



The Bronze Age Aegean
Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #8

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, March 9
Gilgamesh Essay Due
- Monday, March 17
Midterm Exam
- Sunday, March 8
Responses for Week 6 Due

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Four things today

- New Kingdom Egypt
- The Minoans
- Mycenaean
- Collapse of the Bronze Age

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Questions about whatever



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The New Kingdom

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Egypt during the New Kingdom

- No longer isolated
- Must become a bronze power to compete
- Pharaoh is no longer all-powerful

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Hatshepsut

- Pharaohs had always been male
- Hatshepsut had a better claim to the throne
- Long, successful reign

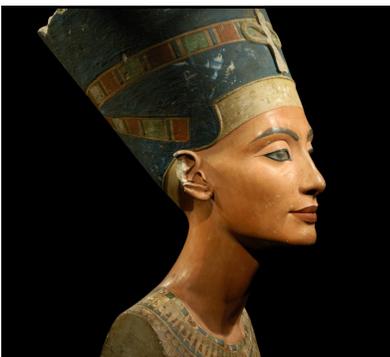
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Akhenaten

- Took the throne as Amenhotep IV
- Changed his throne name to Akhenaten
- Religious reforms in favor of one dominant god, Aten

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Nefertiti

- Queen alongside Akhenaten
- Worked side by side with Akhenaten to build the new religion
 - Kept going after his passing until her own death
- Active role of women in New Kingdom Egypt

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Tutankhamun

- Son of Akhentaten
- Restored the Egyptian polytheistic religion

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Nubia

- Exploited by Egypt for resources
- Heavily influenced culturally
- Maintained a distinctive identity in defiance of Egypt

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Semitic labor

- Egypt attractive because of wealth, climate, plentiful food
- Large numbers of Semitic migrants from the east
- Increasingly used as laborers and slaves

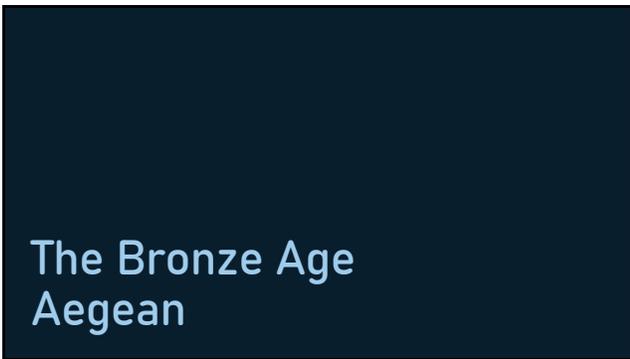
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The world-views of Sumer and Egypt

- Humans and the natural world
- Humans and the divine
- The ruler as intermediary

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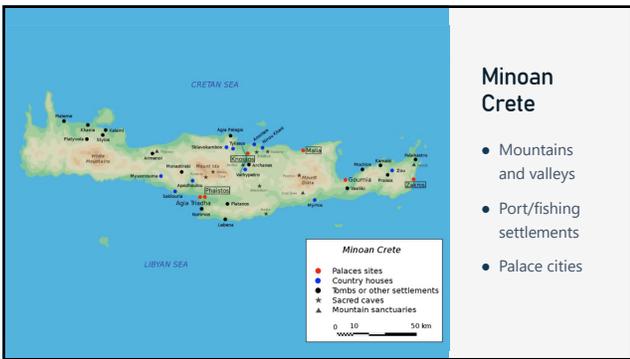
The Aegean in the Bronze Age

- Pre-Greeks
- Greeks
- Anatolians

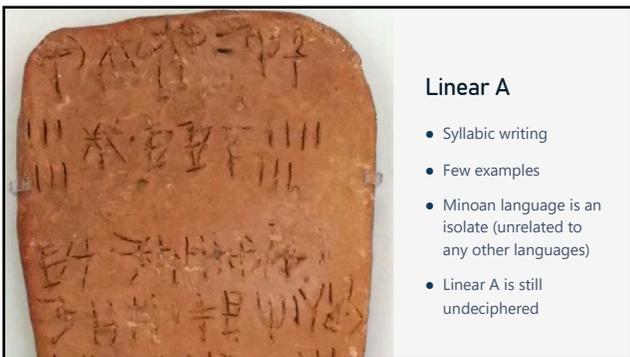
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The Minoans

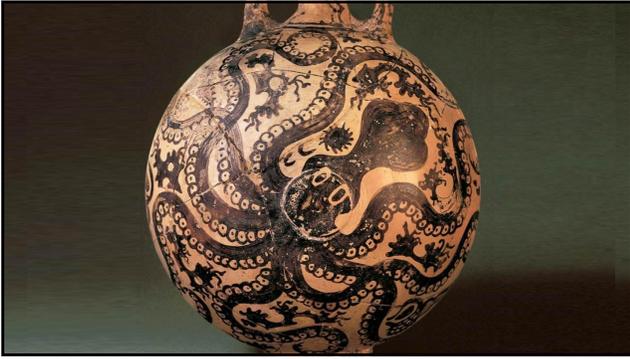
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Peak sanctuaries

- Most city-state cultures have a large, central urban temple
- Minoan sacred centers are at the heart of nature
- Sign of pre-Greek origin for cave sanctums (Oracle at Delphi)

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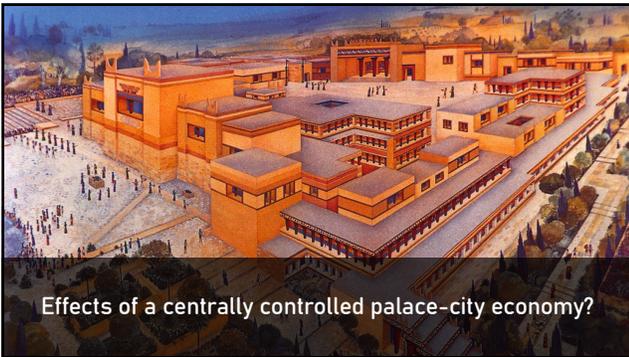
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Palace-cities

- Centralized rule and industry
- Highly stratified and vertical society

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Effects of a centrally controlled palace-city economy?

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Bronze Age economy

- Requires control over sources of both copper and tin
- High cost of production
- Elite markets
- Constant escalation

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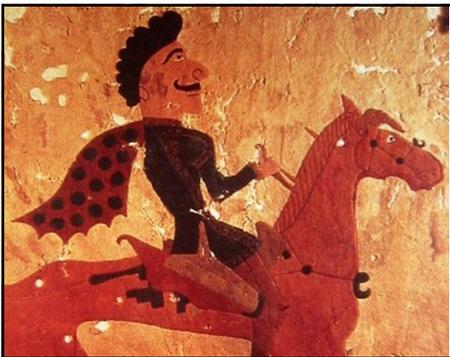
Rival trade empires

- Those who control bronze and those who don't
- Fierce competition for resources and markets

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The coming of the Greeks

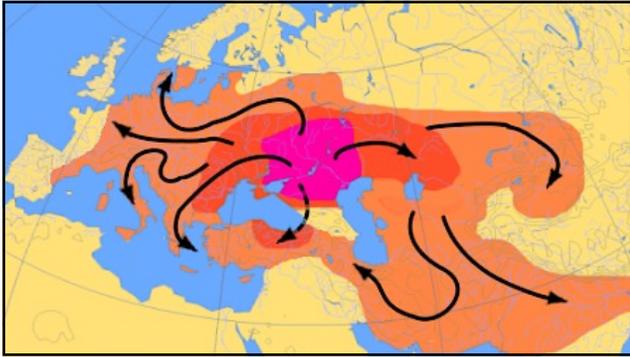
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Indo-Europeans

- Decentralized
- Nonurban
- Tribal
- Pastoral

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PIE Root Word	Wagon Part	Daughter Languages
*k ^w ek ^h los	(wheel)	<i>Old Norse</i> hvel 'wheel', <i>Old English</i> hweohl 'wheel', <i>Middle Dutch</i> wiel 'wheel', <i>Avestan Iranian</i> caxtra- 'wheel', <i>Old Indic</i> cakra 'wheel, Sun disc', <i>Greek</i> kuklos 'circle' and kukla (plural) 'wheels', <i>Tcharian A</i> kukal 'wagon', <i>Tcharian B</i> kokale 'wagon'
*rot ^h -eh ₂	(wheel)	<i>Old Irish</i> roth 'wheel', <i>Welsh</i> rhod 'wheel', <i>Latin</i> rota 'wheel', <i>Old High German</i> rad 'wheel', <i>Lithuanian</i> rātas 'wheel', <i>Latvian</i> rats 'wheel' and rati (plural) 'wagon', <i>Albanian</i> rreth 'ring, hoop, carriage tire', <i>Avestan Iranian</i> catha 'chariot, wagon', <i>Old Indic</i> rātha 'chariot, wagon'
*ak ^s - ₁ or	(axle)	<i>Latin</i> axis 'axle, axis', <i>Old English</i> æx 'axle', <i>Old High German</i> 'ā, cāc- 'absa' 'axle', <i>Old Prussian</i> astis 'axle', <i>Lithuanian</i> ašis 'axle', <i>Old Church Slavonic</i> osi 'axle', <i>Mycenaean Greek</i> a-ko-so-ne 'axle', <i>Old Indic</i> āks ^a 'axle'
*wēgher ^h -	(ride)	<i>Welsh</i> amwain 'drive about', <i>Latin</i> veho 'bear, convey', <i>Old Norse</i> vega 'bring, move', <i>Old High German</i> wegan 'move, weigh', <i>Lithuanian</i> vežiū 'drive', <i>Old Church Slavonic</i> veziti 'drive', <i>Avestan Iranian</i> vazaiti 'transport, lead', <i>Old Indic</i> vilāti 'transport, carries, convey'. Derivative nouns have the meaning "wagon" in <i>Greek</i> , <i>Old Irish</i> , <i>Welsh</i> , <i>Old High German</i> , and <i>Old</i>

Indo-European language

- Cognate words across hundreds of languages
- Linguists find a common language origin, proto-Indo-European
- What there are and aren't words for in PIE tell us what the original Indo-Europeans were like

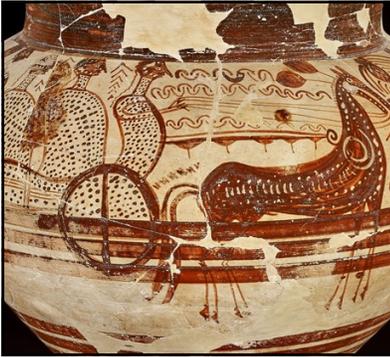
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Mycenaean Greeks

- Massive Indo-European migration ca. 1750 BCE
- Encounter Minoan city-states
- Emulate urban structure and economy

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Mycenaean warfare

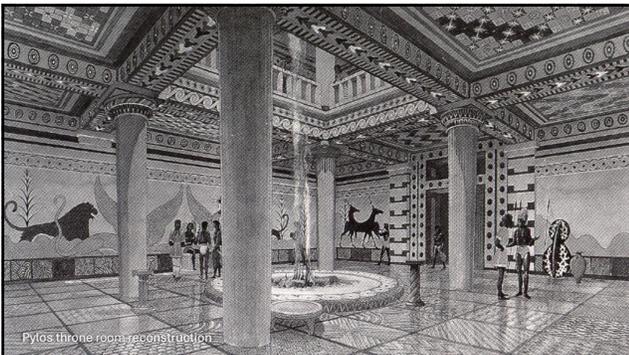
- Indo-European mastery of **wheel and axle**
- Mycenaean Greek chariots give battlefield mobility
- Primary conquest is economic, not military

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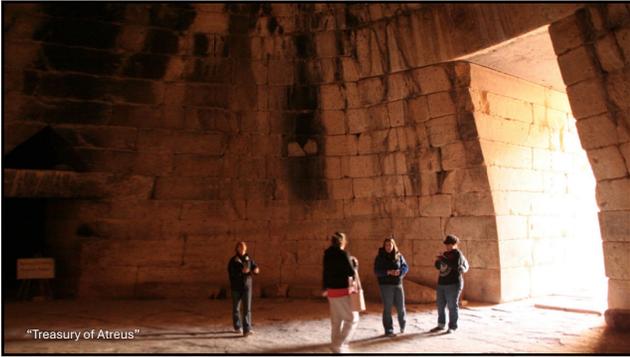
Lion Gate at Mycenae

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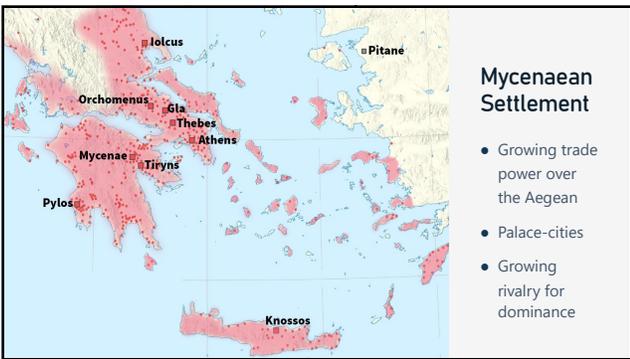


Pylos throne room reconstruction

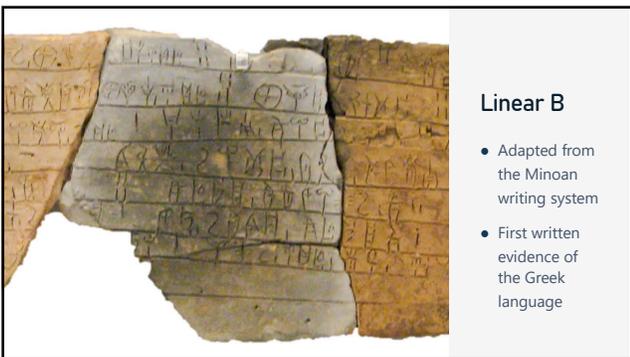
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The collapse of the Bronze Age

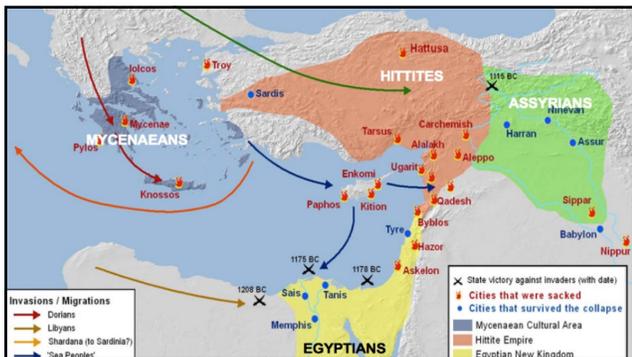
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**Troy (Ilios):
The Rival**

- Wealthy city on the eastern Aegean coast
- Founded before Minoans or Mycenaean Greeks (ca. 3500 BCE)
- Increasingly only possible rival for control of Aegean trade

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