

# 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 an 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.