

THE GREEKS

Greek laws, in some respects, were unique for early civilizations. While these statutes were repressive and cruel in some respects, the treatment of children was more benevolent, particularly in later Greek civilizations. For example, the law evolved to restrict the father from unilaterally having the right to take his child's life. Instead he was given the right to physically "chastise" the child. Eventually, the child was viewed as a distinct person from his father and could acquire and own property.