

Chalcolithic

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Chalcolithic (Late Neolithic Period)

- *Chalkos* = copper; *lithos* = stone
- Transitional period
- Population shift towards the South (where there is more ideal conditions for growing grapes and olives)
- New metal technology. How did this come about?
 - 1) New people arrive bringing new technology
 - 2) Greeks travelled to places where they were working with technology and brought it back to Greece.
 - Copper is not useful on its own because it is very soft, however, it is very attractive (shiny). If you add tin or antimony you end up with an alloy (bronze). When this alloy is made it becomes the Bronze Age. There is no tin in Hellas and the copper supply was running low. Copper was probably bought from the Cyprus, tin from Turkey, Spain, and England... Trade is beginning to develop.
- **Advantages of Bronze:**
 - 1) Harder than copper
 - 2) Makes better tools and weapons
 - 3) Displays wealth (important materials and looks shiny)

Hesiod's 5 Ages of Man

- Gold Age (no one had to work, everything just appeared for them)
- Silver Age
- Bronze Age
- Heroic Age (Trojan War)
- Iron (When Hesiod lived; thought it was very depressing)

The Bronze Age

The Early Bronze Age: 3,000 - 2,000 BCE

- EBA Mainland = Early Helladic (EH)
- EBA Cyclades = Early Cycladic (EC)
- EBA Crete = Early Minoan (EM)

Early Bronze Age Commonalities

- Dependence of agriculture
- Increasing importance on metallurgy... Things are still being made out of stone, however, bronze is the metal of choice
- Language... Shared EBA language was not Greek, it was "Aegean"; survives in words that end in -ssos, -ttos, -inthos (ex: narcissos, minthos, thalassa, and Parnassos)

Early Helladic (Mainland) Characteristics

Architecture

- Larger, rectangular houses with multiple rooms
- Fortified (with walls and gates) towns with larger populations (not up to 5,000 yet)
- Dominated by a single monumental building
- **Lerna:** Site of monumental EH building and where they hydra lived near the water ("Hydra" - water)... Had many heads, in order to kill it you had to cut off all its heads, however, when you cut off one head, two would regrow in its place. Herakles would cut off the head and then cauterize the stumps and kill the hydra. Inside the belly of the hydra is poison that he uses on his arrows.
- **The House of Tiles:** The roof had clay tiles. Corridor house (it has hallways). Had an exterior stone bench which suggests the building was used as a meeting place. Stone foundation and the walls are made in of mud brick. It had two stories with both interior and exterior stair cases. Had a storeroom ("a sealing archive"). The ceiling is made of lumps of clay which was also used to seal containers shut, and a seal would be pushed into it. Seals were thought to show ownership... The beginning of writing. The site of collecting, storing, and distributing certain resources? Not likely to be a house... No hearth.
- 25x15 metres

Burials

- Buried their dead in stone boxes... **Cist graves.** A rectangular pit lined with slabs of stone and a stone or wooden top. You would keep adding bodies to this grave.
- Outside the settlement.

Pottery

- No potter's wheel
- No design

Early Cycladic Characteristics

- "Cyclades" = circle... Islands vaguely in a circle around Delos, an island of religious significance.

- Melos (island)... obsidian... Famous for classical Greek statue (Venus de Milo / Aphrodite of Melos)... Created by flooding after the ice age. Site of first large town of 5,000+ which was fortified, but there was no monumental building.
- Most advanced EBA culture
- Were they civilized? No. No writing and no monumental buildings.
- Why weren't they civilized? Resources too limited, area too small, limit of exploration...

Burials

- Same as on the mainland

Early Cycladic Marble Figurines

- Only produced in the Cyclades
- Found by the dozens in the cist graves
- Some are life sized and some are small. Why the range in size?
- Finished all sides, most are female and have folded arms. They stand on their tip toe, but they are not free standing (they fall over). So, they were either meant to be propped up or lie down. But if they were meant to lie down why were the backs finished? The heads are a weird shape and the only facial feature they have is their nose, however the others were probably painted on. They are very thin.
- Compared to steatopygous figurines... S. have shortened arms/legs, material (S. clay, C. Marble), technique (C. required tools to carve out the marble, more difficult), S. arms are by the side/outward C's are folded, C. have toes... etc.
- When they are male they tend to be musicians.

Early Cycladic Marble Containers

- Technique borrowed from Egyptians to make holes in containers using emery and hand drills.
- Complex process
- Incised (carved) decoration
- Pyxis: cosmetic or trinket box

EC Pottery

- Still no potter's wheel
- Incised decoration
- Painted pottery
- "Frying Pan" only found in the Cyclades. Not used for cooking. Had incised decoration, some of them have ships. What were they used for? Some ideas: Mirrors (the other side is not decorated and has a raised edge, fill it with water and you get a reflection), palette, womb (fertility symbol)?

Early Bronze Age Crete (Early Minoan)

Architecture

- No large settlements
- No monumental buildings
- No fortifications
- Multi-storied houses... Used timber for parts, three stories, windows, decorated, more than one room...

Burial

- No cist graves, no multiple burials
- Had two types of tombs
- 1) **House Tombs**... Eastern and central part... Stone foundations, mud brick walls, fake windows, more than one room... Suggests they have a belief in an after life that is similar to the world they lived in. Outside these houses were kernos, a stone container for offerings (olive oil, grain) to the dead.
- 2) **Tholos Tombs**... Southern part... Tholos means ground. Made of stone, might have had a dome roof. Multiple bodies buried in one tomb, both in the circular part but in the entry area, which was divided into different spaces.
- Grave goods including precious metals found

Early Minoan Metallurgy

- Traded with Egypt to get gold.
- Highly sophisticated piece. Developed two jewellery making techniques:
- 1) **Filigree**: Using gold wire (to get wire is a difficult process)
- 2) **Granulation**: Heat the jewellery slightly so that you can attach decorations.
- Learned from the East... Syria, Lebanon...

Pottery

- No potter's wheel
- Painted, always with dark paint on a light surface
- Unique shapes
- Incised decoration, imitates stoneware

Arrival of the Indo-Europeans: Middle Bronze Age (2,000 - 1,600 BCE)

- This is the change factor that caused the Middle Bronze Age
- Came on horseback... Thought they were centaurs (half man, half horse).

- **Centaurography...** Centaur war against the **Lapiths** (mythical inhabitants of Thessaly).
- Indo-Europeans caused changes:
 - 1) New domestic animal... the horse
 - 2) Language... Brought with them the Greek language
 - 3) Religion... New (male) Gods that were associated with the sky
 - 4) Architecture... Housing... Apsidal-end housing (rounded end housing)
 - 5) Burial customs... Cist graves inside the settlement with only one body
 - 6) Pottery... Brought with them the potter's wheel. "Minyan Ware" made with a potter's wheel, named after a mythical king Minyas. New shapes, grey, no decoration, had ridges which imitates metal ware... Treasury of Minyas. Wheel made painted ware, not shiny.

Change Factors in the Middle Helladic Age

- M Helladic Regression: Monumental buildings
- M Cycladic: Situation remains static, no progress -M Minoan: Progress, affected physical with coming of the Indo-Europeans

Myth Tells Us That...

- Zeus (King of Gods):
 - Was born on Crete
 - Ladies man
 - His father swallowed his children because he didn't want them to be bigger than him, his mother hid him
 - Appears as handsome white bull to seduce women
 - Takes Europa to Crete, becomes mother of 3 children – one being Minos
- Minos:
 - son of Zeus
 - Bad boy – didn't make proper sacrifices to Poseidon, cursed his wife (Pasiphae) was made to fall in love with a bull
 - Pasiphae conceives baby Minotaur
 - 7 young men/women are sacrificed to Minotaur every year
 - Theseus is going to be sacrificed, he is given a sword by Ariadne so he can kill the Minotaur
 - They plan on going back to Athens but Theseus ditches Ariadne
 - Knossos is the home of Minotaur

Sir Arthur Evans

- 1851 – 1941 CE
- First European to explore Crete
- Found monumental structure which he thought was the palace of Minos (bigger than 2 football fields, with more than 300 rooms)
- Lead him to believe that he found the Labyrinth (Maze of the Minotaur)
- Double axes made out of gold = LABRYS (Non Greek language)... Connected with Labyrinth, however he was wrong.... Egyptian word for plans
- Double axes – religious symbol? Libation, music, offerings.
- KNOSSOS:-Bull leaping FRESCO (Kind of painting applied to a wall)
- Thought it was unique, however it was practiced in the Middle Helladic in the main lands (Pg. 51), in Egypt and Anatolia/Asia Minor/Turkey (Pg. 50)
- Ancestor of bull fighting
- Found no images of people that could be King Minos, or the Minotaur
- Found a room that contained a stone chair that he thought was the Throne of King Minos
- Flanked benches – Advisors, participants in same kind of activity within the room (religious activity)
- The chair was occupied for a Priestess/Priest

Common Features:

A. Complex plan

- Were centres of redistributive economy (Need to have a system of writing)
- Administration
- Religion – 'Peak Sanctuary' Rhyton = Special ritual container with hole in the bottom, pouring liquid on the ground during religious rite
- Page 48
- Government
- Industry

B. Central Courtyard with Inverted columns

- Monumental staircases
- Light well

C. Storage Areas / Storage cists (Store dry materials – grain, wool, fabric)

- Pithoi (Store liquids – olive oil, honey, wine)
- Right next to places connected with area for religion
- Religion/agriculture link

D. Theatre Areas

- Series of steps watching some kind of drama in this area, however there is no evidence of drama – Probably a market place

E. Multi Stoned

F. NO Defences

G. Sophisticated Water Management (Rain run off, directed into cisterns)

- Bath tubs would have to be bailed out/sponged out
- Flush toilets
- **See page 51 for Knossos picture

Phasitos Disk:

- First printed document
- Stamped on clay (both sides)
- 45 different symbols not deciphered
- Unique

Linear A

- Scratched into wet clay tablets
- Size of a cellphone
- 90 symbols not deciphered
- Non Greek language
- Was used for administrative used / What was going in/coming out of complexes

Faience:

- Snake Goddess
- Represents rebirth/renewal (shedding skin)
- Bare breasts – indication of fertility
- Made of clay
- Related with religion
- **Page 34, 48 – Signet Ring

Who Rule Knossos?

- Chair too small for a King, maybe it was a Queen
- Goods were associated with religion in the palaces
- Centers for industry
- KAMARES WARE
- Wheel made, polychrome, marine or floral motifs

Minoans in Egypt:

- Knew Crete well and called it the land of Keftiu
- Tribute for a pharaoh (copper ingot – 25 kg) + gold rhyton
- Making stone containers from steatite and rock crystal (comes from Eastern Crete)
- Sheep – wool – textiles
- CAN WE CALL THEM PALACES?
- No. We cannot. They are centers of highly organized priesthood.
- **Page 35 – Thucydides
- Minos' Navy at Knossos is connected to the sea by the Paved Road
- Volcano erupts on Sera (Santorini) in 1625 BCE
- No skeletons or valuables
- Archaeological site in Crete had a very strong influence on Cyclades (Type of housing Akrotiri – town buried by eruption)
- Decorated with FRESCOES
- **Page 33 – 34 Boxing gloves
- Middle Bronze Age Women – similar fashion, makeup, hairdos
- Knossos Goddess

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE MINOANS 1ST CIVILIZED EUROPEANS?

- Agriculture
- Settlements 5000+
- Monumental Buildings
- Metallurgy
- System of Writing
- But aren't the 1st civilized Hellenes; DIDN'T SPEAK GREEK!
- Lived in Island part of Hellas, had huge influence

LBA Mainland Hellas (1,600c. - 1,200 BCE)

- Late Helladic (LH), also called the Heroic Age (by Hesiod) and the Mycenaean
- Period of high culture on the mainland
- Mycenae: Agamemnon, Trojan War, leader of the Hellenes
- Mycenae entrance gate; ruins never really covered.

- Two kinds of Cyclopes. One kind of them lived under a mountain and made the walls of Mycenae and the lightning bolt for Zeus. The Lion Gate is the entrance to Mycenae. Has a sculpture of two lions or griffons on top of the gate and a representation of an altar found in Crete... They conquered Crete and picked up ideas from the Minoans.
- Heinrich Schliemann: excavator of Troy and Mycenae (1876).
- Grave Circle A: Was originally outside of the city but was enclosed by new walls. Six different graves are in Grave Circle A. A double wall around the cemetery, and then a stone wall enclosed in the cemetery. The burials were made in shafts. Each had a grave stone (stele). Spiral motif, very typical of Bronze Age decoration.
 - Shaft Grave: a hole is dug, at the bottom is body one. Then you put logs across and stones, then you fill the whole thing in. The next time someone dies, you dig down to the logs and stones and put the body and the more logs and stones and then fill it up, etc.
- In one of the shaft graves, Schliemann found a gold mask, which he thought was the grave mask of Agamemnon. However, he was wrong. The mask was made of gold foil. Schliemann has been accused of doctoring this mask to make it look like an upper-class European male in the late 1800s. This mask is much more detailed than the other masks found.
- Also found in Grave Circle A were bronze daggers with gold and silver inlay and powerful lion designs on it.
- Women were also found in Grave Circle A. Gold Diadems and jewellery with Amber (not found in Greece... trading) were found.
- Children also found. A gold foil of an entire child's body was found.
- What do these shaft graves tell us about the Mycenaean? These graves were dated from before the time of the Trojan War.
- Mycenae LH Tholos Tombs (Treasuries). There are 9 at Mycenae.
- Tumulus (covering the whole top), dromos (the entrance way)
- The Tomb of Clytemnestra... Sister of Helen, wife of Agamemnon
- Two inverted columns on either side. Cut stones that are larger on the bottom part of the walls and get smaller. Made without mortar. This kind of stonework called corbelled.
- Mycenaean Palaces: Thessaly, Boeotia, Attica, Peloponnese... All on a hilltop site overlooking a plain (where crops are grown), connected by roads

Architectural Characteristics

- Megalithic (big stones)
- Cyclopean
- Relieving triangle
- Tiryns: corbelled galleries (hallways), massive fortifications, no mortar
- Megarons, bigger, fancier than Neolithic. Had a throne for the King. Decorated floors and ceilings, fresco covered walls, inverted columns with fancy coverings.
- Pylos: bathtub with a drain. Fairly sophisticated drainage systems.
- Centres of administration. Kind of writing found during this time is known as Linear B; lines drawn with symbols. Syllabary, each symbol stands for a syllable. There are 87s of these syllables. There are ideograms (little pictures). And numbers (lines for 1-9, a horizontal line for 10, a circle for 100, etc.).
- Linear B was deciphered by Michael Ventris, Linear A has not been deciphered. Ventris showed that Linear B was an early form of spoken Greek. Likely not everyone knew how to write, there was probably a scribe class.
- Uluburun Wreck: Writing Tablet. Written in wax.
- Linear B shows us that Mycenaean places were centres of:
 - A redistributive economy
 - Administration
 - Religion
 - Government
 - Industry
 - PLUS
 - Residential
 - Military
- Mycenaean Religious Figurines: Named after Greek letters. Associated with religious practices. Women had an important role in religion, but we don't know the exact role.
- Altars received burnt animal practices... First ones to do this. Became a feature of Greek religion from then on.
- Megaron as a political centre... Monarchy, a male King, no evidence of female ruler. Three federal officials
- 1) Wanaka... Wanax... King
- 2) Lawagetas... Leader of the people... General
- 3) Tereta... Priest
- Industrial centres, manufactured pottery. Need for cooking, drinking, eating, storing... No other durable container. Decoration is fairly realistic, but as time goes on the decoration becomes increased abstraction (see page 41). Wheel made, dark on light decoration. Natural animals and plants as decoration.
- Vapheio Cup, made of gold (page 14). 3D, pronounced decoration, requires a high degree of skill.
- Gold and amber jewelry, influences from outside of Hellas (Egyptian symbols).
- Uluburun Wreck (page 47). Trade routes.
- Pylos second story living quarters.
- Boar tusk helmets. A leather cap with boar tusks sewn on it, possibly had a tassel. Probably symbolized a rite of passage for a young warrior. Bronze armour suit, probably just for show (not very effective). Figure 8 shield.
- Chariots. Where were they military chariots? Not very likely. Probably parade chariots. Symbol of prestige. The chariots were painted red with ivory and/or ebony inlay. People who lived in central Turkey had chariots and had a chariot school which the Mycenaean's went to.

Decline of the LBA Mainland

- 1250-1200 Thebes sacked; Isthmus wall was built.
- 1200-1100 destruction of Mycenae and Tiryns.
- 1150: of the 320 known sites only 40 of them show signs of habitation.