

1 Cycladic Civilization

The Aegean islands were already settled during the Paleolithic era as evidenced by finds at the Petralona and Franchthi caves, even if due to the passing of time, outside of caves we can't find that much of what they may have built.

The Cycladic Civilization (dated often around 3200-1100 BC) existed in the islands of the Aegean Sea (including Delos, Naxos and Paros). During the Cycladic Period, houses and temples were built of finished stone and the people made their living through fishing and trade. This period is usually divided into three phases: Early Cycladic, Middle Cycladic, and Late Cycladic. The latter two phases overlapping and finally merging with the Minoan Civilization.

2 Minoan Civilization

The Minoan Civilization developed on the island of Crete, rapidly coming to be the dominant sea power in the region. Under Minos' rule.

Thus Knossos, from where Minos ruled flourished through maritime trade as well as overland commerce with the other great cities of Crete, Kato Sakro and Mallia.



Other achievements of the Minoans include developing a writing system known as Linear A and making advances in ship building, construction, ceramics, the arts and sciences, and warfare; King Minos being credited by ancient historians as being the first person to establish a navy with which he colonized/conquered the Cyclades islands.



He also was famous for more things such as creating a successful code of laws, though it is possible that a lot of the work attributed to him took place over a longer period, or it is possible that more men were responsible for all of these achievements, even if Minos played a crucial role (i.e. think of the American revolutionary war, today George Washington is already remembered more and more as opposed to the other founding fathers, and 2000 years from now it is very likely that what will be remembered if the US is remembered like Rome is today a legendary George Washington).

Archaeological and geological evidence on Crete suggests that the Minoan civilization fell due to an overuse of the land causing deforestation though, traditionally, it is accepted that they were conquered by the Mycenaeans. The eruption of the volcano on the nearby island of Thera (modern day Santorini) somewhere between 1650 and 1550 BC, and the resulting tsunami, is acknowledged as the final cause for the fall of the Minoans. After this the isle of Crete was deluged, the cities and villages destroyed. This event has been frequently cited as Plato's inspiration in creating his myth of Atlantis in his dialogues of the Critias and Timaeus.