Late Bronze Age Collapse Documents

C. 1200 BCE

A.  Mycenaean Linear B Tablet “Watchers of the Sea”
As follows the watchers are guarding the coastal area. Command of Maleus at Owitono: Ampelitawon, Orestas, Etewas, Kokkion. 50 suweowijo men of Owitono at Oichalia . . .

B.  Ugaritic Tablets “Letter from Ammurapi”
My father, behold, the enemy’s ships came (here); my cities(?) were burned, and they did evil things in my country. Does not my father know that all my troops and chariots(?) are in the Land of Hatti, and all my ships are in the Land of Lukka?...Thus, the country is abandoned to itself. May my father know it: the seven ships of the enemy that came here inflicted much damage upon us.

C.  Carcamesh Tablet “Reply to Amurapi”
“As for what you [Ammurapi] have written to me: ‘Ships of the enemy have been seen at sea!’ Well, you must remain firm. Indeed for your part, where are your troops, your chariots stationed? Are they not stationed near you? No? Behind the enemy, who press upon you? Surround your towns with ramparts. Have your troops and chariots enter there, and await the enemy with great resolution!”

D.  Tanis Stele Ramses II
"the unruly Sherden (Shardana) whom no one had ever known how to combat, they came boldly sailing in their warships from the midst of the sea, none being able to withstand them."

E.  Egyptian Inscription at Medinet Habu of Ramses II on “Sea Peoples”
"The foreign countries (ie. Sea Peoples) made a conspiracy in their islands. All at once the lands were removed and scattered in the fray. No land could stand before their arms: from Hatti, Kode (Cilicia,) Carchemish, Arzawa and Alashiya (Cyprus,) being cut off [ie. destroyed] at one time. A camp was set up in Amurru. They desolated its people, and its land was like that which has never come into being. They were coming forward toward Egypt, while the flame was prepared before them. Their confederation was the Peleset, Tjeker, Shekelesh, Denyen and Weshesh, lands united. They laid their hands upon the land as far as the circuit of the earth, their hearts confident and trusting: ‘Our plans will succeed!’"

F.  Harris Papyrus of Ramses III
But the heart of this god, the lord of the gods, was prepared and ready to ensnare them like birds... I established my boundary in Djahi, prepared in front of them, the local princes, garrison-commanders, and Maryannu. I caused to be prepared the rivermouth like a strong wall with warships, galleys, and skiffs. They were completely equipped both fore and aft with brave fighters carrying their weapons and infantry of all the pick of Egypt, being like roaring lions upon the mountains; chariotsy with able warriors and all goodly officers whose hands were competent. Their horses quivered in all their limbs, prepared to crush the foreign countries under their hoofs. ”

"As for those who reached my boundary, their seed is not. Their hearts and their souls are finished unto all eternity. Those who came forward together upon the sea, the full flame was in front of them at the rivermouths, and a stockade of lances surrounded them on the shore."