

Analysis of Military Strategies Depending On Geographical Features with Special Reference to Athens in the Persian Wars and Kandyan Kingdom during the Invasion of Frederick North

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Geography had been of importance to both the Kandyan kingdom and the city-state of Athens in antiquity, in all aspects such as economy, politics, culture, architecture, and especially when it comes to defence and military. Stark similarities in the use of geography in strategical defence by these two states in antiquity can be observed. Despite being geographical distant and belonging to two different time periods, the two states had used similar defence mechanisms, bringing up the question whether different nationalities utilise land in the same fashion in war. Library-Based research was conducted to study the elements of strategic warfare in ancient Athens and the Kandyan kingdom. Secondary data collected from published books, websites, and journal articles were utilized to analyze how geographical features of the two states were used in defence. Two specific periods were selected for the study. The Persian wars concerning Athens and the invasion of Frederick North concerning the Kandyan kingdom. The research revealed that the Kandyan kingdom has used mountains, gorges and rivers both as frontlines in battles and to encircle the enemy. These geographical features were also used to isolate the enemy and attack. In the same fashion, it was revealed that Athenians used passes to strategically wade off the enemy. Moreover, it was seen how Athenians also used geography in strategically attacking the enemies in naval warfare. Interestingly it was also revealed that both Kandyans and Athenians used the strategy of evacuating the city at the face of an enemy attack, followed by a strategical return, cornering and an attack. In conclusion, it can be said that despite the time and spatial difference, both Athenians and Kandyan have used their similar landscapes for strategic military defence in antiquity.

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