

Lecture 4: Late Bronze Age Anatolia and Aegean

WC 37-52 PP 49-51 Letter from Hittite Queen

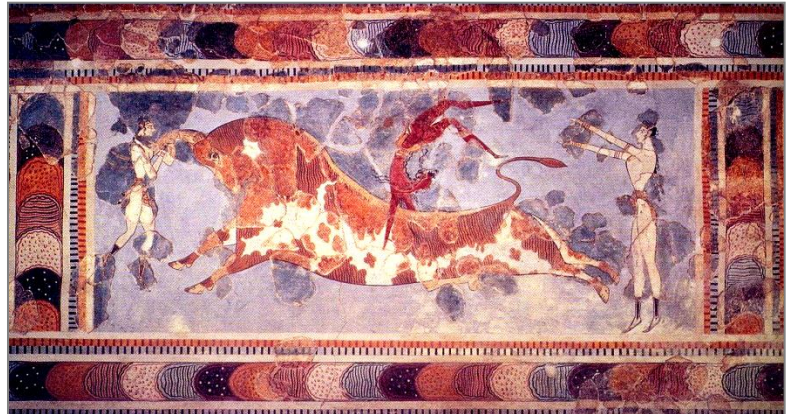
Chronology:

Hittites: 2400-1900 I-E Migrations to Anatolia 1650 Old Kingdom 1550 Middle Kingdom 1370 Empire Period 1200 Late Empire 1100 vanished	Minoan: 3650-1900 Pre-Palatial 1900-1700 Proto Palatial 1700-1425 Neo Palatial 1425-1190 Post Palatial • Mycenaean occupation 1100 Sub-Minoan 1050 vanished	Mycenaean 3000 early Helladic 2000 Middle Helladic 1675 Late Helladic 1190 Sub-Mycenaean 1100 vanished
Star Terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indo-European• Linear A and Linear B• Mycenaean Palace• Labyrinth• Fortified city	Geog Terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crete• Mycenae• Anatolia• Hattusha• Halys River• Aegean Sea	

A. *Toreador Fresco* from the palace at Knossos (Crete), c. 1450-1400 BCE, fresco

bull leaping/ elongation/ depiction of women

Young acrobats would grab the horns of a bull and turn a somersault over its back. This ritual may have had some religious purpose. The young men and women who performed the 'dance' were honored by the Minoans. Among the private rooms of the palace is one thought to have belonged to the queen.



It is decorated with paintings showing swimming dolphins. Dolphins were a symbol of freedom and happiness in the ancient world. The so-called Toreador Fresco is perhaps the best-known wall painting from Knossos. It represents a charging bull, two girls, and one boy. The girl at the left grasps the bull's horns, the boy somersaults over his back, and the girl at the right stands ready to catch him. Given the sacred character of the bull in the Minoan era and the myth of the Minotaur, it is believed that this fresco depicts a ritual sport, possibly involving the sacrifice of the bull, or the athletes, or both. As in Egyptian paintings, females are depicted with lighter skin color than males, and in each case a profile head is combined with a frontal eye.

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B. Lion Gate (Boghazkoy, Turkey), c.1400 BCE, limestone

Hittites in Anatolia/ fortification gates/ lions



The Hittites were an Anatolian people whose capital city, Hattusas, was located in modern Boghazkoy, in central Turkey. Like the Mesopotamians, they kept records in cuneiform on clay tablets, which were stored on shelves, systematically catalogued and labeled as in a modern library. These archives, comprising thousands of tablets, are the first known records in an Indo-European language. There is also much evidence of monumental palaces, temples, cities, and massive fortified walls decorated with reliefs. The predominance of fortifications and citadels (urban fortresses) attest to the need for protection from invading armies as well as to the military power of the Hittites themselves.

C. Warrior Vase (Mycenae), c. 1200 BCE

krater/ representation of new military equipment



The Warrior Vase, a Pictorial Style krater from Mycenae is a unique example from this era of narrative decoration of a vase. It shows a line of armed warriors marching in single file and in somber mood to the right, while a woman at the left bids them farewell. The standardization of shapes and decoration of the two preceding centuries changes drastically. By contrast with the Minoans, the Mycenaeans were a militant and aggressive people: Their warships challenged other traders for control of the eastern Mediterranean. This image has been used as evidence of a change in arms and armor that may have precipitated the collapse of the Near Eastern Late Bronze Age.