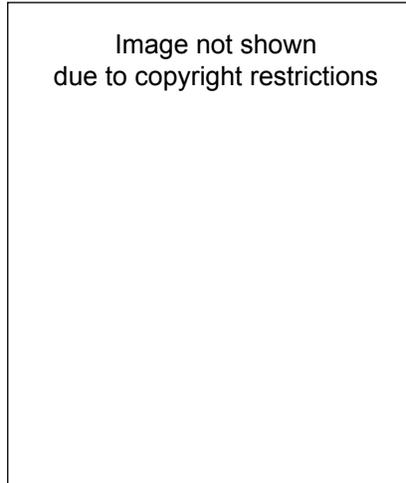


## Week 2: The Dark Ages

### Lecture 2, The Origins of the Greek World, 3000-1100, Key Words

Minos  
Linear A  
Minoans  
Pithoi  
Thalassocracy  
Mycenaeans  
Pylos  
Shaft and Beehive Graves  
Linear B  
Michael Ventris  
Wanax  
Lawagetas  
Temenos  
Pasireu  
Hittites  
Atreus and Thyestes  
Seven against Thebes  
Tiryns  
Thera  
Dorian Invasion  
Codrus  
Heraclidae  
Megaron  
Age of Heroes  
Epic Tradition



**Knossos, Palace, West Magazine: Pithoi**



**Mycenae: daggers from Shaft Grave**



**Mycenae: Grave Circle A: Shaft Grave V:**



**Mask of Agamemnon; Gold, 16<sup>th</sup> century**

## Chronological Table for Lecture 2

### Cretan history – Minoan periods

- 7000-3500** Neolithic period
- 3500-1100** The Bronze Age
- 3500-1900** Prepalatial period
- 2600-1450** Minoan Civilization of Crete
- 2000** First palaces in Crete
- 1900-1700** Protopalatial (period of the Old Palaces)
- 1750-1400** Linear A
- 1700-1450** Neopalatial (the period of the New Palaces) **Knossos, fresco from palace: priest-king**
- 1647-1628** Volcano-island Thera destroyed in an eruption; severe blow to Minoan civilization
- 1450-1100** Postpalatial (except Final Palace period at Knossos)
- 1375** Knossos destroyed
- 1100-1000** The Subminoan period

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### Mainland Greek history

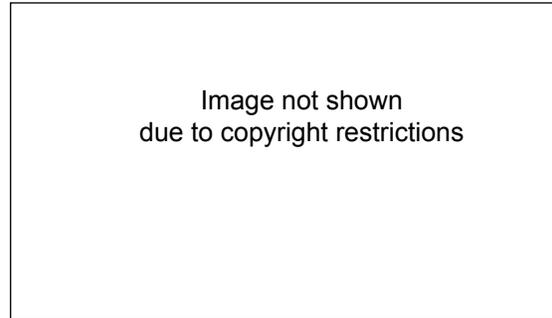
- 6500-3000** Neolithic Period; permanent farming villages; domestication of plants and animals; pottery
- 3000-2100** Early Bronze Age; social ranking emerges; villages and districts ruled by hereditary chiefs
- 2500** Widespread use of bronze and other metals in the Aegean
- 2100-1600** Middle Bronze Age
- 2100-1900** Lerna and other sites destroyed; incursions of Indo-European speakers (arrival of first Greeks) into mainland Greece
- 1900** Mainland contacts with Crete and the Near East
- 1600-1100** Late Bronze Age/Mycenaean Age
- 1450-1200** Linear B
- 1450** Mycenaean takeover of Crete; Tholos tombs
- 1450-1200** Height of Mycenaean power and prosperity in Greece (new palaces in Greece)
- 1250** Trojan War
- 1200** Invaders loot and burn the palace centers
- 1200-1100** Destruction of Mycenaean World; palace-system collapses; cultural decline
- 1200** Fall of Pylos
- 1150** Fall of Mycenae
- 1100-750** Dark Age; loss of writing
- 800** Greeks develop an alphabet

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**Mycenae Gold and Silver: vessels: decorated golden cup**

Lecture 3, **The Dark Ages and the World of Homer, 1000-750**, Key Words

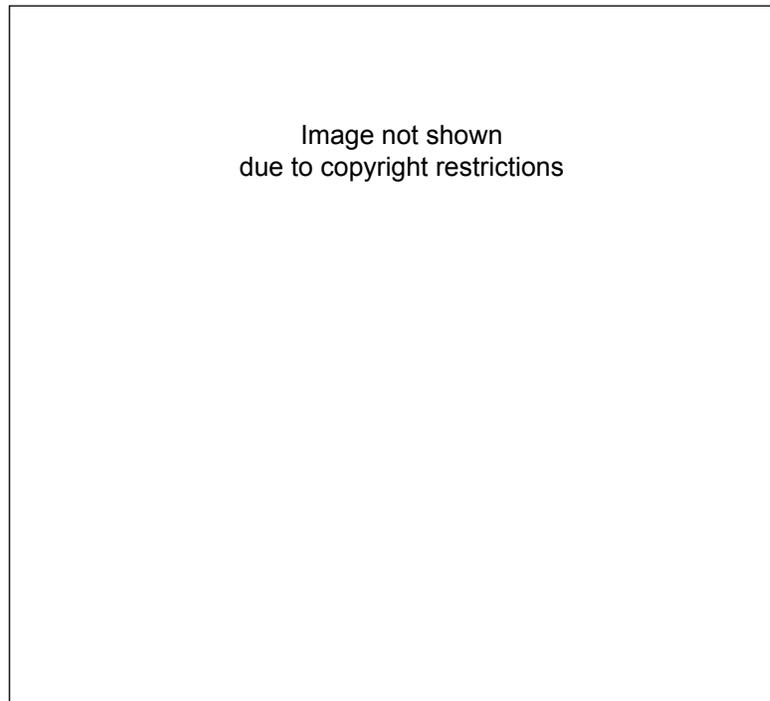
Schliemann  
Milman Parry  
Polis  
Wanaktes  
Achilles  
Hector  
Nausicaa  
Odysseus  
Priam  
Thersites  
Basileis  
Basileutatos  
Council (Boule)  
Assembly (Agora)



**Classical Aison, 450-425, Pyxis-lid; Odysseus, Nausicaa**



**Achilles: red figure amphora  
Achilles painter 445-440 BC**



**Blinding of Polyphemos by Odysseus and companions, from Etruria,  
510-490 BC**

## The Homeric World and the Bronze Age

### BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY:

Knossos, Pylos, Mycenae, Linear A, Linear B, *wanax*, *basileus (pasireu)*, *gerousia*, *lawagetes*, *demos*

### CONSIDER:

1. What is the value of the Homeric epics as historical sources? For what period(s) are they sources? When were they composed? Over how long a period were they composed? Is there anything about the method of composition (oral formulaic poetry) that would encourage us to expect that they could preserve material significantly earlier than their date of composition?
2. What kinds of evidence do we possess about the Trojan War? What were Homer's sources about the Trojan War and the Mycenaean period and how reliable might they have been? Who has better evidence about this period, Homer or we?
3. Analyze the social and political institutions described by Homer. What were the relative powers of the Homeric king, nobility, people? What power is retained by women?
4. Are the institutions described by Homer those of his day or of the late Mycenaean period? Consider the evidence presented by the Linear B tablets.
5. What is the relationship between people and the gods in Homer? Between the individual and the community? Between men and women? What are the values of this community?

**Knossos, Palace: Queen's Megaron: view into court**



**Mycenae: Grave Circle A: view**

