

Outline 8: Dark Ages: Migrations and the Alphabet

Monday, February 6, 2017

Reading: C/F 58-65, 191-192 plus required videos (see below)

I ι iota is for Ionia which is in Asia Minor (iota = 1) (ee-ota)

III = 3

DDII = 22

HDDDIIII = 134

Effects of the end of Mycenaeans (Review p. 56-57)

- end of social hierarchy: no more king
- end of redistributive economic system
- loss of technical knowledge
- end of pictorial art (no more humans on frescoes or in sculpture)
- end of civilization: no more writing bc they have nothing to keep track of since Linear B was only for bureaucratic use, and no new monumental buildings

Dark Age (1100-750 BCE)

Early Dark Age: 1100-900 BCE (the darkest age)

Late Dark Age: 900-750 BCE

- called the dark age bc we don't know that much about it
- called Iron Age by Hesiod (he lived in this age)

Early Dark Age Changes in Hellas

1. Technology: change in preferred metal, now it is iron rather than bronze (copper +arsenic), did not know how to cast iron so they beat it into shape (resulted in a much harder material than bronze)
2. Demographics: 75% decrease in population on mainland, invasions from the north and migrations east meant that from the 320 known sites of Mycenaean civilizations went down to only 40, new sites are gradually built
3. Political Organization: no more king but there are "chiefs" for villages
4. Habitation: megaron + apse, similar to Neolithic Dimini (uses same construction techniques)
5. Changes in areas of settlement: as new people come in from the north, the Greeks get pushed out (to Aeolia from Thessaly, to Ionia, from Peloponnese to Caria/Dorians and Crete) Asia Minor (Anatolia) (C/F p. 57)
 - language called Aeolian spoken in both Thessaly and Aeoli, Ionian was spoken on Ionia and ?, Dorian was spoken on Peloponnese and Caria
 - EDA Migration across the Aegean is the first major expansion of the Greek world
 - Ionian became most prosperous of the people who migrated

EDA in Asia Minor

Smyrna (p. 62-3)

- layers of pottery found: first layer of pottery is non-Greek pottery, second layer is Greek (Aeolian) pottery, the next layer was Greek (Ionian) as well (captured by Ionians), next layer was Lydian pottery (destroyed by Lydians)
- Tantalus: father of Pelops, founder of Smyrna (name comes from tantalize)
- fortified city
- possibly Homer's hometown but it is disputed
- Halicarnassus: home of Herodotus (asked the question: "Why did the Greeks and Persians go to war?"), Artemisia (Queen of Halicarnassus, fights on Persian side as told by Herodotus), and Mausolus (later King of Halicarnassus)
 - Mausoleum is the tomb of Mausolus (p. 191-192))

6. Communication: NO system of writing, total dependence on speech, stories of heroes survive orally, preserve Hesiod's Heroic Age, dialects (Aeolic, Ionic, Doric, Mainland only: Arcadian, NW Greek) (p. 64)

- Economy reflected in pictorial art: Sub-Mycenaean (has a small squiggle that represents an octopus, not very well made bc of loss of technology), as EDA moves on, they move into Protogeometric (more controlled decoration but not representations of people or animals, mostly circular decorations made with multiple brushes and a compass)

7. Religion: open air worship begins

8. Burial practices

9. Warfare: cavalry

Lefkandi (Euboia) 950 BCE

- largest new structure in Hellas between 1200 and 750 BCE
- only monumental building that was constructed in Hellas
- on the sea, Mycenaean site, port city
- called the Lefkandi Heroon: same basic plan as others found, built on a stone foundation, mud-brick walls, thatch roof (Neolithic building techniques) (p. 60-61)
- contains 2 burial pits: one for people (a cremated man in a bronze cauldron decorated w a hunting scene and an inhumed woman with gold sheets covering her), one for horses (4 horses, Achilles sacrificed 4 horses in the Iliad)
- covered with tumulus
- house? temple? funerary monument?
- size (huge), burials, tumulus = shrine of hero, but who was the hero?
- there's a cemetery around the Heroon, a pyxis with a griffin on it found
 - inhumed and cremated bodies found, ceramics sculpture of a centaur found decorated w simple geometric designs

Significance of Lefkandi

- beginning to have contact with the outside world, outside of Hellas
- beginning to get out of the regression

Late Dark Age = Geometric Period (900-750 BCE)

- Burial (850 BCE): fancily decorated amphora (big container w 2 handles) found in the burial of a wealthy, pregnant Athenian lady which contains ashes and bones of a woman along w 50 other fancy containers BUT no representations of humans or animals (p. 62)
- outside trade is beginning to happen
- Dipylon Amphora c. 750 (p. 60): grave marker for inhumed female, geometric patterns (Meander pattern), figures of humans and animals
 - prothesis scene: funeral scene of whoever the amphora is for, silhouette figures/ mourners pulling their hair out (sign of grief)
- Geometric krater (p. 58-59): has a funeral scene
- Return of Writing: Alphabet (p. 64-5), came from the Phoenicians (Prometheus and Dedylus)
- Cadmus (Phoenician) was sent to search for his sister Europa and ended up in Thebes
- Phoenician alphabet: consonantal, no vowels
- Greek alphabet: adapted Phoenician alphabet (created vowels) phonetic script (based on sound, sound = first sound in the name of letter/symbol, 48 symbols needed for a phonetic English alphabet), retrograde (Phoenicians wrote this way, right to left), orthograde (left to right), boustrophedon ('as the ox ploughs', each line changes from retrograde to orthograde)
- Dipylon jug (730 BCE): has writing on it, dates just after the end of the dark ages (p. 65)

LBA Greeks Wrote On:

- pottery
- stone
- papyrus (from a plant in Egypt)
- parchment (vellum): animal skin, used well into the medieval period

The Alphabet

- first technology to preserve sound of speech
- separates pre-historic from historic ages
- new uses for writing
- return to civilization is almost complete

Words to Remember

People: Aeolians, Ionians, Dorians, Herodotus, Tantalos, Cadmus, Phoenicians

Places: Aegean Sea, Asia Minor, Ionia, Thessaly, Thebes, Boiotia, Attica, Halicarnassos, Smyrna, Lefkandi, Euboia

Terms: Dark/Iron Age, apse, Sub-Mycenaean, Protogeometric, Geometric, heroon, pyxis, griffin, centaur, meander, amphora, Dipylon amphora, prothesis, krater, Dipylon jug, retrograde, orthograde, boustrophedon

Study Map: Aegean Sea, Asia Minor, Thessaly, Thebes, Boiotia, Attica, Euboia, Halicarnassos, Smyrna, Lefkandi

Images: C/F p. 60 (Dipylon amphora), p. 61 (Lefkani heroon), 62 (Geometric pottery), 65 (Dipylon jug)

Think About It!

1. Why did the Hellenes become un-civilized in the Early Dark Age?
2. What criteria for civilization were absent in the Early Dark Age? Why?
3. How did the newcomers to Halicarnassus (the home town of Herodotus) make peace with the people whose land they had seized? See p. 64.
4. Pottery is a good indicator of the decline of civilization in Hellas at the end of the Bronze Age and its return at the end of the Dark Age. Explain.

Required Videos

Dipylon Amphora (4.12 min)

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history/art-history-400-c-e--ancient-cultures-1/ancient-greece/v/dipylon-vase>

Dipylon Amphora Quiz

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Review Mini Quiz: Early or Late Dark Age?

1. sub-Mycenaean pottery
2. migration across the Aegean
3. heroon at Lefkandi
4. return of writing
5. no pictorial art
6. also called the Geometric Age