

CLAS201 Review Notes

Table of Contents

1	Land and Sea	1
1.1	Land	1
1.1.1	Topography	1
1.1.2	Agriculture	1
1.2	The Sea	1
2	Historical Background	2
2.1	Bronze Age (2000-1200BC)	2
2.2	Dark Age (1200-750BC)	2
2.3	Archaic Period (750-480BC)	3
2.4	Classical Greece (480-323BC)	3
2.5	Hellenistic Era (323-31 BC)	3
3	Minoan Civilization	4

1 Land and Sea

1.1 Land

1.1.1 Topography

- Rugged topography
 - Islands, rivers, mountains (75% of modern day Greece is mountains)
 - No really good harbors, they were always poor and couldn't support a huge population. The Greek were always aware of these shortcomings.
- Polis, Greek word for city or state.
 - City-state was their main form of government.
 - Small population typically, no huge empires here.
 - Greeks believed very much in this government solution.
- Shitty land led Greeks to sea for transport/trade

1.1.2 Agriculture

- Mediterranean triad
 - Cereals (wheat, grains)
 - Grapes (mostly for wine)
 - Olive oil
- Austere lifestyle
- Cattle used for powering plows, goats for cheese, sheep for clothes. Not often killed for meat. Horses + cattle very expensive to maintain, horses mostly used for war. Some fish but really Greeks mostly ate bread and olive oil.

1.2 The Sea

- Trade
 - Best done by sea, great traders.
- Expansion
 - Mostly expanded along the coasts
 - Never went in-land
 - * "Frogs along the pond"
 - * Until Alexander the Great

- Empire
 - Only ever developed the Athenian Empire, a maritime empire.
 - Really bad at making an empire.
- The sea is home to the Greeks.

2 Historical Background

2.1 Bronze Age (2000-1200BC)

- Bronze used for tools and weapons
- 2000BC "Greeks" enter "Greece"
- 2000-1450BC Minoan Civilization (not Greek)
 - Based in Crete
 - Greeks took a lot from them and around 1450 likely conquered them.
- 1600-1200BC Mycenaean Civilization
 - Mycenaean collapse, 1200BC.
 - No one knows why it collapsed.
 - Around this time there was an unknown cataclysm that took place, affected everyone but ended their society.
 - "Palace state", cities built around palaces.

2.2 Dark Age (1200-750BC)

- Marked by small villages and decreased population.
- Fall in technology.
- Lost their script as it was only used for keeping track of goods, since no more economy, no more script.
- Iron Age begins in Greece (1050BC)
- Ionian Migration (1050-950)
 - Mass migration from mainland Greece to Ionian

2.3 Archaic Period (750-480BC)

- City states arise (750-700BC)
- Colonization (750-500BC)
- Age of Tyrants (670-500BC)

2.4 Classical Greece (480-323BC)

- Firm beginning, invasion of Xerxes, Persian invasion.
- Greeks kicked ass, got excited afterwards and built and flourished.
- Battle of Marathon, 1st Persian invasion (490BC), very minor battle in Aratrea. Started under Derius, but continues under Xerxes.
- Delian league/Athenian Empire (477-403), Athenians eventually controlled the Delian league, around 450.
- Peloponnesian War (431-404), Spartans vs Athenians, angry about the bullying in the Delian league.
- Shifting Aegemonies (404-323)
 1. Sparta (404-377)
 2. Athens (377-371)
 3. Thebes (371-362)
 4. Accession of Philip II of Macedon (359BC)
 5. Battle of Chaeronea (338BC), Macedon victory over Greeks.

2.5 Hellenistic Era (323-31 BC)

- Monarchies:
 - Alexander the Great dies at around age 30, very young
 - Hadnt split his empire up yet into groups or gave it to people so generals fought for it
 - Three main empires came from this split of Alexs empire
 - all arose shortly after Alex dies
- 1. Macedon (d. 146 BC)
 - original Macedon basically
 - first to run up against the romans
 - allied themselves with Hannibal so when he was defeated romans started to fight them

- finally in 146 BC, the romans destroyed the greeks and razed Corinth to the ground
- 2. Seleucid Empire (d. 63 BC)
 - basically all of the conquered east
 - lasted a bit longer
 - didnt piss off the romans right away
 - first battle was 190 BC approx
 - romans forced them to a disadvantageous peace (lots of restrictions and stuff)
 - had some good leaders and recovered after a while
 - romans kept messing with them and support the royal family fights
 - they eventually feel apart
 - romans took over and made into roman province called syria
- 3. Ptolmaic Empire (d. 30 BC)
 - Egypt area
 - for almost 3 centuries, Egypt was a greek kingdom
 - Ptolamy (Alexs general) was already governor of Egypt when Alex died and he decided to just stay there
 - Very rich and prosperous kingdom
 - Fought the Seleucids sometimes
 - tended to ally themselves with the romans
 - romans protected them from the other empires
 - eventually lost it to the romans via Cleopatra
- 31 BC was battle of acteium between Marc Antony and Augustus
- Scholarship:
 - State sponsored, especially at Alexandria (Library with 700000 volumes, Museum)
 - Tons of discovery, especially around dissection of humans.

3 Minoan Civilization

1. Minoans in Greek Memory
 - Called Minoans after King Minos
 - Not Greeks.
 - No evidence of where they originated.
 - Heavy influence of Greek culture, also first advanced civilization in Greek region.