

Week 4: The Greek “Renaissance”

Lecture 6, The Greek Family Farm; the Hoplite Phalanx, Key Words

Oikos

Viticulture

Arboriculture

Grafting

Kleros

Marginal land

Chios

Phalanx

Hoplion

Breastplate

Greaves

Paeon

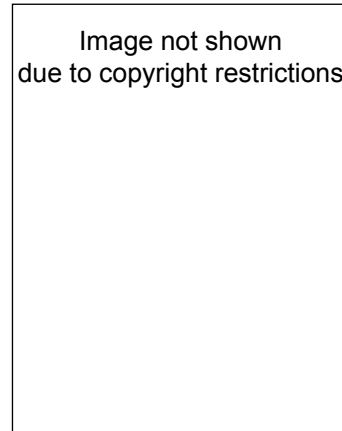
Othismos

Pararrexis

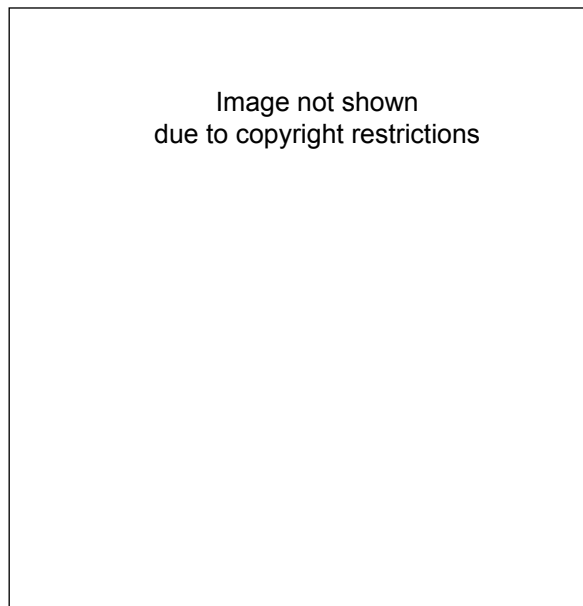
Cynoscephalae



Corinthian Helmet



Chigi Vase



Chigi vase, warriors in main zone

Lecture 7, **Colonies**, Key Words

Apoikia

Oikistes

Corinth

Syracuse

Potidaea

Corcyra

Ionian

Aeolian

Dorian

Hellespont

Black Sea

Egypt

Naucratis

Cyrene

Spain

France

Italy

Sicily

Miletus

Megara

Chalkis

Eretria

Chronological Table for Greek Colonization

775-550 Greeks, under population pressure, set forth from the mainland, the Aegean islands and the coast of Asia Minor to establish colonies from the Crimea to the Nile Delta and from the Caucasus to Spain, on the shores of the Mediterranean, Hellespont, Propontis, Bosphorus and Black Sea; colonizing activity begins with the emergence of the polis. Colonies are independent city states, free from political connection with and subordination to the mother cities.

775 first Greek colony set up at **Pithecusae (Ischia)**, a small island off Naples, by colonists from Chalcis and Eretria in Euboea and from Cyme in Aeolis in search of precious metals—especially copper and iron—from the Etruscans; Euboeans (Ionians) colonize **Chalcidice** in Thrace.

750 Greeks found **Cumae**; first Greek community with which Etruscans and then Romans have contact; Homer's *Odyssey* provides evidence for a revival of knowledge of the West; Odysseus' wanderings in Books 9-12 reflect tales told by adventurers and traders (i.e., Scylla and Charybdis associated with the straits of Messina and the Cyclopes with Mt. Etna).

734 **Naxos** established off the east coast of Sicily

733 Corinthians found **Syracuse**; they also establish a colony on the island of **Corcyra**, driving out the earlier settlement of the Eretrians; acquire a dominant position on the route to Sicily, opening up trading possibilities for the Bacchiad oligarchy of Corinth; increasing numbers of wares, pottery and bronzes, come to Syracuse and the Sicilian cities; Syracuse soon becomes the greatest city in Sicily.

731 Megara establishes colony, **Megara Hyblaea**, north of Syracuse (Hybla was a native community in Sicily).

730 the first evidence of Chalcidic alphabet found on cup, the drinking cup of Nestor; Chalcidians of Euboea the most active early Greek colonizers.

728 Sicilian Naxians colonize **Leontini** and **Catana** to the south of their city.

725 Chalcidians found **Zancle** on the Sicilian side and **Rhegium** on the Italian side of the straits of Messina for commercial and political reasons.

730-720 First Messenian War; Chalcidians, suffering from overpopulation, found Rhegium; Messenians driven out of Messenia because unwilling to come to terms with Sparta join the Chalcidians in settling Rhegium.

720 Achaeans establish **Sybaris** in south Italy, which rapidly grows rich from its fertile lands and commerce; whereas the Chalcidians and Corinthians were the most active participants in colonizing Sicily, the Achaean states on the south shore of the Corinthian Gulf took the lead in migration to south Italy.

710 Achaeans found **Posidonia (Paestum)**.

708 Achaean colonists establish **Croton** in south Italy; the city flourishes with its fertile lands and becomes famous for its athletes, doctors and its school of Pythagoras.

706 Partheniai from Sparta found **Taras** (Roman **Tarentum**); dissatisfied with their political position, the Partheniai had organized a rebellion, but were finally persuaded to depart for Taras, a Doric city in its dialect and institutions; the only colony in the west of the Spartans, who solved their land hunger problem through the conquest of Messenia.

700 Lelantine War; Chalcis and Eretria in one of the earliest recorded wars in Greece battle for the Lelantine plain which lay between the two cities. Ionians of the Aegean island of Paros send colonists, including the poet Archilochus, to **Thasos** and the adjacent Thracian coast.

688 **Gela** founded (45 years after Syracuse) by colonists from Rhodes and Crete.

675-650 king Gyges of Lydia gives consent to Miletus to establish **Abydos** on the Asiatic side of the Hellespont.

673 Locrians establish **Locri Epizephyrii** (Italy); Zaleucus, known as the earliest of the Greek law givers, drew up a code of laws for Locri.

663-609 Psammetichus I, pharaoh of Egypt, grants Ionian and Carian pirates land known as the Camps, on either side of the Pelusian mouth of the Nile.

650 Clazomenae found **Abdera**, home of two of the most important fifth-century philosophers or sophists—Democritus and Protagoras; Achaeans establish **Metapontum** on the instep of Italy; prosperous in agriculture.

648 settlers from Zancle establish town of **Himera** which brings Greeks into close contact with the Phoenicians in the western part of Sicily.

631 Dorian settlers from Thera, an island in the southern Aegean, found **Cyrene** on the north coast of Africa.

628 Megara sets up a colony, **Selinus**, in the fertile land on the south west coast of Sicily.

630-600 Megara, neighbor of Corinth, founds colonies **Chalcedon** and **Byzantium** on the Asiatic and European sides, respectively, of the Bosphorus; Chalcedon with its fertile land was established 17 years before Byzantium, which, with its excellent harbor, could dominate the shipping up and down the Bosphorus due to the nature of the currents.

625-600 colonization of the Black Sea region begins; area rich in metals, timber, grain, fish and many other products; Milesians found **Sinope** on the shore of the Black Sea, a flourishing trading city and home of the fourth-century Cynic philosopher Diogenes and the fourth- and third-century comic poet Diphilus; Sinope sent out many small trading colonies, including **Trapezus (Trebizond)**, famous as the place where Xenophon and the remnants of the Ten Thousand first sighted the sea after their march back from the interior of Babylonia.

600 The Phoenicians colonize **Messalia (Marseilles)** and several smaller out posts on the east coast of Spain; Corinth settles **Potidaea**, Corinth's only settlement in the north Aegean; Corcyra founds **Epidamnus** at the end of the seventh century. Rhodians found **Rhode** on the north-east coast of Spain and give their name to the river Rhone; subsequently Phocaeans change name Rhode to Emporiae (market).

600-550 **Heraclea** in Bithynia founded; rich in tunny fish and timber

580 Having expanded, Gela establishes the agricultural colony of **Acragas**, which soon outstripped the mother city in size and prosperity.

570-526 Egyptian pharaoh Amasis, a philhellene, grants **Naucratis** as a city to live in for Greeks who come to Egypt; a great temple precinct (*temenos*) called the Hellenion is later built by Greek merchants granted land by Amasis (i.e., Ionians from Chios, Teos, Phocaea and Clazomenae, Dorians from Rhodes, Cnidos, Halicarnassus and Phaselis, and Aeolians from Mytilene (in Lesbos).

546 Phocaeans found **Elea**, the last of the Greek settlements in Italy during this period of colonization; important school of philosophy develops in Elea (Eleatic philosophers include Parmenides, Zeno and Melissus).

511/10 Croton destroys its rival city Sybaris.

The Tyrants (ca. 630-ca. 580)

BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY:

Gyges, Pittacus, Polycrates of Samos, Pheidon of Argos, Cleisthenes of Sicyon, Theagenes of Megara, Thrasybulus of Miletus, Bacchiadai, Cypselus, Periander, Isthmus of Corinth, hoplite, *apoikia*, *kleros*, *oikistes*, *stasis*, Cylon (632)

CONSIDER:

1. Archeological evidence gives us some information on changes in the economic life and military organization of the Greek city-states in the eighth and seventh centuries. To what extent were these changes reflected in the social and political life of the Greek city-states?
2. What was the level of political development of the Greek city-states when tyrants started coming to power? Who controlled the administration of justice and how did they arrive at their decisions? In what sense was a tyrant's rule 'illegal'? How did he exercise his power? Were the people likely to be concerned with such constitutional issues?
3. What was the nature of Greek trade and manufacturing in the Archaic period? Could the tyrants have been 'capitalists' who used their profits from trade and industry to put themselves in power? How appropriate is this terminology for seventh-century Greece? Were the tyrants "the successful champions of a growing middle class" or of the poor? Were they the political expression of the military strength of the hoplites? Were they mainly nobles who gained predominance in the local faction-fighting prevalent among Greek oligarchies or were they from other classes seeking a greater share of power? What was the exact social status of those who became tyrants? Did they represent the demands of suppressed classes for equality with their rulers? (Think of the situation of the Dorians.) Can a single explanation suffice for the tyrants and the manner in which they came to power in different city-states? Is there an Age of Tyranny or a fortuitous coincidence of tyrants in a number of different states?
4. Which classes benefited the most from the reigns of the tyrants? Are those actions that tyrants took to centralize power and reduce the strength of the aristocracy evidence of their repayment of middle- and lower-class supporters for the aid that established the tyranny or are they evidence of their desire to enhance their own position and prevent a rival from developing among the aristocracy?
5. Why did the tyrants fail to produce lasting dynasties? What was their ultimate importance?
6. To what extent is the overthrow of tyrannies due to internal causes or to external intervention by Sparta? Why did Sparta gain the reputation for opposing tyrannies? What was Sparta promoting instead?

Theognis of Megara (seventh century), 183-92W:

“Well bred [of good *genos*], Cynus, are the rams, donkeys, and horses we seek out. A man wants them to mate from *agathoi*. But an *agathos* man feels no care at marrying the *kake* daughter of a *kakos* father if the father gives him much property, nor does a woman refuse to be the wife of a *kakos* man but wants a rich husband rather than an *agathos* one. It is property that they prize: an *esthlos* man has married the child of a *kakos* one, a *kakos* the child of an *agathos*. Wealth has thrown lineage [*genos*] into confusion. So do not be surprised, son of Polypaüs, that the lineage [*genos*] of the citizens is being dimmed: *esthla* are being mingled with *kaka*.”

The Greek Polis. Ed. Arther W.H. Adkins and Peter White. Vol. 1 of *University of Chicago Readings in Western Civilization*. Chicago & London: Univ. of Chicago Pr., 1986. P. 28.

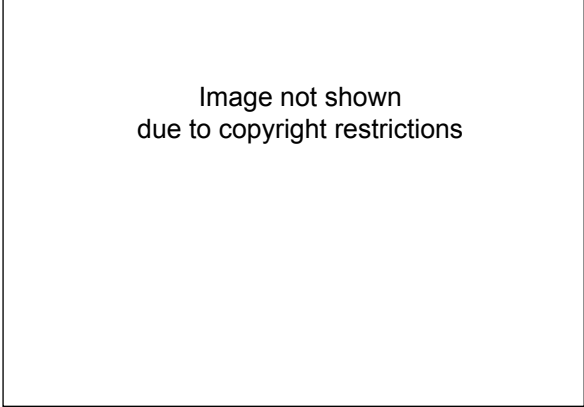


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Chigi Vase

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