



**Archaic Hellas**

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #15

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**Four things today**

- Dark Age imagery
- The polis
- Hoplite armies
- Colonization

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### Quiz #6 | Archaic Hellas

- In *Clouds*, the character "Socrates" enters for the first time
    - through a golden door
    - lowered in a gridiron or basket
    - covered in tomato sauce
    - as a ghost, because he's already dead
  - At the start of the Archaic period, population growth and limited resources meant "extra mouths to feed." The Greeks addressed this problem in all of the following ways [Click here](#)
    - Creating colonies that expanded their population and economy to new locations
    - Expanding their territory through the use of their military
    - Periodic massacres of the population
    - Growing their trading economy, both imports (to feed the growing population) and exports (to strengthen their trading power)
  - A hoplite army consisted of
    - A mass of citizens fighting as equals, arrayed in ranks with their shields overlapping
    - Important heroes fighting in single combat
    - Heroic mercenaries from barbarian lands
    - Demons lured from across the River Styx
  - Among the Greeks, a tyrant was
    - a rich man who was stingy with his money
    - the commander of a Greek naval vessel
    - a governing body made up of the rich families
    - an illegal ruler sponsored by the groups experiencing oppression from the wealthy aristocrats
  - Homer's works were important to the Greeks because they
    - were the basis for the Greeks' understanding of the gods and their relationship with mortals
    - served as a basis for Greek education
    - taught morality by contrasting the greedy and prideful Bronze Age Greeks with the honorable example of the Trojans
    - all of the above
- Extra Credit
- EC: In *Clouds*, why does the main character, Strepsiades, go to the Thinkery? What's his end goal?

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### Questions about whatever



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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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**Farming villages**

- Farm-holders shown living in similar houses
- Farming villages leave less behind

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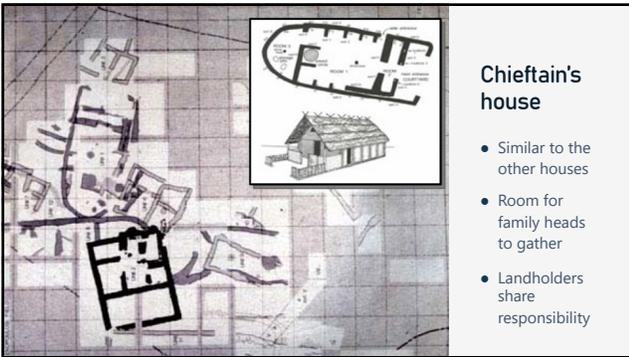
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**Chieftain's house**

- Similar to the other houses
- Room for family heads to gather
- Landholders share responsibility

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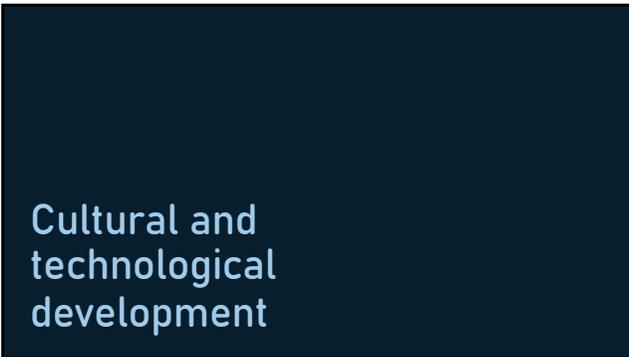
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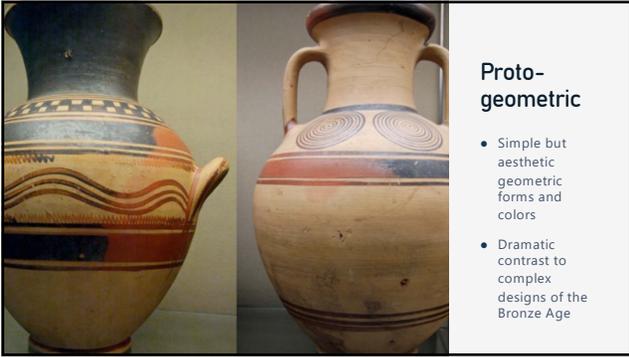
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**Proto-geometric**

- Simple but aesthetic geometric forms and colors
- Dramatic contrast to complex designs of the Bronze Age

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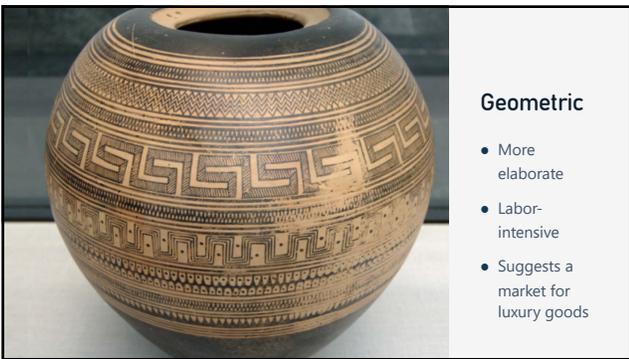
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**Geometric**

- More elaborate
- Labor-intensive
- Suggests a market for luxury goods

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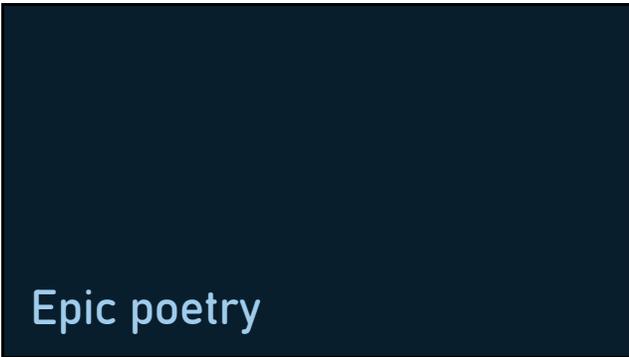
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**The rhapsode**

- Master storytellers of epic poetry in larger communities
- Chanting to the accompaniment of a lyre
- Stories retold to connect with each audience
- Apprentice becomes master rhapsode to next generation

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### The Greeks and their gods

- No priestly class
- Their understanding of the gods comes from literature
- Gods react to mortals' betrayals of the community
- Rarely punish the wrongdoer only, often visiting suffering on family and descendants

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### Homer

- Key works: *Iliad* and *Odyssey*
- Written version of a story told orally for 500 years
- Focus on flawed Greeks and noble Trojans

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### The Trojan War

- Fight to the death for Aegean economic power
- Some argue that the war is entirely mythological
- Archaeological evidence of Troy being violently destroyed ca. 1200 BCE

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### "Homeric society"

- Regional diversity of custom and tradition
- Emergence of 'hellenism'
- Contrasting idea of barbaroi
- Xenia — guest friendship
- Agonal society
  - Timē — honor and respect
  - Aretē — achievement of excellence

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### Hesiod

- Key works:  
*Theogony*,  
*Works and Days*
- Perspective of a small landholder
- Writes about the roles of mortals and gods in society and nature

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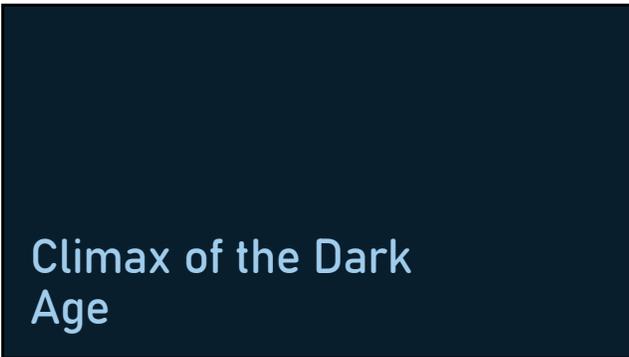
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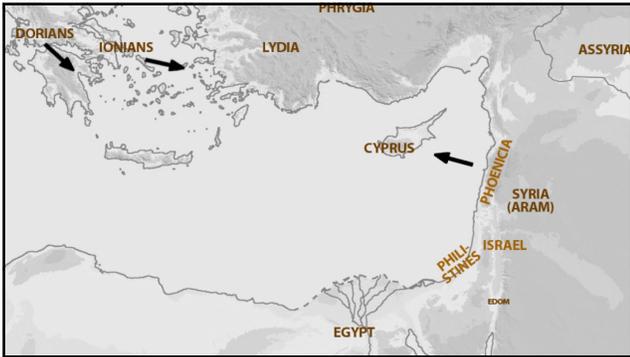
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**The phonetic alphabet**

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

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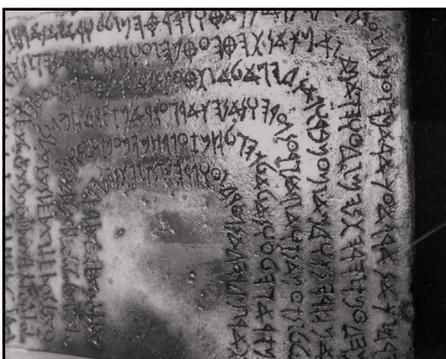
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**Phoenician contact**

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

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Greek alphabet



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α	Σπειρωτο	Αρξενου	Ιωνικο	Κορινθιακο	Αρκαδιο	Δακρυνικο	Χαλκιδιο	Κρητικο	Φοινικικο	Ι
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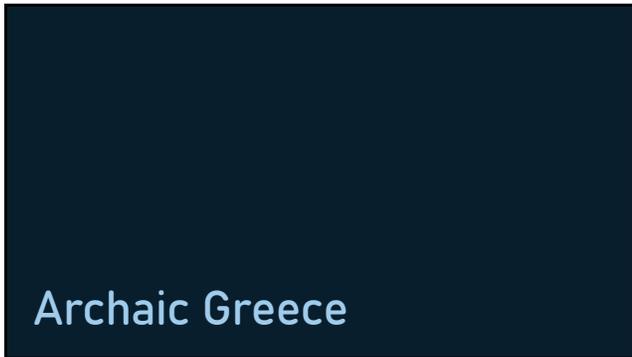
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### Foundations of Archaic Greece

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

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### The Polis

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

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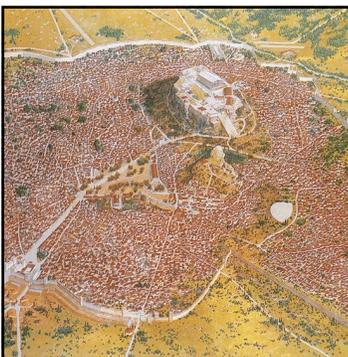
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### Characteristics of the polis

- City-state
- Synoecism
- Replacement of basileus with magistrates
- Council of "elders" (*aristoi*)
- Citizen assembly (*demoi*)

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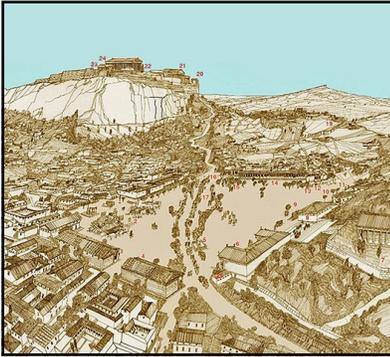
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**Agora**

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

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**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

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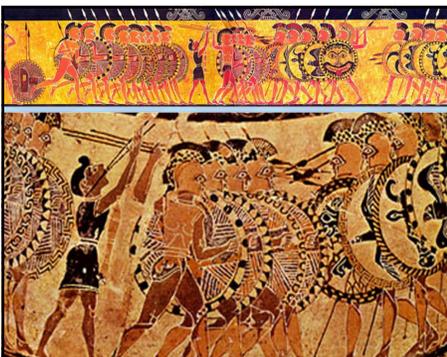
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**The phalanx**

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

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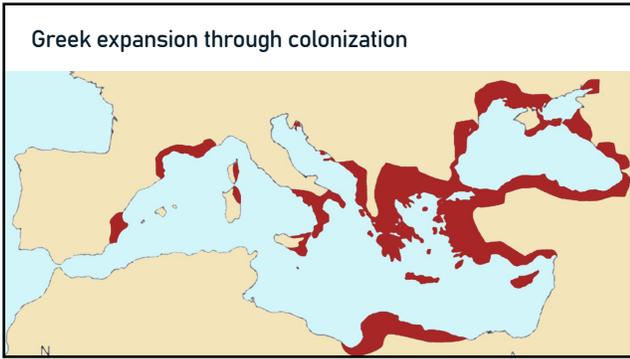
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A photograph of a coastal landscape in Greece. In the foreground, there are green hills with some buildings. In the background, a blue sea meets a coastline with mountains under a blue sky with some clouds.

**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

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A photograph of ancient Greek ruins. The main focus is a well-preserved temple with a row of columns and a triangular pediment. In the background, other ruins and a blue sky are visible.

**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

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### Lyric poetry

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

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### Panhellenism

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

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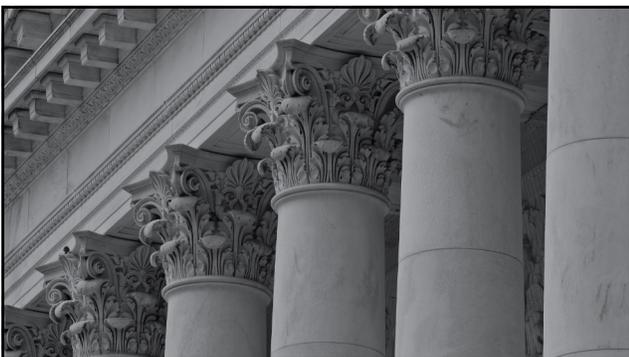
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