Athens after the Peloponnesian War...

What about Athen’s government?

What about the Athenian citizens?

What about what Athens was forced to give up?

What about how Athens recovered from this dark time?
The 30 Tyrants After the Peloponnesian War

When Athens surrendered at the end of the Peloponnesian War, democracy was replaced by the oligarchic rule of the Thirty Tyrants (*boi triakonta*). This was a terrible period for Athens and part of Greece's downward slide that led to its takeover by Philip of Macedon and his son Alexander the Great.

**Spartan Hegemony:**

During the Spartan Hegemony - period lasting from 404-371 B.C. - Sparta effectively ruled over Athens. In this time, hundreds of Athenians were killed, thousands were exiled, and the number of citizens was severely reduced until Athens’ Thirty Tyrants were overthrown by an exiled Athenian general, Thrasybulus.

**After the Peloponnesian War -- Terms of Athens' Surrender:**

Athens’ strength had once been her navy. To protect themselves from attack by Sparta, the people of Athens had built the Long Walls. Sparta couldn't risk letting Athens become strong again, so it demanded stringent concessions at the end of the Peloponnesian War. According to the terms of Athens' surrender to Lysander, the Long Walls and fortifications of the Piraeus were destroyed, the Athenian fleet was wrecked, Spartan exiles that were previously sent away by Athens were recalled, and Sparta assumed command of Athens.

**Oligarchy Replaces Democracy:**

Sparta imprisoned the chief leaders of Athens' democracy and nominated a body of 30 local men (the Thirty Tyrants) to rule Athens and frame a new, oligarchic constitution. It is a mistake to think all Athenians were unhappy. Many in Athens favored oligarchy over democracy. Later, the pro-democratic faction did restore democracy, but only through force.

**Reign of Terror:**

The Thirty Tyrants, under the leadership of Critias, appointed a Council of 500 to serve the judicial functions that used to belong to all the citizens. (In democratic Athens, juries might be composed of hundreds or thousands of citizens without a presiding judge.) Instead of being judged by their peers, Athenians were judged by Spartans. They also appointed a police force and a group of 10 to guard the Piraeus. They granted only 3000 citizens a right to trial and to bear arms.

All other Athenian citizens could be condemned without trial by the Thirty Tyrants. This effectively deprived the Athenians of their citizenship. The Thirty Tyrants executed criminals and leading democrats, as well as others considered unfriendly to the new oligarchic regime. Those in power condemned their fellow Athenians for their greed in the buildup to the war and confiscated their property. Leading citizens were forced to drink the state-sentenced poison hemlock. The period of the Thirty Tyrants was a reign of terror.

**The End of the Thirty Tyrants:**

Meanwhile, other Greek cities, dissatisfied with the Spartans, were offering their support to the men exiled by the Thirty Tyrants. The exiled Athenian general Thrasybulus seized the Athenian fort at Phyle, with the help of the Thebans, and then took the Piraeus in the spring of 403. Critias was killed. The Thirty Tyrants became fearful and went to Sparta for help, but the Spartan king refused to support the Athenian oligarchs. As a result, roughly 3000 citizens were able to depose the terrible 30.