocratic Oath is an ethical standard among doctors and is still sworn by medical students throughout the world [4].

Ancient Greece has importantly influenced the western science. The most famous ancient Greek scientists and researchers are: Archimedes, Pythagoras, Aristarchus of Samos and Herodotus of Halicarnassus. Archimedes was the greatest mathematician of ancient times. He is famous for his discovery known as the „Archimedes Principle”. Pythagoras gave his name to a number of theories. The Pythagorean Theorem is the most important among them and represents a major step in the development of geometry. Aristarchus of Samos was the first who declared that the sun is situated in the centre of the known universe and the Earth revolves around it. This theory was not accepted at that time. The 16th century Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus, who showed that the sun rather than the Earth is the centre of the solar system is thought to have read Aristarchus’ writings on the subject. Herodotus is known as the father of history. He is famous for taking a new approach and writing on known events of the past, as opposed to other historians of his time who dealt with gods and myths in their works [5].

The Olympic Games are the main contribution of the ancient Greeks to modern sports. The ancient Olympics first took place in 776 BC at a place called Olympia and were dedicated to Zeus, king of the

gods. Today's Olympic Games are based on what took place at Olympia, in Greece, nearly three millennia ago.

In conclusion we'd like to mention that the Greek contribution to modern world was enormous. Today a lot of ancient Greek terms are used in different fields, from medicine to business. The ancient Greeks invented a new system of government called „democracy”, which today is used all over the world. Hippocrates laid the foundation of the modern medicine that's why he is called the Father of Medicine. Ancient Greece has importantly influenced the western science in many ways. Archimedes, Pythagoras, Aristarchus and many others made a lot of discoveries and inventions, like Pythagorean Theorem or Archimedes Principle and thus they laid the foundation of the modern science. Another important invention of the ancient Greeks was the Olympic Games. Today they are still held every four years.

Bibliography

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