

Perspectives On "Proving" That Pleasure is "The Good"

Post by "Todd" of December 25, 2022 at 9:33 AM

That is an excellent point, [Joshua](#).

In my comment that you quoted, I was actually thinking of way further back - the neolithic and earlier, the arrival of empire with Sumer (possibly), etc.

But the point you make about ancient Greece is a good one, and I fully agree. (And you put it so eloquently!)

I would add only 2 things:

1) There were competing influences too: power-seekers looking to use new ideologies (or old ones) to secure or expand their power. I thought the observation in the paper about Solon was particularly interesting/damning/incriminating. Probably the competition was a major factor in making Greek civilization so fertile.

2) Also, remember the Greek city-states were built on a slave economy (like most other ancient civilizations, so not a unique failing of the Greeks). They accomplished great things, no doubt, and deserve credit for that. But slavery was a huge fly in the ointment. Slavery could also have been an ideological factor - as in, "we can't let all those slaves start getting any crazy ideas."