

Intro to Greek Civilization

- Greek - name of civilization of "Hellenes"
 - name ("Graeci") invented by Romans (found namesake tribe in region)
- Greece - country located in eastern Europe, coast of Mediterranean sea
 - no correlation of mainland to islands
 - civilization of "Greater Greece" located throughout coastal Mediterranean (not confined to region)

Identity - there were two forms of identity: "linguistic" and "cultural"

- considered themselves above non-Greeks (natural law)

Linguistic

- Considered Greeks to be those who spoke same language

Cultural

- defined themselves by where they lived (city-states)

* recognized their culture by personality (bravery, intellect, etc.) vs. not)

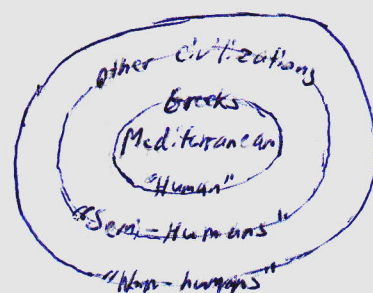


Fig. 1: Greek notion of world

Origins

- "Greeks" (linguistically) first came to Greece relatively late (2100 BC)
- * Came from Pindarides, settled in Mycenae
- Greek language is Indo-European in its roots

- Mycenae - first civilization of Greeks
 - collapsed in 1200 BC
 - other people (Dorian Greeks) invaded and re-built "Greece"

- Never originally politically/geographically united (region defined by Romans)
- * Athens was cultural capital of Greek world (NOT typical Greece)

- * "Classical" education (classicism) was elitist (notion of superiority - separated them from "barbarians")

Notes: Arabs (older civilization) thought themselves to be far superior → heirs of Mesopotamians/Egyptians. This shows a sense of patriotism/nationalism founded in ignorance and cultural isolation.

- The Greeks' geographic closeness often brought them into contact with other cultures

Cities and City-States

- Cities were not largest settlements of humans, but were centres of civilization (most "civilized" — had technological, social, cultural resources)

* Anyone not living in cities was a "barbarian"

- Greeks did not invent cities ("proto-cities" founded in Mesopotamia)

- Cities had certain characteristics:
 - reasons { → avoiding animals attacking nomads
→ irrigation of fields

1) Certain density

2) Certain size

3) Public buildings and administration

4) Non-agricultural industries

5) Food resources to maintain population

(6) Contact with others (trade, exchange of ideas)

Near-Eastern—
model

- Buildings in cities were necessarily built of stone

**** Religion** — overseers (priests related to city's god) ruled cities → "divine rule"
= cities may have been founded around temple (at centre)

- Isolated cities were usually at war with each other
- Foreigners were only permitted in "harbours", NOT city centres
- Population had no freedom — separation of strangers
— "slaves" of god

* Classical Greek model is completely different