



Archaic Hellas

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #15

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Four things today

- Epic poetry
- Climax of the Dark Age
- Greek cities and colonies
- The hoplite armies

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Quiz #5 | Archaic Hellas

- In *Clouds*, the character "Socrates" enters for the first time
 - through a golden door
 - ☒ lowered in a gondola 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 [EXCEPT](#)
 - 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
 - Hired 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
 - ☒ a ruler who illegally seized power on behalf of the common people against the oppression of the wealthy
- 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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The first part of *Clouds*

- Strepsiades
- The Thinkery
- Socrates's entry

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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
 - Time — honor and respect
 - Aretē — achievement of excellence

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Hesiod

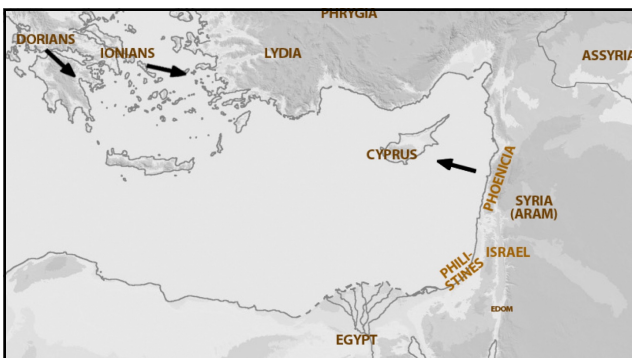
- Key works: *Theogony*, *Works and Days*
- Perspective of a small landholder
- Writes about the roles of mortals and gods in society and nature

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Climax of the Dark Age

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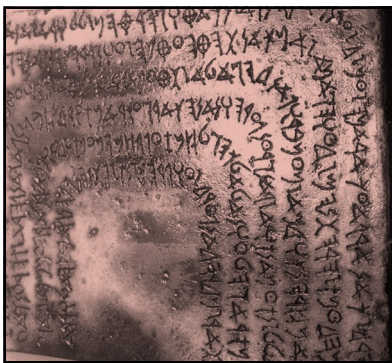
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The phonetic alphabet

- 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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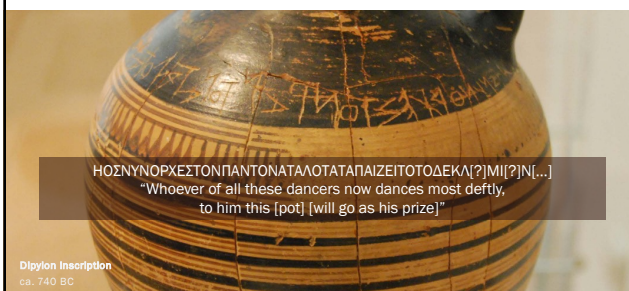


Phoenician contact

- 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 Στράβων	Αρχαίοι	Ιωνικό	Κορινθιακό	Αρκαδικό	Δωδεκανησιακό	Χαλκιδαικό	Κρητικό	Φοινικικό
Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β
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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

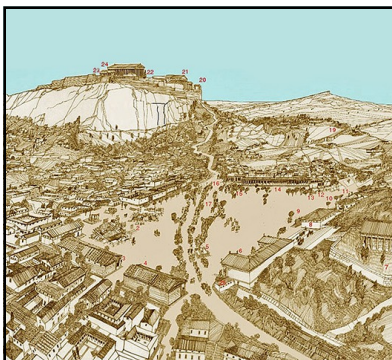
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Characteristics of the polis

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

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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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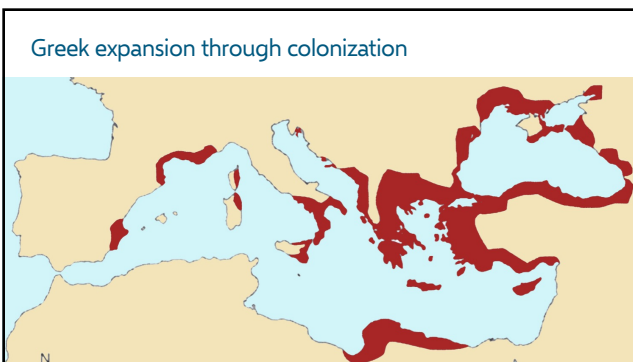


The phalanx

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

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Greek expansion through colonization



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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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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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