

HISTORY OF
ANCIENT GREECE

Meeting 3 **The Greek Dark Age**

- The Fall of the Bronze Age
- The "Dark Age" = Early Iron Age Hellas
- Cultural and Economic Development
- Recovery of Writing
- Homeric Society

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The Greek Dark Age

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Periods of Greek History

1600 BCE 1400 1200 1000 800 600 400 200 BCE

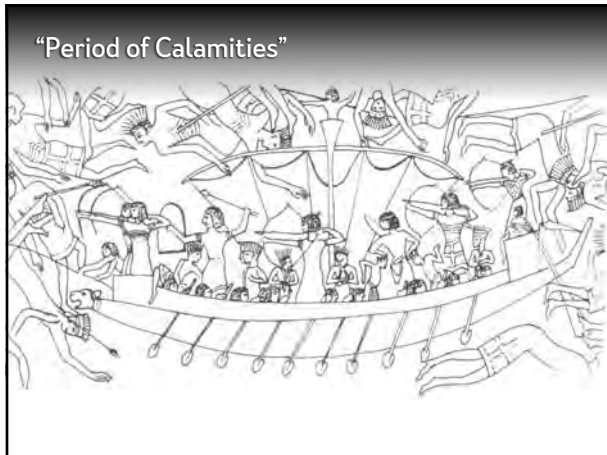
Bronze Age Greek "Dark Age" Recovery of Writing

Period of Calamities -1100 Recovery of Writing -750

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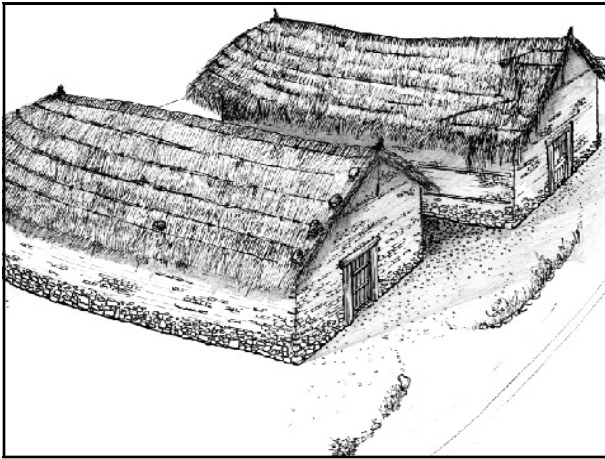


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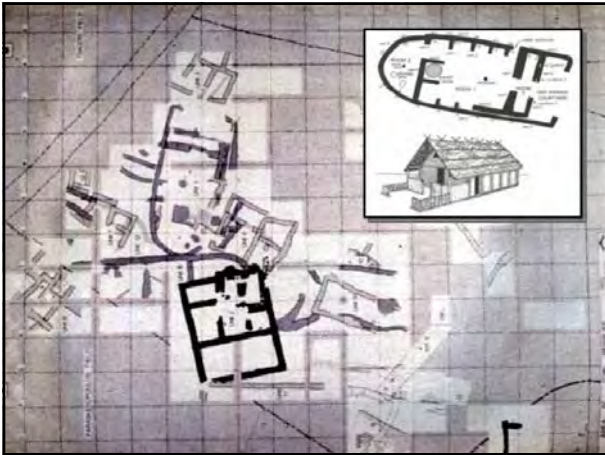
Transition to the Dark Age

- Decline
 - Collapse of palace economy and culture
 - Deconstruction of strict class structure
 - Depopulation and migration (Ionians and Dorians)
- Continuity
 - Rural everyday life
 - Religion
- Development
 - Ironworking
 - Protogeometric ceramics

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Protogeometric

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Dark Age development

- the arts, writing/literature
- shipbuilding and bulk commerce
- piracy
- military tactics
- the spread of iron
- the use of waterproof plaster
- winemaking; the use of the olive for food
- landholding
- chickens
- terraced agriculture
- the polis
- intercity athletic competition

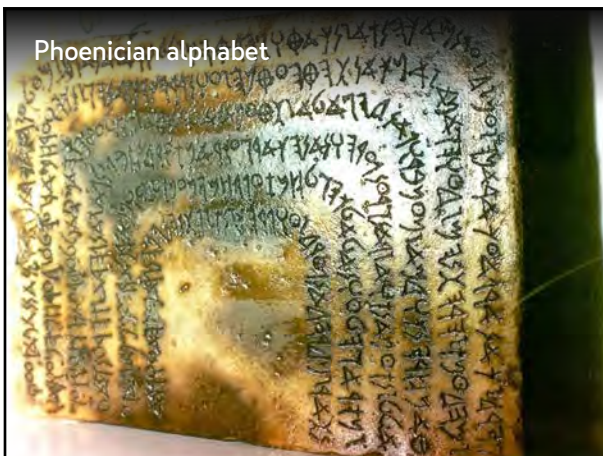
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The Eastern Med in the early Dark Age

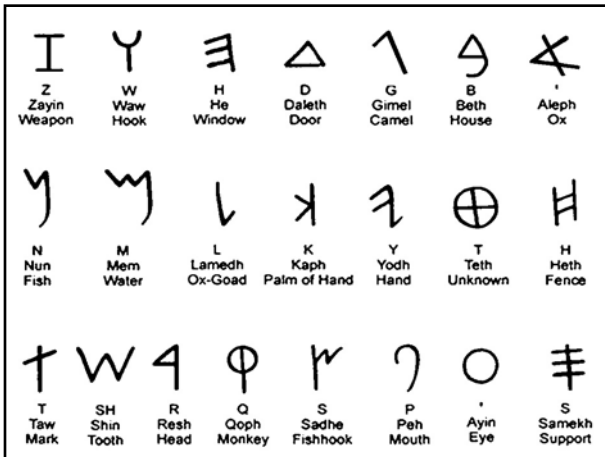


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Phoenician alphabet



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Σπειρωτο	Αρχαιο	Ιωνικο	Κορινθιακο	Αρκαδιο	Λακωνικο	Χαλκιδιο	Κρητικο	Φοινικικο
Α	Α	ΑΑ	Α	Α	ΑΑ	ΑΑ	ΑΑ	Ⲁ
Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Ⲃ
Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Ⲃ
Δ	Δ	ΔΔ	Δ	Δ	ΔΔ	ΔΔ	ΔΔ	Ⲃ
Ε	Ε	ΕΕ	Ε	Ε	ΕΕ	ΕΕ	ΕΕ	Ⲃ
Ζ	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι
Η	→ Η	→ Η	→ Η	→ Η	→ Η	→ Η	→ Η	→ Η
Θ	→ Θ	→ Θ	→ Θ	→ Θ	→ Θ	→ Θ	→ Θ	→ Θ
Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι	→ Ι
Κ	→ Κ	→ Κ	→ Κ	→ Κ	→ Κ	→ Κ	→ Κ	→ Κ
Λ	→ Λ	→ Λ	→ Λ	→ Λ	→ Λ	→ Λ	→ Λ	→ Λ
Μ	→ Μ	→ Μ	→ Μ	→ Μ	→ Μ	→ Μ	→ Μ	→ Μ
Ν	→ Ν	→ Ν	→ Ν	→ Ν	→ Ν	→ Ν	→ Ν	→ Ν
Ξ	→ Ξ	→ Ξ	→ Ξ	→ Ξ	→ Ξ	→ Ξ	→ Ξ	→ Ξ
Ο	→ Ο	→ Ο	→ Ο	→ Ο	→ Ο	→ Ο	→ Ο	→ Ο
Π	→ Π	→ Π	→ Π	→ Π	→ Π	→ Π	→ Π	→ Π
Ρ	→ Ρ	→ Ρ	→ Ρ	→ Ρ	→ Ρ	→ Ρ	→ Ρ	→ Ρ
Σ	→ Σ	→ Σ	→ Σ	→ Σ	→ Σ	→ Σ	→ Σ	→ Σ
Τ	→ Τ	→ Τ	→ Τ	→ Τ	→ Τ	→ Τ	→ Τ	→ Τ
Υ	→ Υ	→ Υ	→ Υ	→ Υ	→ Υ	→ Υ	→ Υ	→ Υ
Φ	→ Φ	→ Φ	→ Φ	→ Φ	→ Φ	→ Φ	→ Φ	→ Φ
Χ	→ Χ	→ Χ	→ Χ	→ Χ	→ Χ	→ Χ	→ Χ	→ Χ
Ψ	→ Ψ	→ Ψ	→ Ψ	→ Ψ	→ Ψ	→ Ψ	→ Ψ	→ Ψ
Ω	→ Ω	→ Ω	→ Ω	→ Ω	→ Ω	→ Ω	→ Ω	→ Ω

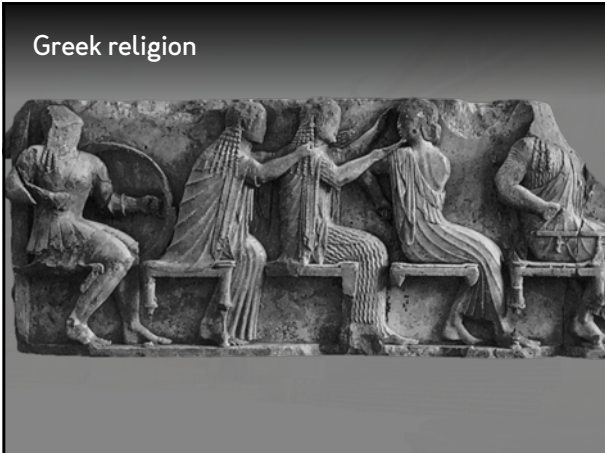
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The rhapsode



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Greek religion



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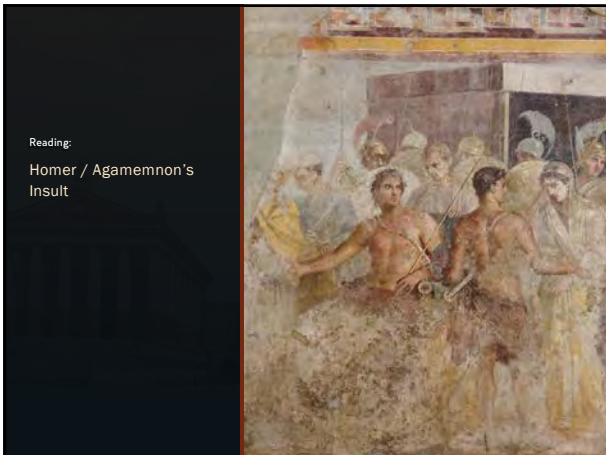
Homer



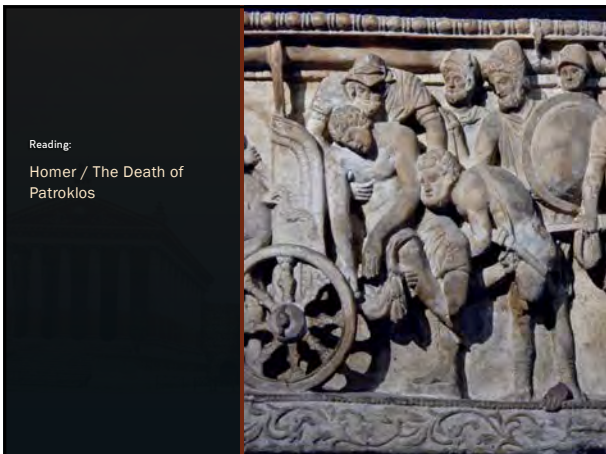
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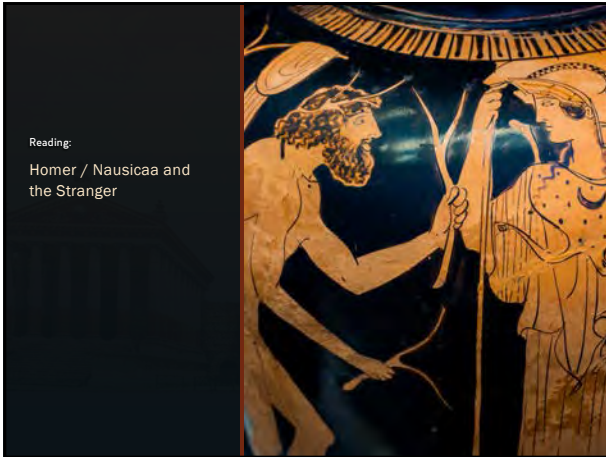
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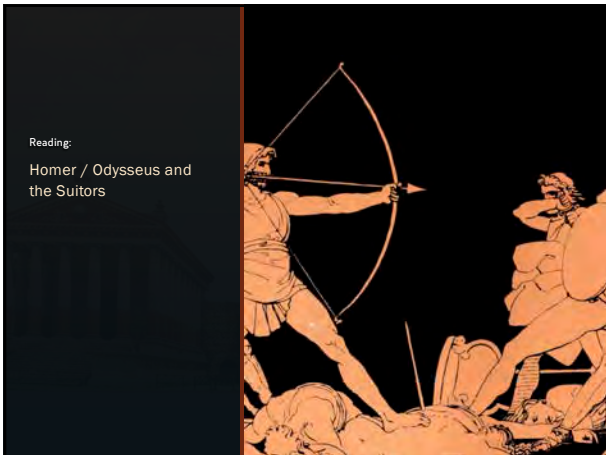
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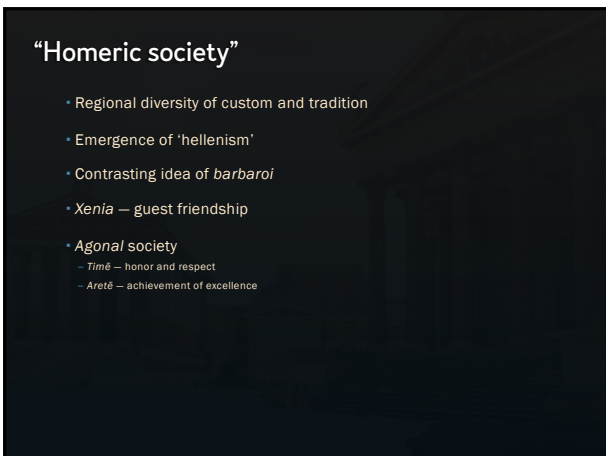
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Dark Age political structure

- wanax βασιλεύς → ἄναξ
 - Mycenaean term for king
 - Now used to mean high-king or overlord
 - Agamemnon (overlord of the Greeks at Troy)
 - Zeus (ruler of the gods)
- basileus βασιλεύς
 - Mycenaean term for mayor, headman
 - Dark age (and later) term for king
- "Big man" system - e.g., Ithaca
 - Population gravitates toward local strongmen for stability and protection
 - Authority is transient and personal

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Foundations of Archaic Greece

- Polis
- Hoplite armies
- Knowledge through creative expression
- Epic poetry as the foundation for public religion
- Colonization
- Panhellenism

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