

Greece



“We are all Greeks.”
-Shelley





Pre-“Greek”—Aegean Culture (Bronze age—3000-1200 BCE)

- **Cycladic 3000-1600**—marble statues
- **Minoan 2000-1400** King Minos--Knossos:
Goddess with Snakes, Bull Jumper (Arthur
Evans discovered Knossos)
- **Mycenaean 1600-1200** —mainland Greece.
Schliemann discovered Troy and the Mycenaean
culture. They built great palaces and were
preoccupied with death.



Cycladic 3000-1600 BCE



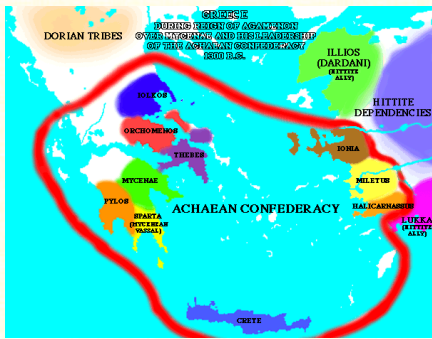


Cycladic Period
3000-1600 BCE



Cycladic Period
ca. 2500 BCE

Minoan 2000-1400 — see Crete/Heraklion



Minoan 2000-1400

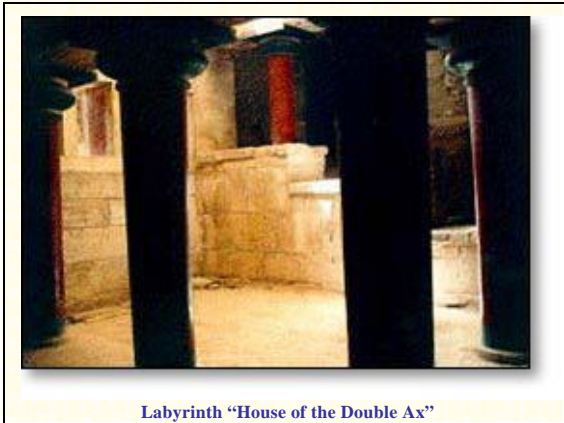
- Seafaring kingdom
- Seemingly safe and secure society
- Human sacrifice
- Minotaur was the child of the queen and a sacred bull
- 1700 BCE the great earthquake



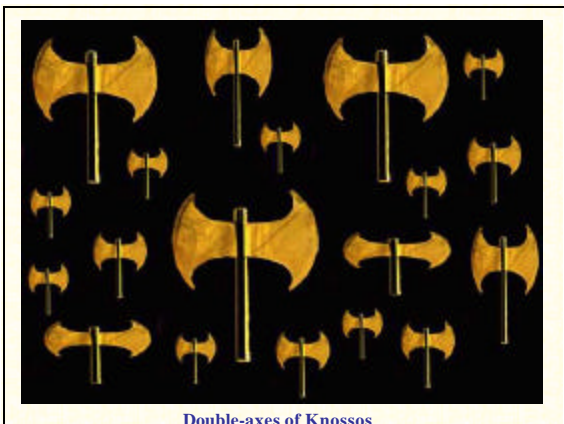
Palace at Knossos ca. 1500 BCE







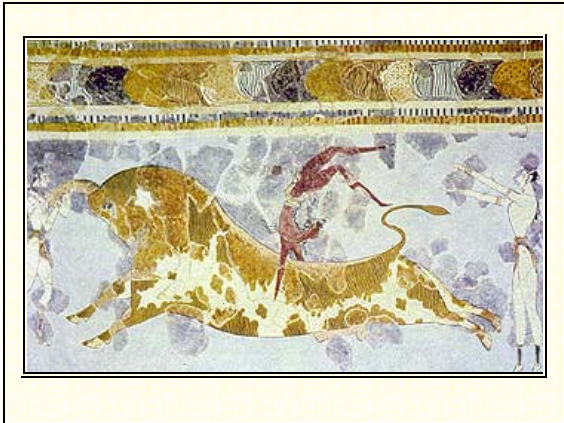
Labyrinth "House of the Double Ax"



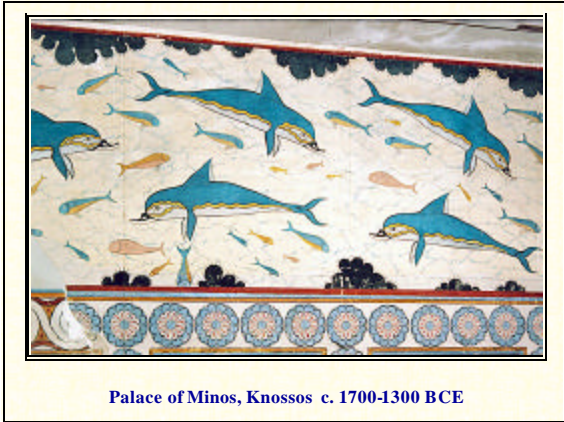
Double-axes of Knossos



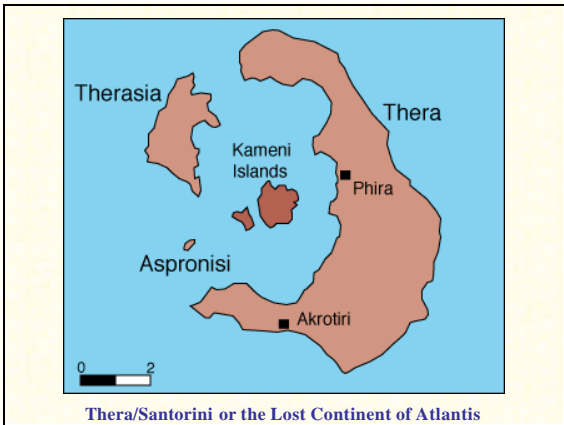
Bull-leaping mural on palace walls







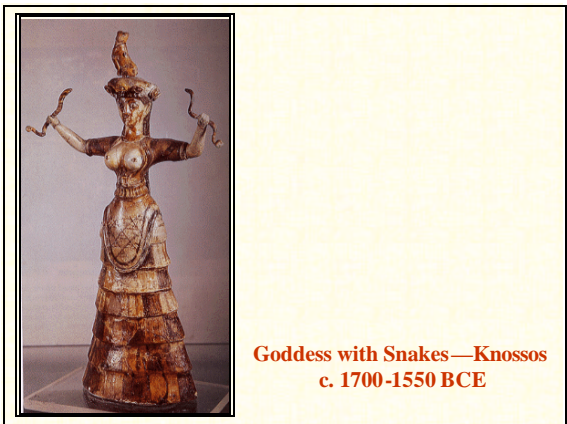
Palace of Minos, Knossos c. 1700-1300 BCE



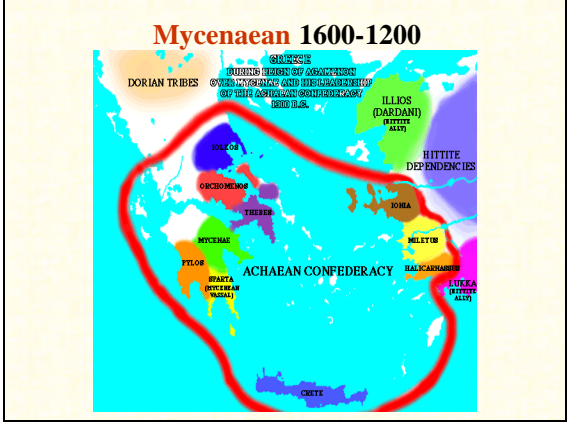
Thera/Santorini or the Lost Continent of Atlantis



Santorini



Goddess with Snakes—Knossos
c. 1700-1550 BCE

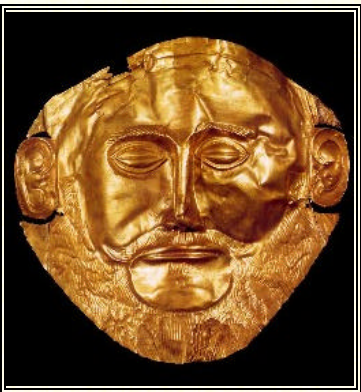


Mycenaean 1600-1200

- Aggressive and militant
- Cyclops legend
- 1200 BCE Mycenaean attacked Troy (in present-day Turkey). Hence, the basis for the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.



**Lioness Gate
Mycenae
1250 BCE**



**“Mask
of
Agamemnon”
Mycenaean
ca. 1500**

GREEK CULTURAL PERIODS

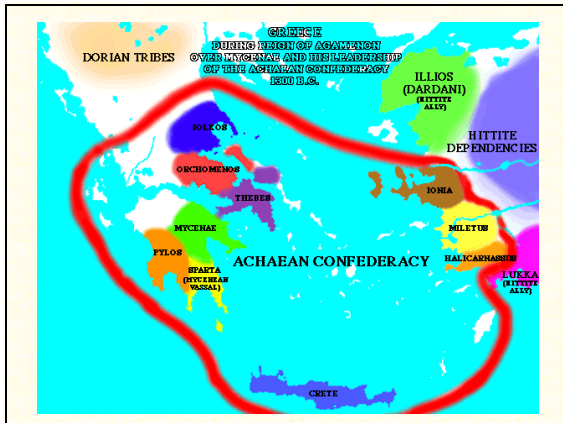
Heroic Age—1200-750 BCE

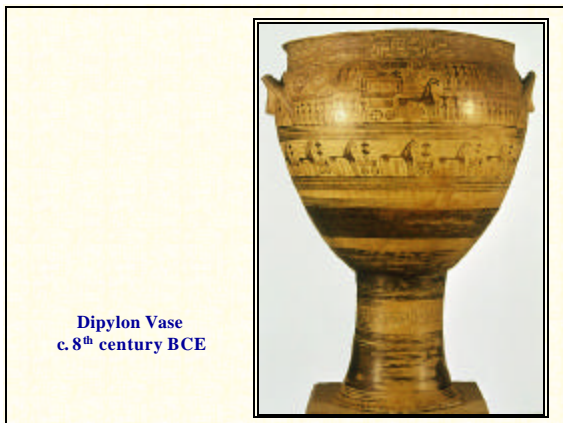
Greek City-State/Persian Wars—750-480 BCE

Athens/Golden Age 480-430 BCE

Heroic Age—1200-750 BCE

- Dorians (see map) destroyed the Mycenaean empire—ca. 1200
- Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (NB the individualism of these epics)





Dipylon Vase
c. 8th century BCE

Greek City-State/Persian Wars— 750-480 BCE

- 200 City-State reflected the terrain of Greece
- Competitive among themselves, but unified against Persians
- Marathon 490 BCE—land defeat for Persians
- Salamis 489 BCE—naval defeat for Persians
- Herodotus—sociologist and historian



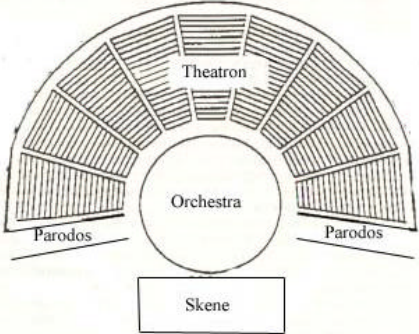
Heracles & Lion
c. 525 BCE

Athens/Golden Age 480-430 BCE

- Athens was the big winner in the wars with Persia
- The result was Camelot for a half-century
- 508 BCE—Athens becomes first democracy (people-power)
- NB the power structure of Athenian society
- Athens vs. Sparta
- Pericles' contributions to democracy and to the Peloponnesian Wars (431-404 BCE)
- Olympic games 776 BCE—naked athletes

Greek Drama

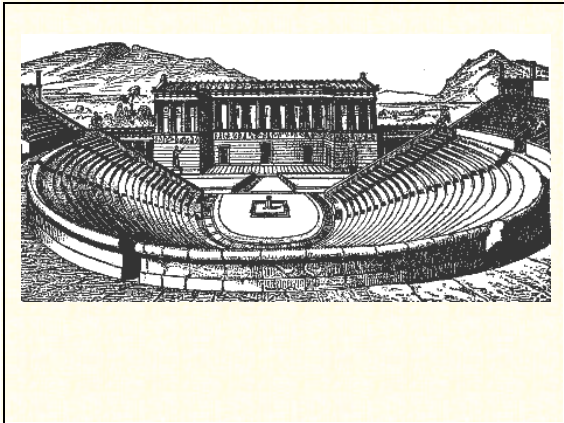




Parts of a Greek Theater







Greek Philosophy

- Practical explanation of the natural order
- Objective, logical vs. subjective, intuitive
- Naturalism and its philosophies—pre-Socrates
- Sophists—concerned about the “Hows”
- Socrates
- Plato
- Aristotle

Socrates (ca. 470-399 BCE)

- Examine ones life by questioning everything, which resulted in his questioning of the Greek Assembly.
- The Assembly claimed that he was corrupting the minds of young people and not believing in the gods.

Quotes from Socrates:

“By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get bad one, you'll become a philosopher.”

“Do not do to others what angers you if done to you by others.”

“Envy is the ulcer of the soul.”

“Remember what is unbecoming to do is also unbecoming to speak of.”

“Thou shouldst eat to live; not live to eat.”

“Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers.”

Plato ca. 427-347 BCE

- Academy—precursor to the university
- Plato discussed and examined various theories of government
- Rejected democracy
- Plato believed that the best form of government (“polis” or state)
- Government in three parts: (1) the “philosopher kings” (2) the warriors (3) the masses
- Cosmic Forms

Aristotle—384-322 BCE

- Student of Plato at the Academy
- Aristotle was said to have been the last person on earth that understood everything that was known at the time
- Peripatetic philosopher
- Unmoved mover
- NB his philosophy regarding the sexes
- Golden Mean
- State over the individual

Greek Culture and Art:

- | Greek | Egyptian |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Horizontal | 1. Pyramidal |
| 2. Ever-changing | 2. Static |
| 3. Experimental | 3. Traditional |
| 4. This worldly | 4. Other worldly |
| 5. Democratic | 5. Autocratic |
| 6. Chaotic | 6. Unity/continuity |

For an interesting world timeline:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hm/04/hm04.htm>
