



T14: Ancient Greece

Timeline (now in Europe after middle east and Indian sub continent)

- **Aegean Civilizations: Minoan (king Minos)** (c. 2000-1600 BCE), Goddess “Lady” Crete Island no city wall, collapsed because of volcanic eruption in neighboring island (tsu nami, weirs over head), and **Mycenaean** (c. 1600– c. 1200 BCE) **figure of eight shield** – emergence and decline of early Bronze Age civilizations
- **Dark Age** (c.1200 – c. 800 BCE) **lack of written evidence**
- **Archaic Period** (c. 800 – c. 500 BCE) **Homer, mythologies – Trojan wars**
- **Classical (Hellenic)** – (c. 500 – 323 BCE)
- **Hellenistic** (323–146 BCE)



Minoan Fresco: “Bull Leaping”



worshiping bull god, religious rituals, sports

The **Lion Gate**, the main entrance of the citadel of **Mycenae** (**Mycenaean came from**), 13th century BC.



Greek *Polis*

- *Polis* – Greek city states
- Different forms of governance in Polis – ‘*Tyrannis*’ (rule by ‘Tyrants’ or popularly approved political heads) – ‘**Oligarchy**’ (rule by small number of rich and powerful citizens) – ‘**Democracy**’ (**from greek word democratia**) (rulers elected by all free adult male citizens) (**foreigners and slaves are not included, free women were citizen but were not entitle for electing rulers**) (**ostracism of rulers, officials – expel for 10 years**) (**officials were selected by lottery – more democratic than democracy – random sampling – everybody has the equal chance**)
- Many city states – **Athens**, **Sparta** (**two kings**), **Thebes**, **Corinth** and others – frequent conflicts among the Polis

Athens

- Strong middle class - birthplace of Democracy
- **Direct democracy** – not representative – limitation: only for male citizens
- Peak of Athenian democracy under **Pericles** (c. 495-429 BCE)
- Centre of excellence in philosophy, literature, art, sciences
- Centre of Classical civilization

Study Questions

- Introduce the timeline of ancient Greek history.
- How did the Minoan Culture distinguish itself?
- What were the main features of the Mycenaean Culture?
- Narrate different forms of Greek *Polis*.
- Examine Athenian democracy and its shortcomings.

Thank You