

Dark (Iron) Age

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End of the Mycenaean Palaces

- End of social hierarchy
- End of redistributive economic system
- Loss of technical knowledge
- End of civilization: no writing, no monumental buildings
- Leads to the Dark Age, characterized by:
 - Poverty
 - Isolation from the outside world (no trading)
- First 200 years are the darkest

Changes in the Early Dark Age (1100-900 BCE)

- Technology... No trade, so they need to find a new metal (iron)
- Decrease in the number of sites (from 320 settlements to 40), a change in their organization and appearance.
- New sites were gradually built and old sites were resettled.
- No more federal hierarchy (kings, generals, priests). There are small tribes with chiefs, who was equivalent to a mayor.
- Apse ended town, the apse end used for storage
- Chief's house on hill top.
- Areas of settlement change
- Economy
- Communication
- No more Linear B... Culture is dependent on oral communication
- Religion
- No more megarons... No more indoor worship.
- Burials
- Inhumation, however, cremation reappears.
- Warfare
- Cavalry (horses)

Dorian Invasion?

- Ancient Greeks believed they were the descendants of the god Pericles. They believed in he invaded Hellas from the North and drove them out, or they filled in a vacuum created by people moving East across the Aegean Sea (modern day Turkey). The groups of people who move across the Aegean are: (map on page 57)

1) Aeolians

2) Ionians

3) Dorians

- First great expansion of the Greek world.
- Halicarnassus (Dorian area) birth place of Herodotus (read page 62)
- The Greeks drove out the natives, who would raid the towns of revenge. Eventually peace was reached.
- Main Greek dialects:

1) Aeolic

2) Ionic

3) Doric

4) Arcadian

5) NW (North Western) Greek

Smyrna (900-600 BCE)

- Originally inhabited by non-Greeks (non-Greek pottery was found).
- Originally an Aeolian settlement
- Mythical founder for this city was Tantalos.
- Captured by Ionian town
- Homer's home?

Pottery Reflects Economic Downturn

- Sub Mycenaean or Early Iron Age
- People/animals on pottery and frescos disappear
- Protogeometric

Lefkandi on Euboea: 1st Monumental Dark Age structure

- Monumental building with adjacent cemetery
- Long and narrow
- Stone foundation
- Surrounded by posts, which hold up a porch
- Apsidal end for storage
- Main room
- Called a Heroon (place of a hero)
- Mud brick walls with thatch roof... Neolithic building materials.
- Burial pits, two of them. One for people and the other for horses.
- One with a woman who was inhumed
 - Gold and ivory found with in the pit
 - No gold or ivory in Hellas, trading must be happening
- One with a man who was cremated
- The other burial pit had four horses
 - Were the horses a sacrifice for important people?
- Demolished soon after the burial and covered with a tumulus
- Was it a tomb of a hero? But, who was the hero?
- Size, burial, tumulus... Shrine?
- Pyres show us that cremation happened.
- Grave goods usually of gold and bronze (evidence of trade)
- Pyxis (trinket box) with a mythical animal, griffin (page 60).
 - Not a Greek style mythical creature (contact with other cultures)
 - Return to pictorial art
- Centaur statue (almost 1 metre tall) with simple geometric designs (page 60)

Late Dark Age (900-750 BCE)

- Geometric pottery
- Amphora, found in a grave in Athens with a cremated pregnant woman. About 50 containers were found in this grave (page 62)
- Facial reconstruction was done of the "rich Athenian lady"
- Gold jewellery
 - Trade
 - Prosperity returning
- Athens c. 750 BCE Dipylon ("twin gates") Amphora (page 60). Entire container covered in geometric designs, also has pictorial art on it
- Was a grave marker (didn't hold ashes)
- Tall as a person
- Silhouette figures of people on the amphora
- Prothesis Scene
- Lying out of a body
- Mourners depicted
- Krater with geometric funeral scene (page 58)
- Body on a cart taken to the cemetery with parade of mourners
- Herodotus: origins of the alphabet... The Phoenicians who came with Cadmus (brother of Europa, mythical) at their settlement of their country, brought the alphabet.
- Consonantal... No vowels.
- The names of the letters are the names of things.
- Greeks divided them into two categories:
 - 1) Vowels
 - 2) Consonants
- Added new signs as well.
- Phonetic
- Can be used to write any language
- Originally wrote Retrograde (right to left) like the Phoenicians, but changed to Orthograde (left to right).
- Boustrophedon style ("as the ox ploughs") left to right, then right to left, then left to right, etc.
- Can write in circles too.
- No standardized alphabet for the first four centuries. Ultimately the Ionic version is adopted.
- Nestor's Cup (Italy), one of the earliest examples of Greek writing
- Dipylon Jug (Athens) (page 65)
- Developed the technology to preserve the sound of speech.
- No longer have to rely on archaeology to reconstruct the past... Used for more than records.
- Dark Age ends with the return to writing!
- If we mostly have the Greek alphabet, why don't we have it all? The Etruscans!