

# Euripides - Suppliant Women

~ 423 BC

→ Athens = mixed results in war - Cleon

Internal problems in Athens

→ Demagogues - how much influence?

Ext. threat

Seen in Antigone

Main issue in Thebes - Athens brought in. - Thebes - issue with tyranny & burial of the dead. midst of civil war

Women of Thebes try to get burial

Go to Theseus - King of Athens  
wishes he can resolve problem in Thebes

Theseus speaks of democracy - Cleon linked?

- Warning power of individuals
- 'There is no one to fool the city with flattering speech...'

Democracy idealised - equality in justice

- Set up to be beyond reach
- Challenges audience - how perfect is Athens' democracy?

Empire under guise of democracy

- Delian League & Theseus
- 'ratify it they will since that is what I wish.'

How inclusive is democracy?

- People outside of city - challenge to get involved

Recognition of faults in democracy

- Athens vs Thebes
- Dem. better than other gov.