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# Administrative Sciences and their Origin in Ancient Corinth (*)

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**ABSTRACT**

**During Periander's reign (c. 627–585 BCE), Corinth became the wealthiest city-state in pre-classical Ancient Greece. By relying on reviewing ancient and non-ancient writings about Ancient Corinth, I venture to claim that Periander invented the *multi-divisional form of organization*. Additionally, I claim that he deserves to be called the *Father of Administrative Sciences* because, in his attempt to manage the city-state (his organization) efficiently and effectively, he instituted adverse selection and moral hazard minimizing incentive mechanisms. Periander established a classless, artistic and poetry-loving society and encouraged the creation of new products and services. He promoted competition, efficiency, and fairness. He was against free monopoly and opportunism of any sort as well as against waste and luxury. He freed all slaves so that Corinthians focus less on inconsequential endeavors and more on how to sharpen skills and improve know-how to enrich their lives and their city-state. He enabled Corinthians to distribute their products all over the known world by relying on sea trade and trade centers (primary Corinthian colonies) and marketed his city-state products through effective marketing by relying, mainly, on diplomacy. He minted state-sponsored metal coin money which became the most popular medium of exchange in trade dealings across the Mediterranean Basin. Furthermore, he required sellers to issue receipts and pay taxes above a certain level of revenue. Undoubtedly, during Periander's 40 years of reign, materially, culturally, and aesthetically, Ancient Corinth became the Shining City on a Hill.**

**Keywords:** Management, M-Form of Organization, Incentives, Marketing, Culture, Administrative Sciences.

## INTRODUCTION

A recent Tourist Guide (2012) contains a legend about Ancient Corinth or Korinthos (in Greek, Κόρινθος meaning "maiden of the flower") which may be paraphrased as follows: Korinthos used to be called Ephyra. A king of Ephyra (unknown name) had a daughter, a maiden princess who was so beautiful that they decided to call her the Maiden of the Flower. Three young men fell in love with her, and each wanted to marry her. The princess liked them all, but to choose one out of the three, asked each to offer a gift to her beloved city of Ephyra and promised to marry the one that would offer the best gift. All three accepted the task.

(*) I am grateful to Helen Kantarelis for helpful suggestions and to the anonymous reviewers for useful and constructive comments. All remaining errors are mine.

The first young man brought "fertile land", the second brought "access to two seas", and the third brought "trade and crafts". The Princess liked all gifts for she found them of vital importance to Ephyra. She accepted each gift with delight and told each bearer that she would like to think a bit more overnight as to whom she will accept as her husband to be. At nighttime, the Maiden Princess climbed to the top of the nearby Akrokorinthos mountain and jumped to her death … so that none of the gifts is rejected and thus all three forever benefit Ephyra. When the local inhabitants learned about the tragic event, they decided to rename their city from Ephyra to Korinthos!

Undoubtedly, as the myth implies, Ancient Corinth was rich. It owned vital land resources, occupied a strategic geographic location, and held competitive advantages in craft-making, ship building and trade with Egypt and Asia. Many have written about the wealthy ancient city-state, among them Dunbadin (1948), Wiseman (1978), Salmon (1984), Morgan (2002), Zimmerman Munn (2003), Gill (2020), and Gentleman of Cambridge (1731 and 2018).

The city-state achieved its golden age when it was ruled by the Cypselid dynasty from 657 to 582 BCE; a dynasty of three tyrants who ruled for about three quarters of a century: Cypselus (c. 657–627 BCE) – founder of the dynasty, his son Periander (c. 627–585 BCE) – one of the seven sages of Ancient Greece (accepted as such by Aristotle but refuted by Plato), and Periander's nephew Psammetichus (c. 586-582 BCE) – *assassinated in the third year of his reign*. During the Cypselid dynasty, especially under Periander, Corinth became the richest and most powerful city-state in Ancient Greece for parts of the 7th and 6th centuries BCE. The Tyrant took full advantage of the City's geographical location and instituted incentive mechanisms for his fellow Corinthians that enabled them to achieve the highest levels of wellbeing across the Mediterranean Basin. Figure 1 shows a map of modern Greece; Corinth and its vicinity are located in the square which is detailed in Figure 2.



**Figure 1: Modern Greece (Ancient Corinth and vicinity in the square, detailed in Figure 2),**
Source: <https://greecemap360.com>


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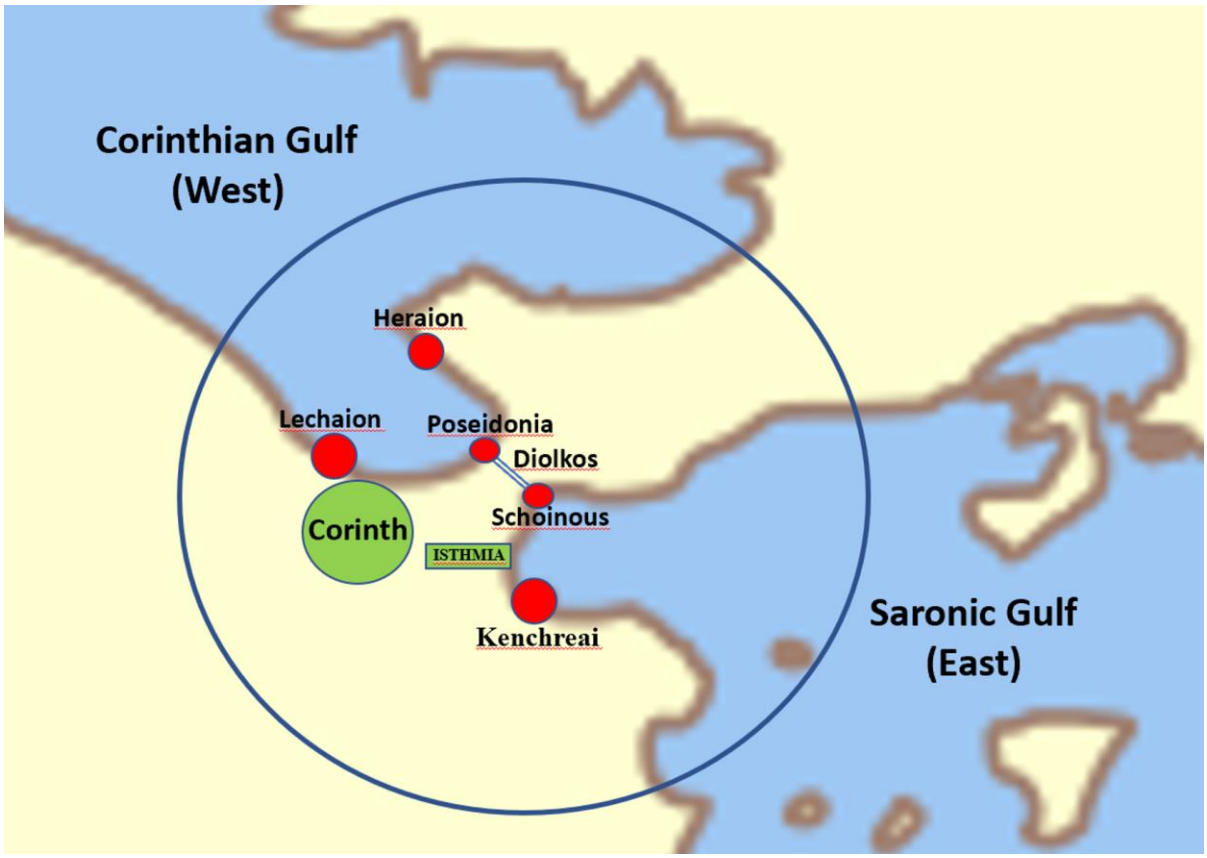



**Figure 2: Location of Ancient Corinth and Isthmia (green), 5 harbors (red), and Diolkos**
Source: Modified from <https://greecemap360.com>

During Periander's reign, Corinth became the *Shining City on a Hill*, the most desirable ancient city to live in; an exemplary City-State, materially and intellectually rich as well as aesthetically pleasing. In this paper, I claim that Periander invented the multi-divisional form of organization and I will try to justify my additional claim that, because of the way he managed his *organization* (his City-State), he deserves to be called the father of Administrative Sciences.[1]

[1] Periander was a Sage but not a Saint despite his many wise sayings, some of which appear below. He killed his wife Melissa while pregnant and, in retaliation for his son's assassination in the island of Kerkyra (Corfu) - a Corinthian colony, he sent 300 men from the island to be castrated by the Lydian King Alyattes; at the end, the men were saved by the Samians, from the nearby island of Samos.

Selection of some wise sayings by Periander, (Periander Quotes, 2023):

- Democracy is better than tyranny (however, it was never practiced during the years of the Cypselid dynasty);
- Freedom is a clear conscience;
- Pleasures are transient;
- Honors are immortal;
- Be moderate in prosperity and prudent in adversity;
- Be the same to your friends whether they are in prosperity or in adversity;
- Whatever agreement you make, stick to it;
- Betray no secret;
- Practice is everything;
- Be farsighted with everything;

In whatever follows, Section II draws the image of Periander as a Manager (or Chief Executive Officer) of his organization, the City-State of Ancient Corinth. Section III describes four business divisions along with the duties of managing. A summary and conclusion follow in Section IV. An Appendix, at the end, outlines some mythological highlights and offers a laconic history table on Corinth from neolithic to modern times.

## PERIANDER THE MANAGER

Periander experimented with private and public management systems as well as marketing strategies that became effective practical tools for other ancient city-states (Greek and non-Greek) and empires that followed (e.g., Hellenistic and Roman). During his time, he combined rational adjustment to and mastery of the known world. He

- promoted the creation of new products and services;
- enabled Corinthians to distribute their products all over the known world by relying on sea trade and trade centers (primary Corinthian colonies);
- marketed his city-state products through superb diplomacy and key alliances that was able to create and maintain;
- promoted competition, efficiency and fairness - he was against monopoly and opportunism of any sort as well as against waste and luxury, always making certain that goods were priced to reflect true value;
- required all able men to stand ready to defend the city-state, if needed, and pay for the weapons to use (there were no standing military forces);
- appointed Officers to manage various business divisions and serve as peacekeepers and judges in civil disputes, as well, in case of war, to serve as military leaders or Polemarchs (Generals).

Upon taking over as a Tyrant from his father Cypselus in c. 628 BCE, Periander decided to focus on what may strengthen or generate additional competitive advantage for the city-state. Specifically:

(a) Because of location, he could control trade both on land and at sea.

(b) He established a classless society by prohibiting class distinctions – had no appreciation for elitism. He grouped all inhabitants into eight tribes with mixed populations from the city, the north and the south; in each tribe, 50% inhabitants were from the city, 25% from the north and 25% from the south.

(c) He reformed agricultural land that had originally been taken away by his father from 200 Bacchiad oligarch families of Dorian background. He redistributed the land evenly to all those in the population who were willing to be farmers and as such get involved in planting, cultivating, performing post-harvest duties, and in the overseeing of livestock. Redistribution of land was not a Robinhood-type act because in it he included the original owners as well, each of course ending up with less land than before. For this initiative alone, the Bakkhiads hated him and, throughout his reign, they undermined him by circulating unfounded rumors regarding his temperament and overall character.

(d) He freed up all slaves so that their owners develop or maintain know-how regarding skills in association with agriculture, ship-making, navigating, and craft-making.

- Nothing is impossible to industry;
- Live according to your income.



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(e) He issued state-sponsored metal coin money [2] depicting Pegasus, the winged horse on one side and Athena with a Corinthian helmet on the other. For additional identification, Corinthian coins bore a single letter that was used in early forms of the Greek alphabet, the obsolete koppa (Ϙ) (see Figure 3).
(f) He prohibited locals to visit the City unless there was trade involved (he was against visiting the city for fun), disallowed free monopoly (however, encouraged regulated natural monopoly), and discouraged luxury products.
(g) He required sellers to issue receipts, so that their revenue is monitored, and pay sales taxes above a certain percentage (percentage unknown.)
(h) He demanded that households stand ready to disclose where their assets and savings originated from, in other words he required asset and *funds-source declaration*, known in Greek as ***πόθεν έσχες***.
(i) All sectors of the local economy had to show annual progress, unless not possible due to act of God or war.



**Figure 3: Ancient Corinthian state-sponsored coins**
Source: < https://www.ngccoin.com/news/article/5842/NGC-Ancients-coins/>

Periander exhibited immense loyalty to his allies and demonstrated exceptional skills in diplomacy. He used diplomacy as a marketing tool to promote local products and services (especially harbor services) to near-by and far-away city-states. Additionally, he reinforced ties with colonies established before and during his reign (among them Syracuse, Corfu or Kerkyra, Potidaea, and Naucratis) to be used as trading posts in the distribution of outgoing Corinthian goods (poros limestone, vines, olives, bronze, pottery and ships) and incoming goods (especially wood, cooper from Cyprus and other products.) Periander was a master salesman

[2] Currency, in the form of metallic coins, to be used as a medium of exchange, appeared for the first time in Lydia (currently part of Turkey) sometime in the 7th century BCE, before or during the golden age of Corinth. The Ancient Greek city-state of Aegina was the first one in history to establish state-sponsored coins followed by Corinth. Obviously, state-sponsorship contributed to the credibility and efficacy of coin as a medium of exchange. Due to trade dominated by Corinthians, the state-sponsored Corinthian coins became most popular than any other currency up to that time.

of Corinthian harbor services and the inventor of the Diolkos, which due to locational advantages greatly facilitated trade from east to west and / or military objectives (more about it below).

He divided the City-State into four divisions (see Figure 4): Harbors & Diolkos, Crafts & Ship Building / Repair, Minerals & Agriculture, Public Works & Arts. In charge of his city-sate, acting as Chief Executive Officer, the Tyrant dealt with (a) setting laws and regulations, (b) acting as chief diplomat to maintain alliances in the Mediterranean Sea with the mission to establish trade treaties for exports and vital imports, (c) strengthening existing and establishing new colonies to use as trade centers, (d) selecting and appointing division managers, and (e) acting as a patron of arts such as music (which he loved) and aesthetically pleasing architectural creations as applied to forts, temples, roads, and water fountains.

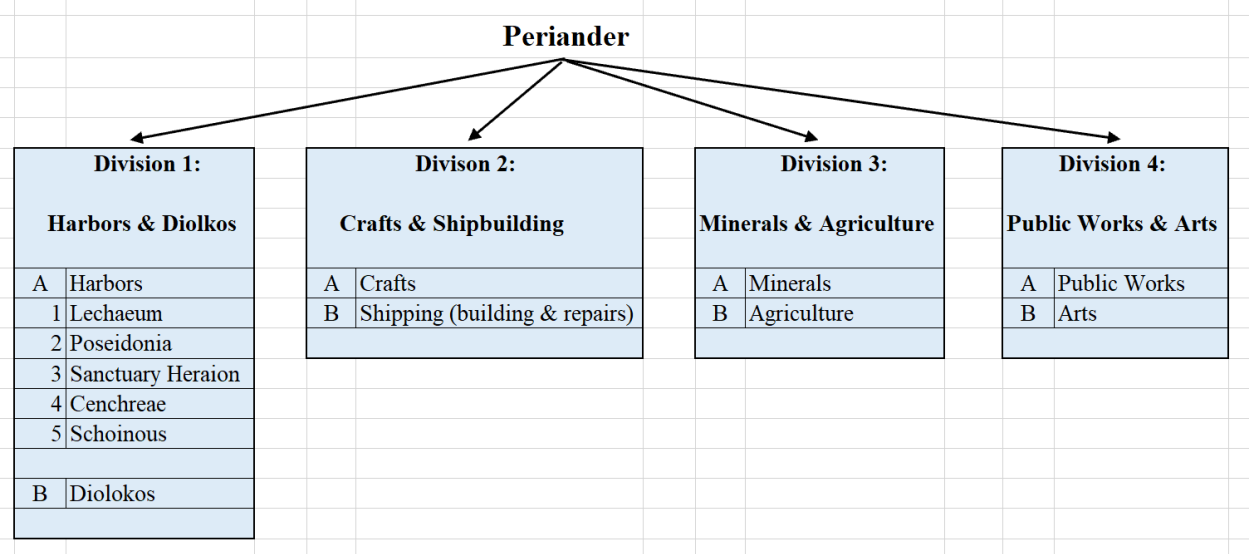



**Figure 4: Periander's Muti-divisional Form of Organization**

## III. DIVISIONS

### Division 1 - Harbors & Diolkos

Corinth had five harbors (see Figure 2) managed by five Officers. Two Officers were responsible for the main harbors of Lechaion (serving western seas) and Kenchreai (serving eastern seas.) A third Officer was in charge of a religious harbor, used by visitors to a sanctuary - the Heraion Sactuary, constructed to worship goddess Hera and also to defend the city against nearby pirates and possible invaders from the north.

Two Officers were responsible for the harbors of Poseidonia and Schoinous connected by the Diolkos, a stone-built overland road to carry merchandise and even small boats. The road was built with local stone and it had two parallel grooves for wheels of wagons to run in. Figure 5 shows ruins of a remaining portion of the Diolkos.


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**Figure 5: Diolkos ruins**
Source: Author

Upon arrival of a boat at one of these two harbors, a decision had to be made: load the boat on a wagon and its cargo on another wagon and then push / drag them over the groovy road to the other harbor, or transport just the cargo to be loaded on an awaiting boat. Lewis (2001) states that the Diolkos is the forerunner of the railroad built on "stone channel rails". He defines the railroad as "a prepared track which so guides the vehicles running on it that they cannot leave the track" and points out that "the Diolkos was a railway within [his] definition". Diolkos, of course, may be imagined as an upside-down first industrial revolution-type railroad, where modern implies the railroad invented during the industrial revolution.

According to Lewis, Given the wide extent of Greek trade, the cargoes in question might be almost anything; and when they were in small units like bales or amphorae, they could be carried easily enough by pack animal or cart. There was indeed an earth road on either side of the paved route. But at least in the earlier days of the Diolkos there was certainly a considerable traffic in large blocks of marble from east to west, up to several tons apiece, and in large timbers from west to east, the sort of heavy commodities for which a railway would be particularly valuable. … Being in Corinthian territory, the Diolkos can only have been built by Corinth, which prospered mightily from its position controlling north-south traffic into the Peloponnese and east-west traffic across the Isthmus. But the Diolkos was not built for trade to and from the city of Corinth which, with its two [main] ports, lies well to the south. It was built, rather, to encourage, and to profit from, merchants who traded across the Isthmus between the Aegean and western Greece and were willing to pay the haulage costs and tolls which, we may be quite sure, Corinth charged.

Pettegrew (2011) disputes that the Diolkos was serving commercial purposes and claims that there is evidence which proves that it was serving military needs for Ancient Corinthians and

their allies. In his own words, Each form of evidence problematizes the notion of voluminous transshipment and suggests the road did not facilitate trade as a constant flow of ships and cargoes across the isthmus. The diolkos was not principally a commercial thoroughfare for transporting the goods of other states but facilitated the communication, transport, travel, and strategic ends of Corinth and her allies. The commercial properties of the Isthmus of Corinth subsist in its emporion or exchange, not in a road used for transshipment.

Of course, facilitating the "strategic ends of Corinth and her allies" alone can be interpreted as serving a marketing function: allies would be more inclined to favor Corinthian products and harbor services in return for the strategic importance of the shared Diolkos.

The five managing Officers of the harbors and Diolkos dealt with disputes, served as protectors and judges, dealt with logistics as they applied to harbor and Diolkos operations (from physical to financial), and they could hire their own assistants - number unknown. The managing Officers had to make certain that the assigned structures and their personnel

- effectively guarded and patrolled against possible looting of merchandise while the boat was in the harbor and / or piracy in its nearby waters (radius unknown); and that they were,
- well-financed through importation and exportation tariffs based on weight and value, docking fees, boat-repair fees, and tolls for boat and merchandise transportation / crossing over the Diolkos;
- well-maintained, and
- well-served with paid employees to offer loading / unloading and transporting services.

The Officers, based on their reputation and skills compared to competing candidates, were selected by the Tyrant and, similarly, the Officers selected assistants who in turn selected various paid workers. Officers, supervisory assistants and hired workers were paid proportionally to raised revenues from harbor and Diolkos business activity. Such percentages are unknown. Also, it is not known what percentage of the proceeds was enriching the coffers of the city-state. Given Periander's reputation for justice / fairness and moderation as well as his mindset against luxury and excess spending, most likely excess funds were spent wisely. Undoubtedly, the share of revenue from the five harbors and the Diolkos was by far higher than revenues from the other sectors (divisions) that appear in Figure 3.

**Division 1 Incentives**

Selecting harbor and Diolkos Officers, based on their reputation and skills compared to competing candidates, the Tyrant minimized adverse selection; additionally, making their incomes dependent on harbor business activity, he minimized moral hazard. Similarly, Officers incentivized their assistants and the assistants their paid workers. (Recall: there were no slaves for, as stated above, they had been freed by the Tyrant for economic reasons; freed, so that masters of slaves do not experience deterioration in know-how or task-performing skills needed to earn their living).

**Division 2 - Agricultural Sector (Crops and Farming Animals)**

The entire agricultural sector was managed by an Officer. His tasks included dealing with intra-tribe and inter-tribe disputes - served as protector and judge - as well as production


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supervision, making certain that everyone worked peacefully, efficiently, and effectively subject to penalties (specifics unknown.)

- The Officer, based on his reputation and his skills relative to competing candidates, was selected by the Tyrant. In turn, the Officer had the freedom to hire a small number of assistants, number of assistants unknown.
- Farmers had to provide housing for the Manager his family and his assistants; additionally, they had to feed them as well as the Tyrant proportionally to harvest / agricultural output (percentages unknown.
- Farmers did not have to pay sales taxes unless their receipts, from selling extra produce after feeding themselves the Officer and his assistants as well as the Tyrant, exceeded a certain level (level unknown.)

**Division 2 Incentives**

**Officer**: Selecting the Officer, based on his reputation and skills relative to competing candidates, the Tyrant minimized adverse selection. Additionally, making the Officer's well-being dependent on the performance of farmers, the Tyrant minimized moral hazard. (Similarly, the Officer incentivized his assistants).

**Farmer**: Working in his own farm (being his own boss), and since he did not have to experience any adverse selection problems regarding hirings or using slaves (slaves had been freed), the farmer had the incentive to work hard. Additionally, supervision by the Officer minimized farmer's moral hazard making it more likely to produce more and pay taxes above a certain level of sales thus enriching the coffers of the city-state.

**Division 3 - Production and Trade of Pottery / Crafts, Trireme Shipbuilding, and Navigation Services**

It was during Periander's rule that the famous post-geometric black-figure pottery technique was invented and developed, which became one of the most money-earning exported goods of the city-state.[3] According to Hellenic-Art (2023),

For much of the 7th and 6th centuries [BCE] Corinth led the Greek world in producing and exporting pottery, that is black-figure pottery. The stylized geometric lines gave way to animal and human figures with rounded contours and considerable animation. […] The Corinthian style was also characterized by an expanded vocabulary of motifs: sphinx, griffin, lions, etc., as well as a repertory of non-mythological animals arranged in friezes across the belly of the vase. In these friezes, painters also began to apply lotuses or palmettes.

Additionally, everything associated with shipbuilding and repairs as well as navigation services greatly contributed to incoming revenues. As reported by Brewminate.com (2023), "According to Thucydides, the trireme was introduced to Greece by the Corinthians in the late 8th century [BCE before Periander], and the Corinthian Ameinocles built four such ships for the Samians. This was interpreted by later writers, Pliny [1855 publication] and Diodorus [1989

[3] Black-figure pottery consists of black pictures against the natural color of the vase, different than red-figure pottery which consists of red images against a black background, a technique later developed in Ancient Athens. More details may be found in Risser (2003).

publication], to mean that triremes were invented in Corinth." Navigation services amounted to renting boats with crews to transport Corinthian goods all over the Mediterranean.

Like with agriculture, the sector was managed by an Officer. The Officer dealt with intra-tribe and inter-tribe disputes, served as protector and judge, acted as a control auditor that examined manufacturing processes, operational techniques, and trade logistics as they applied to trade inside and outside the city-state, inclusive of shipping and the professions linked to it, for example, sea navigation services for hire. The managing officer could hire his own assistants (number unknown.)

- The Officer, based on his reputation and his skills compared to competing candidates, was selected by the Tyrant and, similarly, the Officer selected assistants.
- Craftsmen had to provide housing for the Manager and his family as well as his assistants and they had to pay them proportionally to sales (percentages unknown.)
- Craftsmen did not have to pay taxes unless their receipts exceeded a certain level (level unknown.)

**Division 3 Incentives**

**Officer:**

Selecting the Officer, based on his reputation and skills relative to competing candidates, the Tyrant minimized adverse selection. Additionally, making the Officer's income dependent on the sales, the Tyrant minimized moral hazard. (Similarly, the Officer incentivized his assistants.)

**Craftsman:**

Working in his own small-scale manufacturing facility (being his own boss), and since he did not have to experience any adverse selection regarding hirings or using slaves (slaves had been freed), the craftsman had the freedom to create and the incentive to improve productivity to experience higher sales. Additionally, supervision by the Officer minimized craftsman's moral hazard making it more likely to produce more and pay taxes above a certain level of sales, which, as from agriculture, enriched the coffers of the city-state.

**Division 4 - Public Works & Arts**

With revenues from taxation and surplus proceeds from the harbors and the Diolkos, Periander managed the design, engineering and maintenance of public works such as state buildings, some temples, water fountains, and roads. Freed slaves were hired to construct temples in the Doric order and maintain public buildings except the sanctuaries dedicated to the goddess Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty, who was the protector deity of the city-state.

Temples dedicated to the patron deity were located by the main harbors and one on the top of the Acrokorinthos mountain; all sanctuaries were built on donors' contributions and temple revenues. In all temples dedicated to Aphrodite, priestesses were collecting a lot of revenue selling prostitution services, primarily to rich sailors. According to Strabo, in the Acrokorinthos temple alone, a thousand women allegedly worked around the clock collecting cash for their deity.[4] Periander decided not to tax prostitution revenue, but the temples had to be self-

[4] As Strabo writes (see Roller 2014), "The temple of Aphrodite was so rich that it owned more than a thousand temple slaves, courtesans, whom both men and women had dedicated to the goddess. And therefore, it was also



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supporting in terms of their various needs such as maintenance and compensation of priestesses. Obviously, income from prostitution was a significant multiplier in the Ancient Corinthian economy.

The Tyrant was a benefactor of arts and literature. He wrote and appreciated philosophy and poetry; he even wrote a didactic poem 2,000 lines long. He invited Arion to his court, a famous kitharode and Dionysiac poet, from the island of Lesbos. According to historian Herodotus, the poet Arion invented the dithyramb, composed many works of this type, named the genre, and formally presented them in Corinth under the patronage of Periander.

In closing this section, it is perhaps worth stressing that although Periander prohibited Corinthians from visiting Corinth for purposes other than business exchanges, he did encourage them to visit the city during many musical festivals and religious celebrations, all sponsored by him, of course with revenues collected from the public. During those festivals and celebrations, the Tyrant would host and present invited musicians and other artists as well as poets to recite poems inspired by the rich Corinthian mythology. In my opinion, this exposure to arts and religious festivals was a form of public education for the masses, a means to unite, motivate and empower his compatriots.

Perhaps Periander infused in his fellow citizens a desire for festivals and creative arts which may explain what transpired in Corinth after his death in 585 BCE, namely:

- The Inauguration of the Isthmian Games in 582 BCE in honor of God Poseidon, held every two years, which included musical and athletic competitions from all over the known world.
- The Building of the Temple of Apollo in 560 BCE, a marvel of engineering, constructed with monolithic limestone columns (solid stone, not pieces of stone arranged / linked one on top of the another).
- The creation of the Corinthian column in 425 BCE, a beautiful everlasting architectural contribution, which decorated ancient temples and later Renaissance buildings. Architectural history has recorded the so-called Neoclassical, Greek Revival, and Neoclassical Revival periods of the 19$^{th}$ century, characterized by a proliferation of buildings (private, public, churches) decorated with Ancient Greek colonnades following the Doric Order, the Ionian Order, and the Corinthian Order; most prevalent among them the Corinthian with its magnificent acanthus leaf design.

## SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

For forty years, the Ancient Corinthian Tyrant Periander wisely administered the city-state he inherited from his father. Undoubtedly, during his time, materially, culturally, and aesthetically, Ancient Corinth became the Shining City on a Hill.

on account of these women that the city was crowded with people and grew rich; for instance, the ship captains freely squandered their money, and hence the proverb, 'Not for every man is the voyage to Korinthos."

Inferring from reviewing ancient and non-ancient writings about Ancient Corinth [5], I ventured to claim above that Periander invented the *multi-divisional form of organization* and that because of the incentive mechanisms he imposed in his attempt to manage his city-state (his organization) efficiently and effectively, he deserves to be called the *Father of Administrative Sciences*.

By relying on, primarily, good geographical location, sea-harbor activity, creative engineering, trade, crafts and most importantly on incentive-based management, he helped Corinth become the most prosperous city-state in the Mediterranean Basin. Among other reforms, Periander,

- established a classless society;
- encouraged the creation of new products and services;
- promoted competition, efficiency, and fairness;
- was against free monopoly and opportunism of any sort as well as against waste and luxury;
- freed all slaves so that Corinthians focus less on inconsequential endeavors and more on how to sharpen skills and improve know-how to enrich their lives and their city-state;
- enabled Corinthians to distribute their products all over the known world by relying on sea trade and trade centers (primary Corinthian colonies);
- marketed his city-state products through effective marketing by relying, mainly, on diplomacy;
- minted state-sponsored metal coin money which became the most popular medium of exchange in trade dealings across all countries by the Mediterranean Sea;
- required sellers to issue receipts and pay taxes above a certain level of revenue.

Regarding incentives, he minimized adverse selection by selecting Officers to run the various divisions of the city-state (the organization) based on their reputation and skills relative to competing candidates. In turn, he minimized Officers' moral hazard by making their well-being dependent on the performance of their subordinates. Similarly, Officers incentivized their assistants. Additionally, the various occupations such as, among others, farming, trading, craft-making, shipbuilding and repairing, were incentivized by a combination of property rights and supervision.

Concluding, the ancient and non-ancient readings about Ancient Corinth on which this paper is based are limited, scarce, unreliable, and contradictory. Hopefully, the advent of improved technological means will bring to light future discoveries through archaeological research and its related fields. Such future research, I believe, will add to our knowledge about Periander's lasting contributions to western civilization and validate Corinth as a mega ancient city-state standing along Macedonia, Athens, Thebes and Sparta!

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## Appendix

**Mythological Highlights About Ancient Corinth:**

- Goddess Ephyra (daughter of the Titan Oceanus) founded the city of Ephyra
- which was renamed Corinth or Korinthos (Korinthos means *Maiden of the Flower*).
- Mythological figures associated with Ancient Corinth: Sisyphus (the first king, who founded the Isthmian Games), Jason and Medea, Pegasus (the winged horse) and the hero Bellerophon.
- During the Trojan War, as stated in Homer's Iliad, the Corinthians contributed under the leadership of Agamemnon.

**History Timeline About Corinth – Ancient to Modern:**

- 6500 BCE – Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Corinth.
- 900 BCE - Dorians settle at Lechaion near Corinth and eventually take over.
- 747 to 658 BCE – Bacchiades Dorian dynasty; ruled Corinth electing, annually, someone with the title prytanis (who acted like a governor) and someone else to head the army titled polemarchos.
- 658 to 582 BCE – Cypselid dynasty. Cypselus (658-628 BCE), the first tyrant of the city-state, removed the Bacchiad aristocracy from power. He was followed by his son Periander (627–587 BCE) who in turn was followed by his nephew Psammetichus (586-582 BCE). The dynasty stablished colonies at Epidamnus, Syracuse, Ambracia, Corcyra (modern day town of Kerkyra or Corfu), Anactorium, Apollonia, and Potidaea. Corinth, along with other city-stats, founded Naukratis in Ancient Egypt. During this period, Corinth experienced its golden age: the local economy blossomed under the leadership of Perinder through harbor services, tolls for the use of diolkos, trade of pottery and the manufacturing of ships.
- 492 to 449 BCE - **Greco-Persian Wars.**
- 427 BCE - Earliest Corinthian order capital was found in Bassae.
- 431 to 404 BCE - Peloponnesian War.
- 332 to145 BCE - Hellenistic period.
- 146 to BCE - the Roman Lucius Mummius burned Corinth to the ground; the city remained deserted for 100 years.
- 44 BCE - Julius Caesar rebuilt the city as in his honor and made it the capital of Roman Greece.
- 50 to 56 CE - Saint Paul the Apostle, one of the most important figures of early Christianity who made remarkable contributions to religious thought and practice, visited the city of Corinth three times.
- 380 to 1457 CE - under Byzantine empire (on and off).
- 1458 to 1831 CE - under Ottoman empire (on and off).
- 1832 CE to Present - Modern Greece.