

# CLAS201 Review Notes

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# 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

### 3.1 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.
- Legends were generally all connected to Minos
- Main centre is Knossos

### 3.1.1 History

- Minos was the first "Thalassocrat" (means sea-power aka person who rules the sea)
- Minos was first one to have a navy
- Minoans controlled the sea
- Rich cities but no defensive works (no walls etc)
- Made an impact on Greek thinking

## 3.2 Timeline

### 1. 3000-2000: Peasant Culture

- No palaces
- Prosperous

### 2. 2000-1700: First Palace Period

- Started making palaces in major urban areas
- Not a lot known about these palaces since no written record.
- Not much known also since all palaces destroyed and burned
- People think maybe an invasion or earthquake
- Happened in 1700BC

### 3. 1700-1450: Second Palace Period (1450 - Destruction by Mycenaeans)

- High point of the Mycenaean world.
- Most images and art are from this time.
- Reconstructed palaces on the foundations of the old destroyed ones.
- Much more information on these palaces.
- Possible coup, or natural disaster ended this period

### 4. 1450-: Post-palatial period

- Slides into nothingness.

### 3.3 Nature of Minoan Society

- Matriarchal?
  - No other matriarchal societies ever discovered in the past. Could be the only one.
  - Females more depicted in art more than men. Women are drawn white, men drawn red.
  - Religious imagery dominated by women.
  - Goddesses and Priestesses.
  - Nearly no women.
- Art
  - Frescoes
  - Seals
    - \* Not the animal...
    - \* Like stamps, very decorated.
    - \* Minoans had a preference for art on a small, detailed scale.
    - \* Natural scenes, people, animals.
    - \* Not used for propaganda for religious or political gain, as they were in other places.
- Architecture
  - Palaces
    - \* Discovered for the first time in the 1900s
    - \* Centered in an open court.
    - \* Surrounded by many rooms
  - Villas
- Economy
  - Domestic and international trade
  - Everything brought to the Palace first to be distributed.
  - Imported lots of gold and silver, gems and Ivory.
  - Exported Wine, textiles, olive oil.
  - Trade based on gift exchanging, not so much modern day trade. Elites in other countries were well networked. Pharaoh gives Gold to a Minoan elite.
- Writing
  - Hieroglyphics, Linear A, Phaistos disk



- Almost none survives, but what has has not yet been deciphered.
- Economic records mostly.
- Based on Egyptian Hieroglyphics, and then they made them easier and quicker to write, this lead to Linear A.
- No idea of what language the Minoan's spoke.
- Phaistos disk is a disk they found at a palace that has a bunch of different glyphs which are not seen anywhere else. Speculated that it's a poem or religious inscription. No one really again knows anything about it.
- Politics
  - Monarchy?
    - \* No clear imagery of a king or a queen.
    - \* People think it must have been, because that's all there is at this point of history.
    - \* Throne room in one of the palaces that is not present in other palaces. Not much to go on.
  - One state or multiple?
    - \* Palace at Knossis suggests that it was unified. But again, we're not sure.
    - \* Then again, many palaces exist, so that's an interesting point in the multiple state school of thought.
  - Aegean?
    - \* Did the Minoans dominate the islands as well? Or was it just a matter of cultural dominance.
    - \* Script has been found here.
- Religion
  - Mother-goddess?
    - \* Could be a single deity, also could be the one that inspires all goddesses in Greek history.
    - \* Religion dominated by females.
  - Natural sanctuaries
    - \* No temples or statues
    - \* Hilltop sanctuaries
    - \* Cave sanctuaries (could be representative of the womb)
  - Summoning rituals
    - \* God possesses the summoner
    - \* Could explain the lack of statues
    - \* As always with these guys, we don't know shit.

## 4 Mycenaean Civilization

- Still not Greeks, but we're getting close, they are at least Greek speaking
- NMame derives from the largest city, called Mycenae.

### 4.1 Introduction

- Influence
  - Influenced heavily by the Minoans.
  - As mentioned, Greek speaking.
- Continuity
  - Greeks went into a dark age after collapse of the Mycenaean Empire.
  - Mythological stories owe much to Mycenaean time.
  - We have some idea of continuity during the Mycenaean time period, but there is mostly discontinuity (not many sources).
- Sources
  - Largely archaeological.
  - Some literary from later Greeks, but this info is a little sketchy sometimes.
  - Used script Linear B, derived from Minoan linear A. Largely deciphered, unlike Linear A.
  - Similar to Greek, but some words we still do not know. Used, as with the Minoans, to record goods and services and record keeping.
  - Homer's stories are from the Bronze age, so Mycenaean time. Written 500 years later from stories passed down orally.

### 4.2 Historical outline

- 2100-1600BC Pre-Mycenaean
- 1600-1400BC Early Mycenaean
- 1400-1200BC Palace Period (1200BC major upheaval)
- 1200-1050BC Sub Mycenaean
- 1600 comes from the fact that before this there is no indication of large building or complex graves.
  - Graves found from 1600 even have goods from other civilizations, pointing to international trade.

- Most building replaced by palaces later, not much remains from 1600-1400BC.
- 1400-1200BC
  - Building great buildings for the first time.
- 1200BC
  - Something bad happened.
  - Things start going very badly, not just for the Mycenaeans.
- 1200-1050BC
  - Mycenaean society drifts into history, dark ages.

### 4.3 Society

- Classes
  - Kings and Elite
    - \* Palaces have a throne room.
    - \* Wanax (word meaning in charge of society)
    - \* There are council members, generals.
    - \* Seems to exist an aristocracy.
    - \* Lawagetas (the King's general)
    - \* Quesileu or basilus (mayor), Basileus later becomes the Greek word for king.
    - \* Rich people lived below the citadel, probably weren't military elite due to where their houses are, may have been the economical elite. Many Linear B tablets found in these houses.
    - \* No villas like the Minoans.
  - Officials
    - \* Bureaucrats with special skills, like knowledge of how to read and write Linear B.
  - Artisans and farmers.
    - \* Artist and farmers didn't appear to be slaves.
    - \* Seemed willing to provide for the town.
  - Slaves
    - \* As usual sucks to be a slave.
    - \* Minoans didn't have any, but the Mycenaeans did. Classic dick Mycenaeans.
    - \* Slave trade and lists of slaves.
- Militaristic

- Very little for Minoans, different for Mycenaean.
- Art themes are militaristic.
- Boar tusk helmet, bronze armor, shin pads.
- Women later are shown more frequently, but these contain Minoan themes, not themes of war (women seem not to be involved in war).
- Architecture
  - Mycenaeans really good at building walls.
  - Walls around the high point of the citadel (normally built on a defensible hill).
  - Cyclopean walls
    - \* Massive unworked stones, irregularly shaped and fit together as best as possible.
    - \* Smaller rocks stuck in between the bigger ones.
  - These guys were never really fighting...
    - \* Walls not mainly for defense as there were no siege engines or technology to breach walls at this point. Basically overkill and a dick measuring contest. As usual.
- Palaces
  - Megaron design (large central room).
  - Very distinctive design, not as large as the Minoan palaces though.
  - Minoan decorative style with pillars and frescoes.
  - After the dark ages, the megaron style was used from Greek temples.
- Tombs
  - Tholoi (singular Tholus)
    - \* Large beehive-like tombs cut into hills.
    - \* Huge doors lined in stone.
- Art
  - Frescoes
    - \* Adopted from Minoans (never thought of this before, but adopted is just a really nice word for stolen)
    - \* Potentially sub par compared to Minoans (could have been a prejudice view, people liked Minoans better because they didn't start shit)
    - \* Figurines popular, snakes for healing and power in symbols and icons.
    - \* Art in miniature also popular, seals like the Minoans in precious stones, daggers with gold inserts.

- Economy
  - Centralized
    - \* Everything through the palace and is recorded.
    - \* Grains, goods, manufactured products.
    - \* Inscribed in clay tablets and maybe papyrus, during the fires everything was destroyed but the tablets, because the clay just fired instead of burning. In general, not too much remains.
  - Raid and Trade (Cool band name)
    - \* International trade did exist.
    - \* Could have been as much raiding as trading.
    - \* Slave trade, typically slaves were from places the Mycenaeans raided.
    - \* Importers of precious items (gold, ivory, gems, copper/tin).
    - \* Exported some crops and olive oil. Lots of olive oil.
    - \* Event of 1200BC was potentially a disruption of trade and thus economic failure of the Mycenaean civilization.
- Religion
  - Deities
    - \* Everything we have from Minoans suggest that it was mostly female deities with them, however seems Mycenaeans worshiped and equal number of male/female deities.
    - \* Tablets suggest male/female, however art still suggest just female deities, likely because they just stole Minoan art.
  - Practices
    - \* No cave or mountain shrines. Also no specialized worship rooms in the palace. All of which was common with the Minoans is not found with the Mycenaeans.
    - \* Shrines or small temples however to exist as freestanding structures.
    - \* These shrines had permanent statues lining the walls or area. Suggests less about the re-incarnating like the Minoans.

## 5 The Dark Age

### 5.1 End of Mycenaean Civilization

- Collapse of palace culture
  - 1200BC all palaces destroyed.
  - Population drops over 60%.
- Cause(s)

- Invasion
  - \* Tradition view.
  - \* Found in myth, could be historical.
  - \* Northern Greeks invade southern Greeks
- Natural disasters
  - \* Earthquake prone area.
  - \* Flooding prone area too.
  - \* Seriously, why would you live in this place. Mountains, shitty land and floods.
- Civil War
  - \* Not much evidence for battles though.
  - \* But, with civilizations so close together and armed... it's sort of inevitable.
- Class Warfare
- Environmental Degradation
  - \* Economy is heavily based on agriculture. Degradation would murder this.
- Disruption of sea trade routes.

## 5.2 Dark Age Society (1150-900BC)

- Sources
  - Archeology and later, Homer.
  - Battle of Troy (if it really did happen) in 1200BC, Mycenaean's last hurrah.
- Social structure
  - Some towns excavated.
  - Some large structures like Lefkandi, Nichoria
  - Leaders of towns also exist.
- Material Culture
  - Pottery
    - \* Recovery around 1050BC, new kind of pottery.
    - \* Athens and Corinth seem to have led the recovery.
  - Iron
    - \* Begins in 1050BC
    - \* Greeks didn't create but adapted the technology from afar.
    - \* Relatively early adopters of Iron technology.

### 5.3 Ionian Migration

- I mean, people set up shop around the Aegean... what else is there really to say here.

### 5.4 The Homeric World

- Reading Homer: oral poetry and historic reconstruction.
  - Wrote two different works, however likely different authors due to different themes and atmospheres.
  - Could have also been the stitching together of a bunch of different stories into a large epic.
  - Illiad had to do with the Trojan war.
  - Odyssey had to do with Odysseus, a soldier from the Trojan war.
  - Some don't agree that Homer is a source for the dark ages, but most do.
- Homeric Society
  - Government: basileus, boule and demos.
  - Ethics: courage, skill (mostly in warfare), piety, honour
    - \* Craftsmen also skilled of course. Ironsmiths were well regarded, but typically foreigner and less respected.
    - \* Even Hephestos, a crippled god was highly regarded due to his skill set.
    - \* Piety was found after looking to the gods to guide moral code. Oaths were very important and well respected.
  - Women
    - \* Very restricted and do not have much stature.
    - \* From Homer it seems women had it better in the dark ages then later when society was a little more organized.
      - E.g. Arete was the queen of an island that Odysseus landed on, more authority than the king on this island.

## 6 Recovery From the Dark Age

### 6.1 Population Growth

- Pastoralism to Agriculture.
  - More effective to use land to grow crops over using them to raise animals.
  - Not sure if the growth in population forced the use of land to agriculture, or if the switch led to a growth in population.
  - Food generally the greatest population factor in the past.

- Colonization
  - Running out of space, plots of farm land were getting smaller and smaller. Makes sense to colonize afar and settle more territory over seas.
- Lelantine War
  - Called Lelantine because it was conducted between two cities on the Lelantine plains. The plain was not big enough to support the population of both cities, so they went to war.
  - Lots of these types of wars are seen. There is just a general lack of resources.
- Archaeological
  - Lots more graves.
  - Bigger cities.

## 6.2 Trade and Commerce

- Even in the deepest of the dark age, there was still sparse international contact.
  - We see a lot more contact during the recovery.
- Phoenicians
  - Lived in today Lebanon.
  - City states who turned to trade and commerce from 1000BC on.
  - Brought a lot of foreign goods to the Greeks, but the Greeks may have thought they were getting ripped off, so not as much trade and commerce with them as you'd think.
- Greek trade eventually starts: Al Mina (825BC), Pitheculsae (775BC), Naucratis (700BC)
  - Al Mina is on the Phoenitian coast. Greek presence at this location (pretty far from the Greek mainland).
  - Pitheculsae, a little island off the coast of Italy, pretty close to Rome actually.
  - Naucratis was in Egypt.

## 6.3 Alphabet

- Origins
  - First to develop a true alphabet.
  - Alphabet taken from the Phoneticians



- Only had consonants in Phoenician alphabet, but didn't need a few letters, so created vowels as well. (This is weird, but apparently if we sleep on it, it'll make sense)
- Innovations
  - Developed in numerous ways, so there were actually a number of Greek alphabets that were heavily related.
- Usage
  - Business
  - Poetry
  - Multi-purpose
- Ramifications of Literacy
  - This is mostly speculative.
  - Democracy may have had its roots in the Greek alphabet.
  - Philosophy and rational thinking began with literacy.

## 6.4 Panhellenism

- Pan means everything and Hellen means Greek.
- Term refers to all things Greeks had in common.
- The Olympia games

# 7 Ancient Greek Religion

## 7.1 Introduction

- Religion is pervasive and conservative.
  - You could not separate life from religion. Society and religion were deeply intertwined.
  - Religion did not change much, very conservative. History was a part of the religion, so Greeks occasionally changed it, but they thought that what was done was what the Gods were happy with.
  - Homer and Hesiod were the main sources for religion from the dark age. These texts became the main source for religion and were never changed.

## 7.2 Literary Foundation of Religion

- Hesiod is an author who wrote around the same time as Homer.
- Herodotus was first Greek historian who survives (sometimes called the father of history... though occasionally inaccurate "Father of lies").
  - Writing in 480-323BC

### 7.2.1 Homer

- Powerful and Glorious gods.
  - Gods seems to be all over the place. I.e. Athena is the goddess of wisdom and of war and very powerful, kicks a lot of butt.
  - Hephaestus a greatly skilled craftsman. Creates a shield showing a city at peace and a city at war, all of the human experiences. A whole chapter is dedicated to this in the book.
  - Apollo helps Trojans destroy the Greeks.
  - Poseidon, god of the sea. Dangerous and powerful as he embodies the sea and can easily rise up and destroy lands and ships.
  - Zeus, the all powerful. Can basically do anything.
- Anthropomorphic.
  - They are human. Not just physically but also emotionally. They fight a lot!
  - Foibles and pettiness.
  - Cheating, fighting, yelling.
- Immortal
  - Especially in the Iliad, the gods are foils for mortal humans.
  - Fixation on death and mortality. Heavy gloom of mortality and the gods are having fun and enjoying themselves without fear of death.

### 7.2.2 Hesiod

- His writing is more earthy, not as fantastic but more nitty gritty.
- Sometimes very detailed (far more than it needs to be)
- Theogony: Creation of an orderly world.
  - Primeval elements: Chaos, Earth (Gaia/Ge), Tartarus, Eros, which spontaneously or sexually produce other elements.
  - Generations of the gods: Heaven and Earth, Cronus and Rhea (Titans), Zeus and Hera (Olympians); and defeated Typhoeus

- Offspring of Zeus etc: Orderly natural and human universe.
- Works and Days: Zeus upholds the everyday universe.
  - Of the natural world. "Zeus will be happy if you watch this rising of the sun and celebrate on this day of the week".
  - The gods give order and tempo to your lives.
  - Zeus commonly brought in to enforce these ways of life. "He'll get you if you don't".
  - Good amount of what is "just" in the eyes of Zeus.

## 7.3 Practice of Religion

### 7.3.1 In the Household

- Zeus is present in many different functions. He is omnipresent.
- Zeus Ktesios (of property)
  - Worshiped in the form of a two handled jar, filled with seeds and oil. Placed in a storeroom. Ensuring prosperity.
- Zeus Herkeios (of the fence/wall)
  - Protect your property so that no robber would break in.
  - Standard feature of a home. In the courtyard of the house.
  - Protects the boundaries of the home.
- Apollo Agyieus (of the street/road)
  - Small pillar outside the door of the house.
  - Would turn away evil from the house. (Demonic and Spirits)
  - We're not sure why Apollo is affiliated with this.
  - Other pillars warded off evil too. Big pillars stood at the boundaries of larger fields or territories.
- Hestia
  - Goddess of the hearth.
  - Man takes a wife, she's brought around the hearth to welcome her to the home.
  - Same for a baby or a slave.
  - Likely the father of the house would go around and make little prayer to each of the gods and make a small offering, with each god having a special day of the year.

### 7.3.2 In the Village/Neighbourhood

- Example of Erchia.
  - An inscription exists with all the religious events and celebrations held at the city yearly.
  - Deme (Athenian term). When the Athenian's organized the state, they organized the territory into 131 Demes. With each Deme having different religious festivals and celebrations.
  - 25 official days of sacrifice a year.
  - Have to sacrifice 59 animals a year. 31 Sheep, 10 pigs, 18 goats.
  - Cattle sacrifices were for bigger cities.
  - Numerous gods were honoured, even the same god in different parts (multiple Apollos)
- Especially agricultural festivals
  - Demeter (god of Grains) and Dionysus (god of Grapes and wine) often celebrated.
  - Demeter celebrated in a festival called Proerosia, "Before the plowing". \*Wink\*
- Thesohoria
  - Celebration for only women, one of the rare occasions the men weren't overseeing the women.
  - May have had to do with fertility... but we actually don't know. It's [his]tory not [her]story unfortunately :(

### 7.3.3 State Level

- State religion reflects household religion. Eg. Hestia, Zeus Kerkeios.
  - The State is like a household. You could go to the Prytaneion (a house) to be wined and dinned if you were a hero or had completed a great feat. There is a direct connection between the home and the state.
  - Center of Athens had a Zeus Herkeios.
- item State religion reflects deme religion. Eg. Artemis Brauronia, Demeter's Eleusinion
  - Shrine to Artemis in Athenian territory. Worshiped by many. Connecting the local Deme level shrine to the state level as a whole.
  - Eleusinion in Athens (the temple in demeter), Greeks connected this shine with another in the countryside. Once again connecting small to large.
  - A lot of this was political, seems like the Athenians wanted to either assimilate power in the capital or they may have just wanted to normalize and centralize the religion.