



The Greek Dark Age

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #14

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, November 16
Clouds essay due
- Monday, December 7
Images essay due
- Sunday, October 25
Responses for Week 8 Due

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Four things today

- The Greek Dark Age
- Cultural development
- Epic poetry
- Climax of the Dark Age

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Questions about whatever



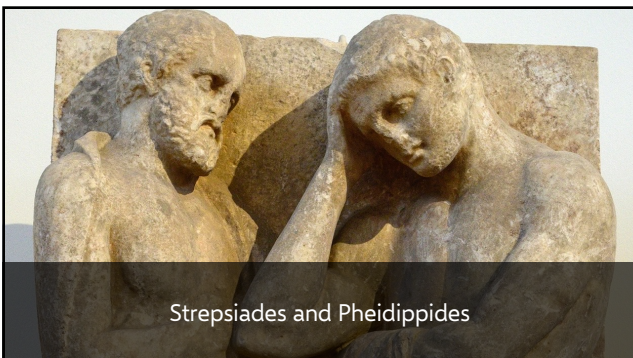
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Clouds

- Greek comedy
- Aristophanes
- "Socrates"
- Strepsiades

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Strepsiades and Pheidippides

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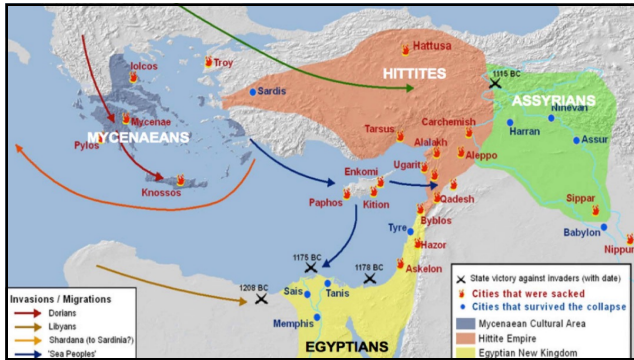
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Transition to the Dark Age

- 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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Farming villages

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

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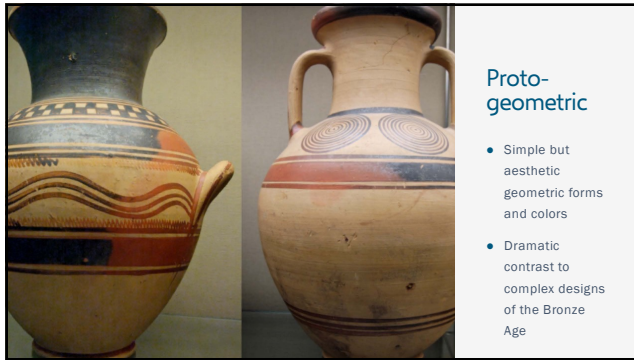
Chieftain's house

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

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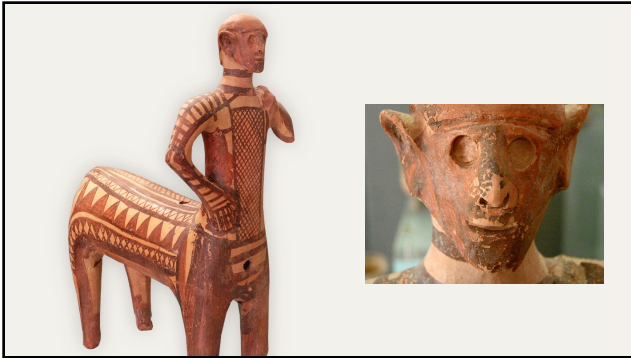
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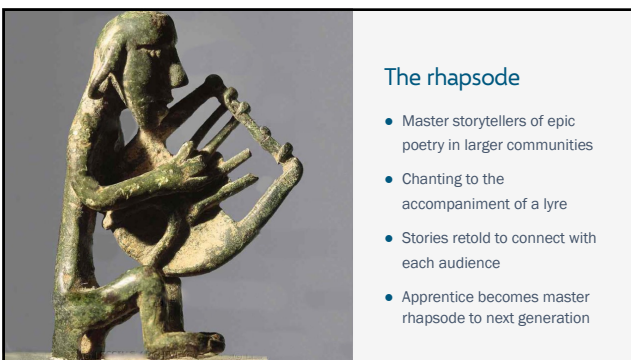
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The rhapsode

- 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



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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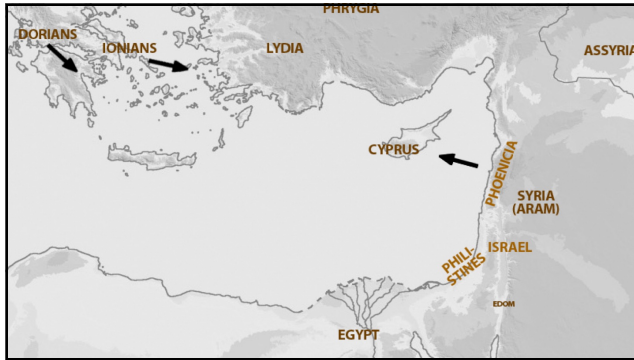
Hesiod

- 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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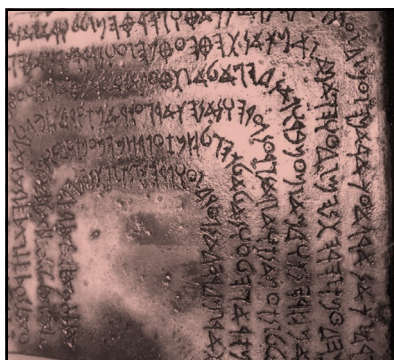
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The phonetic alphabet

- 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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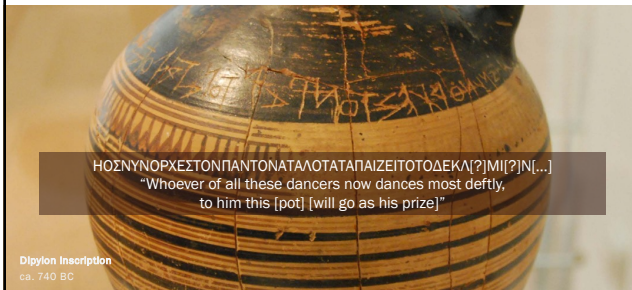


Phoenician contact

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

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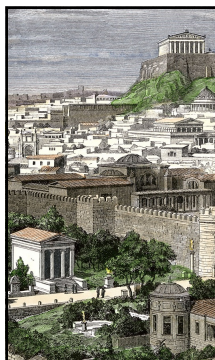
Greek alphabet



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α	Σπειρίτιο	Αρκεντιο	Ιωνικό	Κορινθιακό	Αρκαδικό	Δακτυλικό	Χαλκιδικό	Κρητικό	Φοινικικό	Ι
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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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