



Archaic Greece

History of Ancient Greece | Meeting #4

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 20
Proposal Due
- Thursday, October 2
No class meeting
- Sunday, September 21
Responses for Week 4 Due

2

Five things today

- The Polis
- Hoplite Army
- Colonization
- Panhellenism
- Lyric Poetry

3



4

Quiz #2 | Archaic Greece

1. Hesiod's poetry is notable for its

 - a. lyrics about unrequited love
 - ☒ b. anti-aristocratic point of view reflecting the lives of ordinary people
 - c. celebration of the great feats of heroes
 - d. rejection of any form of grammar or syntax
2. A polis, or Greek city-state, consists of all of the following **EXCEPT**

 - a. A city and its adjacent territory making up a single, self-governing political unit
 - b. A council of elders (aristo) and an assembly of men of fighting age (demos)
 - ☒ c. A small number of citizens goats used for sacrifices
 - d. The governing role of the king (basileus) (basileus) is normally replaced by a council of aristocrats (oligarchy or aristocracy)
3. All of the following are true of the revolutionary form of fighting known as hoplite warfare **EXCEPT**

 - ☒ a. All citizens were included; if you couldn't afford your equipment it would be given to you
 - b. Hoplites were heavily armored footsoldiers
 - c. They were arranged in a tightly packed formation called a phalanx
 - d. The strict equality of the ranks made personal glory and distinctions of wealth and birth less important
4. A Greek tyranny is rule by

 - ☒ a. a man who seizes control of the state by coup and governs illegally
 - b. a legitimate king who has become abusive
 - c. the nobles in opposition to the people
 - d. a foreigner who takes a city for his own
5. A statue of a young man, often used as grave monuments or offerings, is known as

 - a. an akroter
 - b. a gymnasium
 - ☒ c. a kouros (female version: korē)
 - d. a symposium

EC. Why did the Greeks colonize during this period?

Extra Credit

5



Responses

6

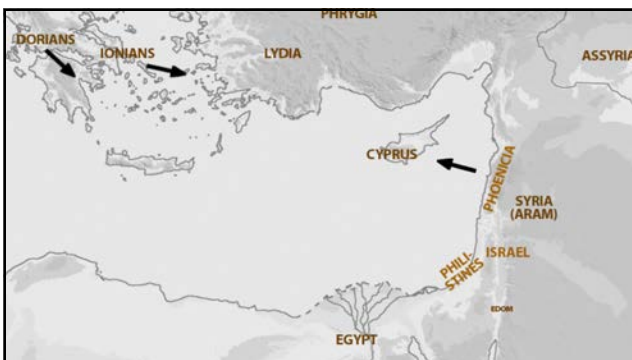
Questions about whatever



7

Climax of the Dark Age

8



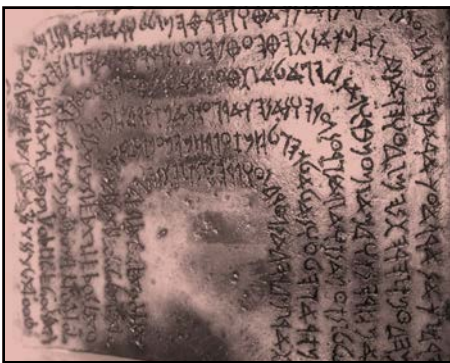
9



The phonetic alphabet

- Bronze Age scripts are pictographic or syllabic
- Many characters with a high learning curve
- No phonetic scripts until the Iron Age

10



Phoenician contact

- Increasing trade in the late "Dark Age" brings the Phoenician alphabet to the Aegean peoples
- Adopted separately in each Greek community

11

Greek alphabet



HOENYNOPXEEΣTONΠANTONATAΛOTATAΠAIZETOTOΔEKA[?][MI][?][N[...]

"Whoever of all these dancers now dances most deftly,
to him this [pot] [will go as his prize]"

Dipylon inscription
ca. 740 BC

12

α	Σφαίριο	Αχαιοί	Ιωνίοι	Κρητικοί	Αχαιοί	Ιωνίοι	Κρητικοί	Φοινίκιοι
Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β
Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ
Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε
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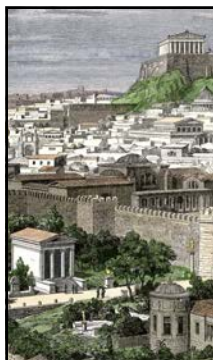
13



Dark Age political structure

- wanax φαναξ → ἀναξ
 - Minoan/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

14



Foundations of Archaic Greece

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

15

Archaic culture

16

Transition from the Dark Age



17

Primary Source Reading

Hesiod
On Labor



18

Lyric poetry

19



Lyric poetry

- Epic poetry
 - Objective
 - Top-down
 - Reinforces rules of society
- Lyric poetry
 - Subjective
 - Personal
 - Questioning

20

Primary Source Reading

Sappho Selected poems



21



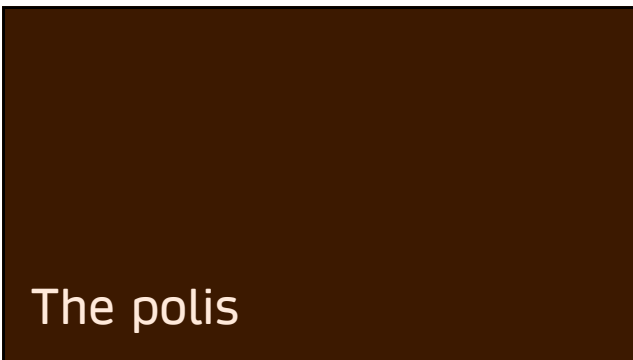
Symposion

- Gatherings to experience new poetry, dance, and music
- Deliberate fostering of creative expression
- Advancement of society requires new knowledge and ideas

22



23



24



The Polis

- Urban centers formed during the early Iron Age
- Merging of farming villages around a common marketplace
- Often dear a defensible position

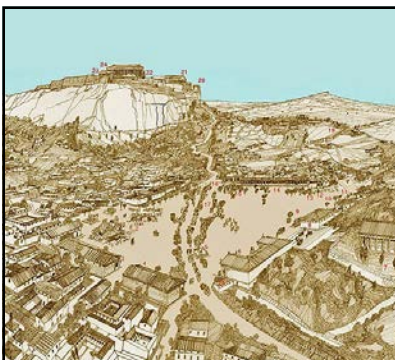
25



Characteristics of the polis

- City-state
- Synoecism
- Replacement of basileus with magistrates
- Council of “elders” (*aristoi*)
- Citizen assembly (*demos*)

26



Agora

- Marketplace
- Social center
- Political nexus
- Religious hub
- The agora is the beating heart of the polis

27

Social strata

28



Hoplite army

- Bronze Age: reliance on warriors, cavalry, single combat
- Iron Age: Hoplite army
 - Rows of men with overlapping shields
 - Crush less ordered infantry, especially from the high ground

29



The phalanx

- All men equal
- No heroes
- More inclusive of social strata

30



Other groups

- Women
- Metics
- Servile classes (usually ethnically different)
 - Helots (Sparta)
 - Slaves

31

Greek colonization

32

Greek expansion through colonization



33



Greek colonies

- Colonies are children of a particular polis
- Expansion of mother city's political, economic, and cultural power
 - New resources and markets for trade
 - Relief of population stress
 - Control of strategic locations

34



Hellas and the colonies

- Colonies are closely linked with mother cities
 - Trade interaction
 - Movement of people and ideas
- Culture and thought in the colonies move with changes in the Aegean
- Hellas is the Aegean homeland plus its colonies

35

Primary Source Reading

Herodotus

The Founding of Cyrene



36

Everyday religion

37



The
kouros

38



39



40



41



42

Archaic Hellas

43



Panhellenism

- Strong polis identity
- Shared cultural superiority
- Mutual competition between poleis to achieve ideal society

44



Dark age values in the Archaic Age

- *Xenia* guest-friendship
- *Timē* honor
- *Aretē* excellence
- Agonal man

45



46
