

## **The Rich History of the Mediterranean: Outline**

**Civilizations of the Ancient Mediterranean** – Before the Greeks and Romans, the Mediterranean saw the rise of several ancient civilizations that continue to dazzle historians and visitors alike. These include the Sumerians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Minoans, Mycenaeans, Phoenicians and Carthaginians. This lecture will explore their highlights. (Nick Glakas)

**Spain: The Arab Conquest, Colonial Power, Fascist Ally, Modern Nation State.** This talk will examine Spain's pivotal role in the history of the Mediterranean world, Asia, the Americas and modern Europe. (Joe Snyder)

**In Search of Ancient Troy** – The tale of the siege of Troy as told by Homer in the Iliad is the oldest work of literature in the western world. But there is another story almost as exciting – the modern quest behind the reality of Homer's epic. This lecture will explore archeological efforts to prove that Troy did exist and that the Trojan War was real. (Nick Glakas)

**Italy: From Rome to the Modern Republic.** Italy was one of the earliest parts of Europe to be civilized, but one of the last modern nations formed. A look at the tumultuous history of the boot-shaped peninsula. (Joe Snyder)

**The Grandeur of Ancient Egypt** – Though the Egyptian civilization was not the earliest in the Mediterranean, it lasted longer than any other and in its heyday was the most spectacular on earth. This lecture will explore sites such as Memphis, capitol of ancient Egypt; Giza, site of the three great pyramids; Abydos, the kingdom's major necropolis; the Valley of the Kings, where pharaohs were entombed; Thebes, the oldest and most sacred site; the temples of Karnak & Luxor; and Abu Simbel, site of the temple and colossal statues of Ramesses II. (Nick Glakas)

**The Balkans: Why It's Called Balkanization.** The Balkan region has long been a case study for political and economic fragmentation. What has this history revealed and what are the prospects for the future? (Joe Snyder)

**The Golden Age of Ancient Greece** – Between its triumph in the Persian Wars in 479 BC and the end of the Peloponnesian Wars between Athens and Sparta in 431 BC, Athens enjoyed a golden half-century of art, drama, philosophy, literature, architecture and democracy. It was truly a brilliant age. This lecture will explore Athens at its zenith. (Nick Glakas)

**The Barbary Pirates: Scourge of the Mediterranean.** For over 300 years pirates from the Mediterranean coast of North Africa preyed on European shipping and coastal towns, stealing valuable goods and capturing seamen and residences to sell into slavery. The practice only ended in the early 1800s when European and American navies grew strong enough to suppress the pirates. (Joe Snyder)